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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 19

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

HONORED FOR SERVICE



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Ralph Bennett on Sept. 7. Bennett recently announced his retirement as caretaker/director at Camp Guggenheim after 41 years of service. He is pictured receiving the award from Bishop LaValley with his wife, Liz. Read the full story on Page 3.

COOPERATING TO AID ELDERLY



Mercy Care for the Adirondacks volunteer Darlene Donnelly and her elder friend Patty Francisco enjoy some outdoor time together. Fourth Coast Companions, a multi-faith effort in the greater Massena area, will be modeled on the Mercy Care program.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Don't overlook goodness due to scandal

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) - Pope Francis on Wednesday encouraged people to look for the quiet goodness in the world, even when the tendency is to pay more attention to failure and scandal.

"Just think how many hidden seeds of goodness make the garden of the world flourish, while we usually only hear about the sound of falling trees," he said during his weekly public audience on Sept. 6.

"People, we too like scandal. 'Look at what barbarity, a tree fell, the noise it made!' But

you don't see the forest that is growing every day. Because the growth is in silence," the pope added.

He urged people to look "toward the light of the good" in the world and to fight the tendency to only appreciate others to the extent that they share our ideas.

Pope Francis addressed pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square two days after his return from a trip to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia.

Mongolia, a country sandwiched between China and Russia, is sparsely populated with around 3 million people across

nearly 604,000 square miles.

The population, which is historically Buddhist, includes fewer than 1,500 Catholics.

"One might ask: Why did the pope go so far to visit a small flock of the faithful?" Pope Francis said at the general audience. "Because it is precisely there, far from the spotlight, that we often find the signs of the presence of God, who does not look at appearances, but at the heart."

"The Lord," he explained, "does not look for the center stage but the simple heart of those who desire him and love him without ostentation, without wanting to tower above others. And I had

the grace of meeting, in Mongolia, a humble Church and a joyful Church, which is in the heart of God, and I can testify to their joy of finding themselves also at the center of the Church for a few days."

The pope recounted what he called the "touching history" of the Christian community in Mongolia.

"It came about, by the grace of God, from apostolic zeal — on which we are reflecting at the moment — of a few missionaries who, impassioned by the Gospel, went about 30 years ago to that country they did not know," he said.

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'Jesus is always awesome'

"Hey, Jake," I said, excitedly. "This Jesus is awesome!"

For the past couple months, my son has been using a 3D printer to create nightlights featuring a depiction of Jesus commonly associated with Camp Guggenheim. At one point in his production process, the 3D printer began having mechanical issues. After several failed prints and a little tinkering, I had repaired the printer, and I delivered that quote when we seemed to be suc-

cessfully printing a "Guggery Jesus nightlight" for the first time in days.

My comment elicited the following conversation:

Jake: Mom, Jesus is always awesome!
Me: I agree, dude!
Me and Jesus are tight.

Jake: Me and Jesus are tight, too.

That was one of several instances in the past handful of weeks in which my son talked about his relationship with the Lord or encouraged someone to trust in the Lord.

I don't remember any

such instances before his recent summer spent at Camp Guggenheim. Jake spent two weeks building leadership skills in the Camp Guggenheim's Teen Vision program, and he later spent a week as a camper.

Camp gave Jake opportunities to grow experience and live his faith. It gave him opportunities to practice talking about his faith. It gave him confidence and leadership skills. It helped him build connections with others. After spending so much time at camp this summer, Jake is full of the love of Christ, and he's sharing it with those

around him.

The Bishop's Fund and the generosity of those who support it helped give that to my son, and I am so grateful for it. The Bishop's Fund helps keep Camp Guggenheim affordable to all. The Bishop's Fund does far more, too (read about it on pages 6 through 9).

I believe good things happen when we share the burden. I've seen it in action in my family. I'll be supporting the Bishop's Fund this year. I encourage you to consider doing the same.

The difference it makes is awesome.

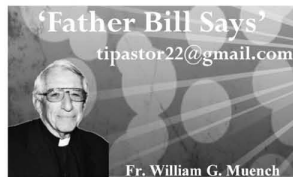
**Darcy L.
Fargo**

The sacrament of salvation

The Church is the sacrament of salvation. Let me remind you that over the last few weeks I have written here about the sacraments of our Catholic Church. As you remember, a sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which divine life is dispensed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit - baptism, confirmation, penance, Holy Eucharist, holy orders, marriage, and the anointing of the sick.

Today I want to use this word "sacrament," as many do, in reference to the Church. So, the Church is the sacrament of salvation. Much of this material I share with you is from the Catholic Catechism. This is how many define this idea: By God's gracious plan, the Church is a Sacrament of Salvation, that is a visible community in and through which Jesus Christ offers salvation through the seven sacraments, the preaching of the word, and the spiritual and moral witness of members.

So, first, we all recog-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

nize the Church as a visible institution. When we talk about the Church, we are talking about people. The Church is visible through millions of believers in parishes and dioceses throughout the world. When we speak of our Church, we are talking about the people of God who go into this world as witnesses of Christ serving the world in love, justice and mercy.

At the same time, the Church is a spiritual reality with interior bonds of faith and love forged by the Holy Spirit. So, we speak of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. The Church is like a living body sustained by the Holy Spirit. When we speak of Church, we also realize that there is a life, a spirit and hope for transformation, as the Church brings

a new spirit, a spirit of love and peace and happiness, to all its members.

As we consider our Catholic Church, it seems large and very complex. However, we are taught that the Church is one. The Holy Spirit is the source of unity in our Church. The Holy Spirit integrates the visible aspects of the Church with those invisible aspects, in such a way that the Church is always a unity.

The Church is a sacrament. It is a sign and an instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men and women. The Spirit leads us to our salvation gained for us by Jesus through the Church and her seven sacraments. The Church is the visible plan of God's love for humanity. God desires that the whole human race may become one, the people of God. In the life of faith, there are two movements: God in search of us and we in search of God. God has stamped in our souls a longing for himself.

What does all this mean? We are called in faith, as the people of God who love our God, to be truly enthusiastic members of the Church. We are called to take God's love into our world as we strive to live well in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I would like to close this by going to the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church from the Second Vatican Council. There is a chapter in this document about the hierarchy of the Church - the Pope, Bishops, the priests. There is also an important and powerful chapter on the laity, the people of the Church and their part in the Church. "The laity are given this special vocation: to make the Church present and fruitful in those places and circumstances where it is only through them that the Church can become the salt of the earth. Thus, every lay person through those gifts given to them, are at once the witness and the living instrument of the mission of the Church."

Ralph Bennett wins Bishop Wadhams award

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Ralph Bennett.

Bennett received the Award at Wadhams Hall on September 7, 2023.

In bestowing the award, Bishop LaValley noted both the quality and the length of his service to the Church. Bishop LaValley stated, "Ralph Bennett has been a positive and steady presence at Camp Guggenheim since 1982. He worked diligently to keep the camp in tip-top shape for the young people attending summer camp. More than his skills as a carpenter, plumber, electrician, painter, landscaper, and woodsman, his kindness, humor and good example helped our young people grow in their faith and experience the love of God. I cannot express how special Ralph's service has been."

Prior to serving as the director-caretaker of the Guggenheim Center, Ralph was a vocational shop teacher at Saranac Lake Middle School. Ralph is retiring after 41 years of joy-filled service.

"We wish Ralph the very best as he retires and begins a new chapter in his life," said Bishop LaValley. "He will be missed."

The Bishop Wadhams' Award presented to Bennett reads as follows:

Ralph Bennett has served as Director - Caretaker of the Guggenheim Center on Lower Saranac Lake since June 1, 1982. A man of many talents and skills, Ralph felt privileged to maintain the Guggenheim Center, which

is primarily used as a summer camp for the young people of our diocese. Ralph's generous service made it possible for thousands of young people of our diocese to come together and share the ideals and beauty of the Catholic faith. The impact of his service will be felt for decades to come.

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, this award is bestowed as a sign of our deep gratitude and respect. In witness whereof, I have signed this award and placed upon it the seal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg this 7th day of September, 2023.

The Bishop Wadhams' Award was instituted by Bishop Paul Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996, to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by people of the North Country. Recipients of the Award include Father Richard Siepka, Monsignor Lawrence M. Deno, Mrs. Mary Lou Kilian, Monsignor Robert Giroux, Dr. Gerald Irwin, Sister Kathryn Healy, Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre, Clyde A. Lewis, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sanders, Sr. Donna Franklin, D.C., Mr. & Mrs. Henry Doningos, Miss Sally Rusaw, Mrs. Elaine Cook, Mr. Irving Papineau, Mrs. Noreen Barcomb, Mr. Glenn Burdo, Ms. Starr Burke, Mr. & Mrs. David Cline, Mrs. Ruth Demarse, Mr. Joseph Denoncourt, Mrs. Patricia Fassett, Mr. Pat Fontana, Sr., Deacon and Mrs. Gary Frank, Mrs. Connie Hatch-Young, Mr. & Mrs. Jeremiah Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald LaValley, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Ludwig, Ms.

A 41-year career at camp

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

It started as summer work around his full-time teaching job.

"There was a deacon in Saranac Lake who was also a schoolteacher, and he knew I did carpentry work in the summertime. He wanted to know if I wanted to take a look at Camp Guggenheim and maybe do some work there. We drove around. I interviewed with (diocesan staff), and they chose me."

That's how Ralph Bennett became director/caretaker at Camp Guggenheim. Forty-one years later, he's retiring from the position.

"I did the job for a summer, and I assumed I'd have to figure out what to do next summer," he said. "I assumed they were ready to let me go. They never did. I had a job every summer. It wasn't like me to go back to the same job every year."

Bennett continued working at the diocesan camp for another few decades after retiring from his full-time job teaching shop in Saranac Lake Central School District.

"I've basically been working since I was 13," he said. "I didn't like sitting

around."

Over the years, the position grew to include time outside the camp season, including processing bills in the off-season, and work both before and after the camp season.

"This time of year, it's a lot of cutting dead trees for firewood, splitting it up and putting it in the woodshed so it'll be nice and dry by summer," Bennett said. "And we'll winterize the place when we're done for the year and then reverse that before the start of the season next year. It takes a month or longer to get everything ready and running to get it open."

While he enjoys the life and laughter he experiences at camp, it's the quiet moments he's enjoyed most.

"There have been times in the spring when it's been quiet enough that I could hear the partridges beating their wings," he said. "Most people don't get to hear them, but I hear them when I'm working."

While he plans to continue spending a couple months every winter in Florida and a couple weeks visiting his son in Utah, said he looks forward to spending his retirement home with his wife, Liz.

"I'm a home body," Bennett said.

Leslie Marvel, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sweeney, Sr. Michael Bresnahan, Jr.,
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Supporting the 2023 Bishop Fund Insert

Multi-faith effort to aid elderly

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

St. Peter's Parish and other Christian churches in Massena are joining forces to provide a little help and a little companionship for the elderly in Massena and Louisville.

The churches are launching "Fourth Coast Companions," a volunteer organization that will help seniors with basic tasks such as shopping, meal preparation, outings, rides to appointments - even just friendly conversations on the phone.

In part, the effort will help fight the sense of loneliness and isolation many elderly experience.

St. Peter's Pastor Father Mark R. Reilly said church ministers constantly see the need for this type of program as they perform their ministries, such as taking Holy Communion to homes. The elderly often just want them to stay and talk.

"We might be the one conversation or voice they have in the home that's not coming from TV," Father Reilly said. "There's such a hunger for this type of interaction."

The endeavor is being undertaken by the Greater Massena Ministerial Association. Members of the Greater Massena Ministerial Association are St. Peter's Parish, St. John's Episcopal Church, Salvation Army, Emmanuel Congregational United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church, and New Testament Church.

It is the multi-faith organization's biggest



project yet.

Fourth Coast Companions will serve all the elderly regardless of faith or church affiliation, including those of no faith.

It will be modeled on the successful Mercy Care for the Adirondacks program run by the Sisters of Mercy since 2007. Mercy Care for the Adirondacks received a Mother Cabrini Health Foundation grant to provide startup assistance to organizations throughout the North Country. It already has assisted in launching volunteer friendship efforts at St. Alexander's, in Morrisonville; Community Health Center of the North Country, in Ogdensburg and Malone; and Elizabethtown Community Hospital.

At St. Alexander's, 22 people showed up for the initial volunteer training, according to Donna Beal, executive director at Mercy Care for the Adirondacks.

Fourth Coast Companions will be the first multi-denominational church effort with startup help from Mercy Care of the Adirondacks.

"This is a creative, innovative and wonderful example of a community working together," Beal said.

It has been shown that alleviating isolation and loneliness leads to improved health for seniors, Beal said. To that end, the effort is being welcomed by local health care providers.

Fourth Coast Companions is now putting out the call for volunteers. It will conduct a volunteer training on Sept. 13, Wednesday, from 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m. at New Testament Church. Volunteers need to register for the training by calling Karen Wilkins, Fourth Coast Companion volunteer coordinator. She can be reached at info@fourthcoastcompanions.com or by calling (315) 514-9394.

For those unable to make the September session a second volunteer training will be held in November.

Once trained, volunteers will go out and aid seniors and form friendships during visits, usually just an hour or two a week.

Organizers say the program doesn't just improve the lives of seniors; it also empowers volunteers.

"We are aware this is awesome for the elderly, but it's also awesome for volunteers," said Justin Cardinal, executive pastor at New Tes-

BE A COMPANION

What: Training for Fourth Coast Companions volunteers

When: Sept. 13, Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or November 8, Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: New Testament Church, 265 Andrews St., Massena.

Registration required: Contact Karen Wilkins, fourth Coast Companion volunteer coordinator at info@fourthcoastcompanions.com or (315) 514-9394.

LEARN MORE

How Mercy Care for the Adirondacks can work for you

Fourth Coast Companions in greater Massena is being modeled on Mercy Care for the Adirondacks. The video link here offers a powerful and compelling account of how friendship volunteers and the elderly bond to create better lives.

<https://vimeo.com/768159977/f051f5bc11>

tament Church.

Fourth Coast Companions plans to begin providing services once it has its volunteers in place.

More information will be coming on how the elderly can connect with a Fourth Coast Companions volunteer.

Fourth Coast Companions will rely solely on grants and charitable gifts from individuals, businesses and foundations for its financial backing.

All Fourth Coast Companions services will be provided free of charge to the elderly.

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PHOTO BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON

Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses a gazebo donated to the staff and residents of the infirmary at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Watertown by the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Knights 'Leave no neighbor behind' with gift of gazebo

By Dr. Charlie Robinson
Knights of Columbus

During COVID, the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus started an initiative to support Catholic nursing homes and infirmaries, given its mission to "Leave No Neighbor Behind."

The Knights of the Diocese of Ogdensburg raised funds to purchase a screened gazebo that offers a place of respite for the staff and residents of the infirmary at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Watertown, NY.

Bishop Terry LaValley of Msgr. Charbonneau Council 258 blessed the gazebo at an evening prayer service on Monday, August 28. Mother Superior Sr. Shirley Anne Brown organized the service.

Dr. Charles Robinson, a former New York State Secretary and State Warden, and the current



PHOTO BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON

Sisters of St. Joseph and guests join in prayer as the gazebo donated by the Knights of Columbus is blessed.

Deputy Grand Knight of Msgr. F J Connors Council 11544, spearheaded the fund-raising drive. He presented Mother Superior with recognition plaques to be placed within the Gazebo and in the SSJ archives.

The SSJ nuns gave the readings and led the singing. Priests, deacons, and Knights from near Watertown attended. Bishop Conroy

4th Degree Assembly Msgr. F J Connors Council 699 served as the color corps.

Sister Shirley Anne summed it up: "Let me give my thanks on behalf of the sisters and our prayers for the Knights' continued ministry in our diocese. Thank you for all the ways that you support us support our Bishop and support the Church of the North Country."

Funeral Mass celebrated for David M. Cline

A Mass of Christian Burial for David M. Cline was celebrated Sept. 8 at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Mr. Cline, 70, of Winthrop, peacefully passed away on Sunday, September 3, 2023 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

David was born September 18, 1952 in Massena, the son of the late Ralph and Marion (Mitchell) Cline. He attended and graduated from Holy Family in 1971. David was in the US Army and honorably discharged after three years of service.

He married Valerie Ezro on July 6, 1974 at St. Huberts Church in Star Lake with Rev. James Ruddy presiding.

David worked at Reynolds Metal in Massena retiring after 32 years.

David enjoyed wood working, gardening and was a lifelong devoted parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher.

In 2022, he was awarded the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

David is survived by his wife, Valerie; his children, Kenna Cline of Hanover, PA, Rev. Martin Cline of Saranac Lake and Max and April Cline of Norwood; four grandchildren, Conner Cline of Brasher, Zackary, Madisyn and Abigaile Cline of Norwood; three sisters, Diane Cline of Massena, Darcy Cline of Rhode Island and Dorianne Cline of Massena; two brothers, Drue and Janet Cline of Ogdensburg and Dana Cline of Massena; a sister-in-law, Mary Cline of Rhode Island as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his siblings, Dennis Cline, Deborah Crump, Darren Cline and Tracy Cline, in infancy.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in David's name may be made to North Country Mission of Hope, 3452 State Route 22, Peru, NY 12972.



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We Share the Burden

2023 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

For more information and to view the 2023 BISHOP'S FUND video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

“Christ has no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.” St. Teresa of Avila reminds us that by virtue of our baptism, each disciple of Christ has the obligation of spreading the faith to the best of our ability, to be disciples in mission, to be the hands, feet and eyes of Christ. We must accompany one another in our faith journeys. Together, *We Share the Burden*.

It takes a community of believers. From the youngest to our seniors, it is our responsibility to share our faith and pass it on to the next generation, to bring compassion to our communities and help those along the way who need our assistance.

The annual **Bishop's Fund Appeal** provides us tangible ways to carry out the mission of Christ, to bring His presence to our hurting world and to share the burden. Through your support you have an impact on:

- The formation and education of our seminarians, deacons and commissioned lay ministers who will serve in parishes across the diocese.
- The spiritual growth of our youth through education in our Catholic Schools or through programs and events such as youth rallies and Camp Guggenheim.
- A caring response to our families and individuals who are experiencing hunger, loss of homes to fire and flooding, job loss, a health crisis or other emergencies through grants from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

Our goal this year is \$1,330,000. Monies received beyond the goal will be designated for additional grants through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

What can you do? You can help by:

- Participating in the many events offered by the ministries which are supported by the Bishop's Fund Appeal.
- Praying for those assisted by the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund as well as for the success of this Appeal.
- Contributing to ensure our vital programs and ministries are able to continue to make an impact in lives across the diocese.
- Encouraging others to participate in events, to pray and to contribute.

When we all do our part, when *We Share the Burden*, the true presence of Christ can be seen and heard throughout the diocese and beyond. Thank you for your participation and prayerful support of the 2023 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Bishop's Fund Appeal set to begin

By Valerie Mathews

Director of Bishop's Fund Appeal & Stewardship

"At Camp Guggenheim there is this joy, a real, authentic joy. It was at camp that I had my first personal encounter with Jesus. I was a real turning point in my life. I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't had that personal encounter at that moment. I made a decision to live my life differently. As camp director, one of my biggest hopes is that the campers have that same type of personal encounter with Jesus because it can transform them for the rest of their lives. Thank you to everyone who

contributes to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. The support that goes to all the different programs, especially Camp Guggenheim, means so much. It can change one camper's life. You can't really put a price on that." shared Samantha Poulin, Camp Guggenheim Director.

For over 50 summers, generations of teen campers have graced the shores, trails, and halls of Camp Guggenheim. They have grown in their faith and leadership skills. This has been made possible by the support of donors to the Annual Bishop's Fund Appeal.

The 2023 Bishop's Fund Appeal - We Share the Burden, will begin in par-

ishes across the Diocese of Ogdensburg on the weekend of September 16 and 17. The ministries and programs of the Bishop's Fund Appeal allow us to all come together and share in Christ's Mission to help one another, to share and to growing in our faith. Along with Youth Ministry and Camp Guggenheim, gifts to the Bishop's Fund Appeal support the following ministries: Education of Seminarians, Vocation Office, Permanent Deacons, Deacon Formation, Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Priests' Graduate Studies, Family Life Office, Natural Family Planning, Respect Life Ministry, Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, Formation for Ministry Program, Office of the New Evangelization Program, Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools, Campus Ministry Program, Department of Faith Formation, Young Adult Ministry, and Department of Worship.

This year's Bishop's Fund goal is \$1,330,000 with any gifts received beyond our goal to provide additional grants to individuals and fami-

lies in need through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. "Through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, Bishop LaValley helps individuals and families in need. We have had several emergencies in the parishes where I was previously assigned. Through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, we reached out to people who experienced flooding, car repairs, rent payments, fuel and electric bills. Sometimes people come to the parishes for assistance, and the parishes just do not have the funds themselves to help. Being able to reach out to the Bishop's Fund and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund is a great help for me as a pastor." shared Father Kris Lauzon, pastor of St. Mary's in Brushton and the Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor. Father Lauzon went on to say "The Lord calls us to be of assistance to those who are in need. We often lose the perspective of where we are as a wider church.

The Bishop's Fund gives people all the way across the diocese an opportunity to help each other. We need to share the

burden because we are the body of Christ. Many parts but one body. Many people coming together is God's design for the Church. Christ's prayer before he left this earth was, "Father let them be one as you and I are one." Christ wants unity in His church, and one of the ways we build that unity is by helping each other. The Bishop's Fund is a wonderful example of how that can take place here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Please considering supporting this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal which will help continue the vital ministries, services and programs that assist so many families and individuals across the diocese. Every gift is important, every gift makes a difference. Gifts and pledges can be mailed to The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund>.

For further information about the Bishop's Fund Appeal and to view this year's video, please visit our website at: <https://www.rcdony.org/bfa>.



2023 Bishop's Fund Prayer "We Share the Burden"

Lord our God, your Son told us to come to Him when we labor and are heavy burdened.

We have found His rest and peace, in the Sacraments, in the Scriptures, and in the acts of Charity we receive.

Enlivened by Your grace, may we now share the burdens our brothers and sisters bear.

May our eyes be the eyes
through which Jesus looks
with compassion on this world.

May our feet be the feet
with which Jesus walks to do good.

May our hands be the hands
with which He blesses all the world.

Lord God, bless our 2023 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

Through it may we help bear the burdens of all those who are suffering in our midst.

We ask this in the holy name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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OGDENSBURG, NY 13669

OR PLACE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION



I grew up going to St. Bernard's School. The faith foundation that I was offered was second to none. When I had children, there was no doubt in my mind that they would be going to St. Bernard's. Now that I'm the principal, it's a different feeling because I have 73 children and their families that I care about. Catholic education is so important because it gives kids the foundation that they are going to build on for the rest of their lives. It is important that they have that foundation in order to get through the rough times in life. At St. Bernard's School, we are a real community. We are a family. The Tuition Assistance Program (through the Bishop's Fund Appeal) is vital to our sustainability. Many of our families cannot afford the tuition that we need to charge to be able to stay functioning. We don't want to turn a family away. The Tuition Assistance Program really allows us to accept students who might not otherwise be able to attend. My hope for the students of St. Bernard's is that they always continue to grow in their faith. The Bishop's Fund is one of the most important charitable contributions you could make because almost all

of it is going directly to assistance for communities that you live in, that you work in, that your children play in. You will be able to see your money in action daily. We really couldn't do this without our donors. **Andrea Kilbourne-Hill, Alum and Principal of St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake**



At Camp Guggenheim there is this joy, a real, authentic joy. It was at camp that I had my first real personal encounter with Jesus. It was a real turning point in my life. As camp director, one of my biggest hopes is that the campers have that same type of personal encounter with Jesus because it can transform them for the rest of their lives. Through the Youth Ministry Program and Camp Guggenheim, teens build leadership skills in a lot of different ways. Our Teen Vision program provides training under the staff where the teens in the program can help lead and be involved in camp activities with more responsibility. Campers can take a lot of what they have learned at camp and bring it back to their parishes to help and become involved in various ways. Camp Guggenheim is a special place. It's a wonderful gem in the diocese. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. The support that goes to all the different programs, especially Camp Guggenheim, means so much. It can change one camper's life. You can't really put a price on that. **Samantha Poulin, Teen Camp Director, Guggenheim**



(Pat) used to collect for the Bishop's Fund back when we would go door to door in the early seventies. I've known about the Bishop's Fund for a long time. Pat was asked to show the Bishop's Fund videos every Fall. It is so impressive to see what the Bishop's Fund has done and does do. When we had the flood in Tupper Lake, in particular our street, we were seriously hit by that. The flood was overwhelming our street. A great big front-end loader came up the street, and his elderly lady with her handicapped son were sitting in the scoop as the village workers were rescuing them because the whole street was flooded. She was up on her table with her son just trying to save themselves. Our house was completely surrounded by water. Deacon Jerry Savage came down the street and gave every single home that had been impacted by the flood a financial donation. To receive assistance from the Bishop's Fund was so amazing and impressive. We certainly believe that the diocese and the bishop himself shares the burden when hard times fall on people. We never dreamed that after all those years that we had contributed that someday we would be the recipients. The bishop, the diocese and the givers never give for any other reason than to give as you have received. Money isn't everything. Love is what it's all about, but at times like that, money speaks of the love of the people, the church and therefore of our God. **- Pat and Darlene, Tupper Lake**



We heard about the Bishop's Fund when we were children. Both of our families always donated. When we got married, it was just automatic to support the Bishop's Fund. One of the things that it supports is Catholic Education. All four of our children went to Catholic School. The Bishop's Fund supports the Education of Seminarians and the Formation of Deacons. In our Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, we are fortunate to have two priests, one full-time deacon and a part-time deacon. The Bishop's Fund supports roughly 20 different projects and without them so many people would be hurting not just in our church but in the whole diocese. If you look at all the programs the Bishop's Fund supports, people could find something that they really feel passionate about and give. We all have to take care of our part. We all have to share the burden. Everybody should work together to make this a success. **- Jack and Diane, Malone**

THE BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The following ministries are supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts of Cash: Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

Pledge: A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

Online Giving: The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund. If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

Automatic Pledge Payments: To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920.

Matching Gifts: Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

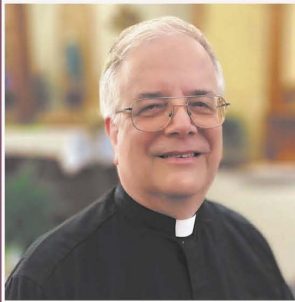
Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

Qualified IRA Contributions: For those who are 70 ½ or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

Bequests: When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

Mailing Your Gift: Please feel free to mail your donation to:
The Bishop's Fund Appeal,
PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY
13669.





The Bishop's Fund Appeal helps Bishop LaValley carry on the ministry of the church here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, Bishop LaValley helps individuals and families in need. We have had several emergencies in the parishes where I was previously assigned. Through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, we reached out to people who experienced flooding, car repairs, rent payments, fuel and electric bills helping those who were under-employed. Sometimes people come to the parishes for assistance, and the parishes just don't have the funds themselves to help. Being able to reach out to the Bishop's Fund and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund is a great help for me as a pastor. The Lord calls us to be of assistance to those who are in need. We often lose the perspective of where we are as a wider church. The Bishop's Fund gives people all the way across the diocese an opportunity to help each other. The programs sponsored by the ministries of the Bishop's Fund Appeal are open to anybody across the diocese to come and participate, to grow in their faith, to grow closer to God. I very much appreciate your generosity. God has blessed us all in various ways. Some have been blessed financially and others are blessed with time and talent. We need to share the burden because we are the body of Christ. Many parts but one body. Many people coming together is God's design for the Church. Christ's prayer before he left this earth was, "Father let them be one as you and I are one." Christ wants unity in His church, and one of the ways we build that unity is by helping each other. The Bishop's Fund is a wonderful example of how that can take place here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. **Father Kris Lauzon, Pastor of St. Mary's, Brushton and the Catholic Community of St. Augustine, North Bangor**



I am originally from Queens, New York and came to Potsdam in 2013 to go to Crane School of Music. The priesthood wasn't even on my radar until college. At St. Mary's in Potsdam, there were a number of people that posed the question to me – "have you ever considered the priesthood?" It was at St. Mary's Church where I was strengthened through participation in the Newman Club and other church activities. A discernment group was started that really focused specifically on discerning one's vocation. Through that process, it helped me to become open to the priesthood and discern what God was calling me to. I studied for six years at the Pontifical College Josephinum. I graduated this year and was recently ordained to the priesthood. The Bishop's Fund Appeal helped me by providing money for my seminary tuition, textbooks, and travel expenses to and from seminary. I now hope to bring the sacraments to God's people. In this time of Eucharistic Revival, I look forward to participating and helping people come to appreciate Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. From the first moment that I got to the diocese; I really had an opportunity to experience the generosity of the people of God. To those of you who contribute to the Bishop's Fund, thank you. Sometimes we think that our small gifts don't matter. We don't see the connection or impact that our small gifts can have, but even the small gifts matter. Thank you. **Father Lukas Gruber, Parochial Vicar at St. James Church, Cadyville, The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph, Morrisonville and St. Augustin's Church, Peru**



We are parishioners of St. Mary's in Clayton. We were reached out to by some of the deacons in our parish and they encouraged us (to participate in the Formation for Ministry Program). We asked ourselves, where are we? What are we being called to do? There's a lot that goes into it, textbooks, workshops and training. The Bishop's Fund is crucial to the fact that we were even able to go through the program. We share the burden to me means we are one body. I didn't have any understanding of what it was that makes the church operate. Through this course, I've understood that it's actually the parishioners that are the church itself. If you think about all the beautiful benefits that your parish can provide, (ask yourself) how can I continue the longevity of some of these beautiful things that my children and my children's children can enjoy? The church is not being run by just a handful of people behind the scenes and you're just there to observe. If you are a parishioner, you are part of that, so it is all our burden. People underestimate what gifts they have. I would encourage people to dig deep because there's something in everybody where they can contribute. Maybe it's financially, musically, behind the scenes or counting the collection. People are very hesitant to toot their own horns at times but collectively that is how we grow as a parish, everybody tooting their horns and making our parish grow by sharing what we have. – **Andrew and Corrine, Clayton**

THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
 622 WASHINGTON STREET, OGDENSBURG, NY 13669
 315-393-2920 | rcdony.org/bfa.html

Environmental Stewardship

Find your 'hum'

The complexities of climate change have a way of overwhelming our lives. In my years in the performing arts as a dancer, actress, teacher and director, I would often ask my performers to find their "hum." Baffled looks would race across their faces. I asked them to imagine two made up words, too-muchness and not-enoughness as they searched for the emotional truth in their characters' lives within a script. Then, I would ask them to dig deep to find the space between those emotional states. The hum will be living in the center. It will have a rhythm. Trust it. It will never lie to you. Your hum may change at various times, but you will instinctively know it.

I believe we each need to find our 'hum' to find our roles in the biggest script the planet has ever been handed. If we come from the deepest and most authentic place within our being, we will know we are being asked to enter into a Metanoia.

I suggest metanoia because it is a profound engagement with our Creator. We will not save our planet, have a change of heart, or make any difference without God whispering into our hearts with love, forgiveness and encouragement. We will hear the welcoming verse sung ever so sweetly; the kingdom of God is at hand.

So, find the quiet, take in every moment, see with keen eyes, listen, not just hear, touch your specific place on this earth, taste the goodness of food and drink, and breathe in the scents of a rain fall. Your hum is calling to you and God is calling you to "do the do-able!"

Continue to eliminate single use plastics. I suggest 4ocean.com. It is a practical and inspirational site filled with pertinent information. There is something for everyone interested in and committed to climate change.

By Maureen O'Connor
Faith & Ecology

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrienneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 13 – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall) followed by Lunch

Sept. 14 – 11 a.m. – Feast Day Mass for the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown followed by dinner at Sechi Hall

Sept. 16 – 11 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 17 – 10 a.m. – Mass in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Catholic Daughters of America Court 787 followed by a reception at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

Sept. 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 20-21 – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in New York City

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:
Sept. 13 – 5:30 p.m. – Sacred Heart Church, Chazy
Sept. 14 – 6 p.m. – Trinity Catholic School, Massena
Sept. 16 – 1 p.m. – Seton Catholic, Plattsburgh
Sept. 26 – 5:30 p.m. – St. James School Gouverneur

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 13 – Deacon Edward A. Wight, 2021

Sept. 14 – Rev. Russell Charles O'Neil, 1951

Sept. 15 – Rev. George Lesard, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto, 2004

Sept. 16 – Rev. Henri Victor Lecompte, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Alphonse Nolin, O.M.I., 1936

Sept. 17 – Rev. William E. Capron, 1949; Msgr. Louis D. Berube, 1999

Sept. 18 – Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

Sept. 19 – Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Celebrate your favorite priest in the

NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION
ISSUE

Join the *North Country Catholic* in honoring the special priests in your life. The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 27 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 24

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The *North Country Catholic* provides design services)

**Must be received in the NCC Office by
Sept. 18, 2023**

Please cut out the entire ad when you send in your request.

YES! I/We would like to honor a priest in the *North Country Catholic*

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Ad Size:

\$20 Special Message only \$40 2x2

\$135 Quarter Page \$250 Half Page

\$475 Full Page \$25 Extra for color

Message as it will appear in the ad (please print)

Feel free to use your own paper.

NAME OF PRIEST: _____

Mail checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

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For More Information, Visit Our Web Page at: www.barstowmotors.com
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Bishops criticize Biden administration's proposed LGBT discrimination rules

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. bishops this week issued a letter criticizing what they said were shortcomings in proposed federal rules meant to address alleged discrimination against LGBT individuals in programs receiving federal Health and Human Services grants.

HHS had issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) earlier in the summer that the department said was meant to “affirm civil rights and equal opportunity for people nationwide in HHS funded programs and services.”

The new policy would “protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in important health and human services programs” by “clarifying and reaffirming the prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in certain statutes” as they apply to grant recipients.

In a letter released Tuesday, the Office of the General Counsel within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that the NPRM reinterprets certain federal nondiscrimination statutes in a way that could, within the operation of Catholic charities, “create conflicts between the [rule’s] requirements and Catholic teaching.”

The letter noted, for instance, that many Catholic charities offer “emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence,” some of which are structured as single-sex environments.

Yet the proposed rules would “arguably mandate [the shelters] to house biological men who identify as women in single-sex facilities,” a policy that would violate the core Catholic teachings of “the immutable difference between, and dignity of, men and women.”

“Any charity that has separate men’s and women’s bathrooms or changing areas could be required to allow men to use the women’s facility and vice versa,” the letter suggested, adding further that “any charity may be required to address an employee or beneficiary by pronouns that do not correspond with his or her biological sex” in violation of Catholic beliefs.

The rule places “unconstitutional conditions on participation in government programs,” the general counsel wrote, which “threatens our capacity to carry out” Catholic charitable works.

Noting that the Catholic Church espouses a belief in “an order in the natural world that was designed by its Creator,” which includes “human bodies [that] are sexually dif-

ferentiated as male or female,” the letter says that the proposed rule “reflects anthropological premises that are simply not true.”

The office noted that the policy does allow for religious conscience exemptions, but it argued that those provisions are designed in such a way as to invite “arbitrary and capricious applications of religious freedom protections.”

“We urge HHS to reconsider the NPRM’s reinterpretation of those sex discrimination provisions to include [sexual orientation and gender identity] requirements,” the letter says, “and to implement a religious exemption that properly respects religious charities’ statutory and constitutional rights.”

USCCB spokeswoman Chieko Noguchi on Wednesday said the bishops’ group declined to comment on the letter.

The Department of Health and Human Services said in its announcement of the proposed rule that it would allow comments on the policy for 60 days after the announcement. That window will close on Monday, Sept. 11.

HHS also did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the rule, including whether any alterations would be made to it prior to its enactment.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pro-life doctors respond to call for abortion ‘without restrictions’

The recent assertion by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) that abortion “without restriction” is essential health care was met with condemnation by pro-life advocates, including pro-life doctors. The claims were made by Dr. Christopher Zahn, interim chief executive of ACOG, and Jenni Villavicencio, interim director of advocacy and public affairs for the Society of Family Planning, in a Washington Post opinion piece. Dr. Christina Francis, a certified OB-GYN and CEO of the American Association of Pro-Life OB-GYNs (AAPLOG), pushed back on the pro-abortion claims, saying that there are “two patients involved in a pregnancy” and that “ACOG’s statement is clearly motivated by politics and not a commitment to evidence-based medical care.” “Induced abortion is a medical procedure to end a pregnancy such that it does not result in a live birth; this means its intent is to end the life of the embryonic or fetal human beings,” Francis told CNA. “It is deadly – not safe – for the preborn child, but it also poses several risks for the pregnant mother, especially at later gestational ages.”

Baltimore Archdiocese considers reorganization bankruptcy

The Archdiocese of Baltimore will consider filing for bankruptcy as it awaits the implementation of a new law that will end the statute of limitations for civil lawsuits for negligence in relation to child sexual abuse. Effective Oct. 1, the law will allow a victim of child sex abuse to sue private entities for up to \$1.5 million if he or she can show the organization failed to properly respond to sexual abuse that occurred under its watch. Previously, the statute of limitations was seven years after the victim’s 18th birthday. Because the new law will apply retroactively, victims whose statute of limitations had already passed will be able to file lawsuits against private entities. An attorney’s general report from April accused the archdiocese of covering up child sex abuse for decades, and the archbishop believes this law could lead to multiple lawsuits that could have “devastating financial consequences” for the archdiocese.

Catholics in Vietnam ask Pope Francis to visit their country

A delegation of 90 Vietnamese Catholics and seven bishops traveled to Mongolia last weekend for the chance to see Pope Francis and deliver a special message. “We came to Mongolia to ask the pope to visit Vietnam,” Father Huynh The Vinh from Vietnam’s Diocese of Phu Cong told CNA on Sept. 3. Unlike Mongolia, which has one of the smallest Catholic populations in the world, Vietnam is home to millions of Catholics, yet no pope has ever visited the southeast Asian country. Vietnam and the Holy See have never had full diplomatic relations, a usual prerequisite for a papal trip, but Vietnamese Catholics remain convinced that a papal visit could have a positive impact on the situation facing Christians in the socialist country. “If the pope comes to Vietnam it will change a lot [of] the religious freedom in our country,” Kimviet Ngo told CNA.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Saranac Lake – St. Bernard's School to have their annual golf tournament.

Date: Sept. 23

Schedule: 9 a.m. Registration; 10 a.m. shot gun start

Place: Saranac Lake Golf Club

Cost: \$50 per golfer; \$25 lunch only

Features: Get ready to tee off and enjoy a day of friendly competition on the greens. A post-tournament lunch will be provided by Blue Line Brewery and Tail of the Pup.

Contact: To register a team or individual player, call or text 518-524-1726 or email principal@st-bernardsschool.org

OUTDOOR MASS

Lake Placid – Outdoor Mass to be held.

Date: Sept. 24

Place: Cobble Lookout. Directions to the trailhead, 3 miles up Rt. 431 from the Wilmington four corners, take the right to Franklin Falls (County Road 72). Go 0.3 miles to a turnout on the right.

Schedule: Leave the church parking lots at 11 a.m., start hiking the trailhead at 11:30 a.m.

Features: The trail was constructed in 2014. It is only one mile with little climbing and a spectacular view. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: For more information, contact the St. Agnes rectory at 518-523-2200 or lakeplacidsec@rcdony.org

FALL RETREAT

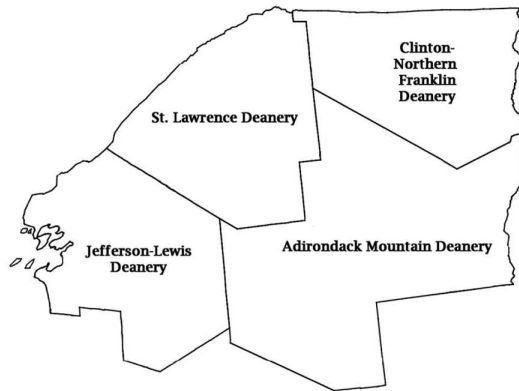
Saranac Lake - You are invited to come away for a day in the Adirondack Mountains to reflect on the Book of Creation and to discover lessons for life as Jesus often did.

Date: Sept. 26 10 a.m. to Sept. 27 10 a.m.

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: Suggested Offering, \$75

Features: Theme: "Grow Deep Not Just Tall." Retreat will include opportunities for prayer together,



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

presentations, time for sharing with one another on the Journey as well as time for quiet reflection. Facilitator: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator; Fr. Paul Kelly will celebrate Mass during the retreat.

Contact: For info.: 315-212-

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

APPLEFEST

Peru – The 45th Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.

Date: Sept. 16

Schedule: Grounds open at 10:30 a.m.; Parade at 11 a.m.

Features: Giant Craft Fair, Music, A Multitude of Foods including a Chicken BBQ, Bake Sale, Games, Train Ride, Bouncy House, Silent Auction, Grand Raffle, Pull Tabs.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

Date: Sept. 17, Oct. 15 and 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: High school age men and older are invited to gather with Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation. Virtual participation may also be available for those unable to attend in person.

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

ST. ANN'S HARVEST DINNER

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angels Parishes will be having a harvest dinner.

Date: Sept. 17

Time: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall

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

Features: Turkey and all the trimmings, Apple and Pumpkin desserts, Bake Sale, Themed Basket Raffle and 50/50 Raffle.

Contact: For more info., please call 518-236-5632

HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Cost: Adults and all take-outs, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8

Features: Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for "sinfully" delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes. Please join us!! We are handicapped accessible.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or Chazypa@rcd-

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

ny.org

FRANCISCAN MINI RETREAT

Watertown – The Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites you to join them for scripture, prayer and fellowship followed by refreshments.

Date: Sept. 17

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Patrick's Church

DRIVE THRU DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church and South Lewis Lions Club will sponsor a drive-thru chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: \$12

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

Contact: To guarantee your dinner, please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 or the day of the dinner call 315-348-6599. Any questions, contact Christine Chaufty at 315-766-6897.

315-212-5166.

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting Sept. 12

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

ST. LAWRENCE

Features: Free to all and includes a delicious meal.

DAY OF MERCY

Canton – Day of Mercy to be held.

Date: Sept. 13

Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Confessions heard all day.

BINGO

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will be holding BINGO.

Date: Sept. 18, 25

Time: Doors open at 4:30 p.m., First call at 7 p.m.

Place: 30 Miner Street

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Cost: Admission is \$5 at the door

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - If you (or a friend) are suffering after an abortion, you're not alone. Consider participating in Rachel's Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat.

Date: Sept. 15-17

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Contact: For more information, contact the Respect life office. Registration is online at rcdony.org/pro-life. If you'd like to attend a retreat in another location visit www.rachelsvineyard.org for a list of locations. Don't suffer alone. Help is available.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH LAY

ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite those who are interested in learning about their Lay Associate Program.

Schedule: Sept. 16, 2 p.m. to 4 at St. Patrick's Parish Center, Colton; Sept. 17, 2:30 p.m. to 4 at St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh.

Features: Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality, the charism and mission and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

Contact: If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or Sister Bethany srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-782-3460.

CHRIST IS HERE WORKSHOP

The Department of Education for the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be presenting Christ is Here: Come Encounter Him, a workshop on how to see Christ in the world. Christ Is Here is an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Him through all things in this world!

Date: Sept. 16

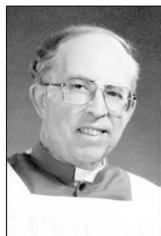
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Locations: St. Andre's Outreach Center, Malone; Parish Center, Adams; Parish Center, Croghan; Parish Center, Redford; Brzana Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Letting go of unforgiveness

This Sunday, we commemorate 22 years since a terrible wound was inflicted on our country by foreign terrorists. Devastating though it was to buildings that symbolize American power, the murder of thousands of lives that day was far greater. During these past two decades, families still grieve the loss of loved ones, and our nation still fights off insecurity and fear, as well as unforgiveness.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

God is surely speaking to our hearts in the 27th and 28th chapters of Sirach that make up our first reading for this Sunday. "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; when you pray, your

own sins will be forgiven." Just like a fearful child will hang on to an old piece of blanket, so will the "sinner" (that's me!), hang on to unforgiveness. It's mine! I'll feel weak and defeated if I let it go. And so we hug it to ourselves. Isn't it something how slow we are to let old hurts heal? They will probably never heal until we see our enemies as human. We need to understand more of their anger and wrath. We need to know more about their religion, and what true and moderate Islam really teaches.

There's more really good advice in today's passage from Sirach. He asks how we can possi-

Sept. 17

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 27:30-28:9

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

bly expect healing from the Lord unless we let go our unforgiveness. Now that's a thought to ponder. There's a real connection between God's forgiving me and my forgiving my neighbor. God says there is a connection, and we need to listen. It's human to want revenge, but is it God's way? How many times has God forgiven our sins and failings!

Look at the steward in this Sunday's Gospel. He probably thought his Master was foolish and soft to forgive him the millions of dollars

he owed, even though he gladly accepted the favor. But he evidently didn't see any reason why he himself should act in the same way toward his fellow servant. And that servant owed a bare fraction of the debt his master had forgiven him.

What a huge debt we owe God for His great mercy toward us. Forgiving others is the way we pay that debt to God. And the funny thing is that we don't really lose anything at all by forgiving. It's not money out of our pocket, nor is it hurting our health. Just the opposite. Holding grudges is what hurts our health, while forgiving others is actually beneficial. To forgive means to let go, and letting go helps our blood pressure, slows

down our heart rate, and soothes our nerves. How often we complain about being "stressed out". Forgiving others opens our heart to God's forgiveness, lowers our stress considerably, and helps us to pray better. Now, doesn't that sound attractive? It's a win-win situation.

On this weekend that commemorates the great assault to our national pride, the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, let's bring ourselves to pray for a change of heart for all who are contemplating acts of terror or hatred this week.

Let's throw in for good measure all who have offended us.

If we do, God will lift some of the weight from our hearts.

CALLED TO SERVE

Don't blink

A guy stopped his pick-up truck in the parking lot of a box store the other day to say, "Howdy!" He had to introduce himself because it had been more than 10 years since our paths had crossed but I remembered him immediately, armed with his name.

We visited for a few minutes. He was lamenting a bit that he had just turned 65 and was beginning to discover he can't do at 65 what he considered easy-peasy at 25.

I was hardly sympathetic since I will have him by a decade this month.

Where does the time go?

A character in a novel

I was reading gave some great advice to a friend who had a six-year-old at home. "Don't blink or you'll miss her grow up."

That's true of a lot of things. Kathy and I were married in 1970. Seems like yesterday but a lot has happened over those 52 years. Our daughter is the best gift we have received, and she in turn has blessed us with three grandsons.

A Facebook post the other day recalled a scene from long ago when the three grandsons were on their way to grammar school one memorable first day. Three different grades but all in the same school.

Two of them are in

college now and the youngest is a senior in high school.

Forgive me for repeating, where does the time go?

Don't blink!

In less than a month, my class of deacons will celebrate our 20th anniversary of ordination. Some of us have reached a chronological age which requires us to think about retirement.

When a deacon reaches 75 years of age, he is obliged to chat with his pastor and then notify Bishop LaValley about his intentions. Since holy orders is a permanent imprint, like baptism

and confirmation, "one does not retire from the permanent diaconate,



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

but at the proper time a deacon may request to retire from his office, ministry or assignment." The material in quotes is from the diocese's Pastoral Handbook.

It is the time for a heart-to-heart with the pastor about the things the deacon does, or doesn't do, around the parish. Does the deacon want to continue doing some or all the things and, most importantly, does the pastor want the deacon to continue?

A deacon is assigned to a parish or other min-

istry by the bishop. It is the bishop's decision to accept the retirement request and permit, if asked, a continuation from year to year.

Every retirement leaves a hole in the work of the parish. If the deacon chooses to end his work in the parish, the pastor needs to figure out what stays, what goes and what can be transferred to someone else.

Think of the men who are discerning a vocation to the diaconate in your daily prayers.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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

Jimmy Buffet: More Catholic than you think?

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

Jimmy Buffett, for years an iconic purveyor of beach-themed soft rock, died Friday, Sept. 1, after living with Merkel cell skin cancer for four years. He was 76.

The “Margaritaville” singer was raised Catholic, though he did not – at least openly – appear to practice his faith later in life. But according to one commentator, Buffett’s music contained – at least upon closer examination – some deeper, and arguably Catholic, themes, especially when it came to the importance of balancing work and play.

“[I]t is clear that Catholicism left an indelible mark on his imagination,” wrote Stephen M. Metzger, a scriptor (cataloguer of Latin manuscripts) and graduate of the University of Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute, in a 2018 article for the University of Notre Dame’s Church Life Journal.

Buffett attended St. Ignatius Catholic School and went on to graduate from McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, which remains the most prominent Catholic high school in Mobile, Alabama.

Metzger said evidence of Buffett’s Catholic upbringing shone through in his work, even if his songs weren’t explicitly Catholic. His easygoing, escapist songs display “an instinctual dissatisfaction with the demands of modern work and a desire to get away, to escape

and have a good time, to have fun.”

“Buffett[’s] at times subtle and at times overt criticism of the modern obsession with work and the demands of the capitalist economy betrays a formation in Catholic teaching, especially in the Church’s social thought. In *Rerum Novarum* (1891), Pope Leo XIII argues for the fair and humane treatment of workers, emphasizing that time should be allotted to them in order to fulfill their religious devotions and obligations. After all, there is more to life than money and profit. It is clear that in a deep way Buffett internalized this outlook, which found expression in his celebration of the leisurely island and beach lifestyle,” Metzger opined.

“Of the many challenges facing the Church today, perhaps one of the most important is whether her educational institutions

and her parishes can still form young people in such a way that they will retain a fundamentally Catholic outlook on life, even when living at their most prodigal.”

Buffett rose to prominence with his 1977 hit song “Margaritaville” and toured every year for nearly five decades, amassing vast wealth and getting married and divorced along the way.

The Mississippi-born songwriter at one point described himself as a “court jester,” weaving sometimes satirical commentary – even commentary criticizing the sometimes indulgent and lazy culture Buffett himself promoted – into his songs.

“Buffett’s identification with the role of court jester is significant. As we saw above, he has the paradoxical ability to criticize in his songs the very attitude and behavior from which he profits

and also to point out the flaws in modern society and the modern economy to his audience, which in many respects comprises precisely the people who have most benefited from this situation but who implicitly know that there is more to life,” Metzger wrote.

Metzger noted that in Buffett’s 1983 song “We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us About,” Buffett reveals that “I was supposed to have been a Jesuit priest or a Naval Academy grad.”

“Like most Catholic boys, especially in the

middle of the 20th century, Buffett would have been introduced in a serious way to the priesthood as an altar boy, and this experience plays an important role in a few of his songs,” he continued, mentioning a song that includes the line “*mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.*”

“There must have been a strong Catholic culture in place, if his parents thought that a religious vocation was of equal value and prestige to attending one of the country’s elite military colleges,” Metzger opined.

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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

New school year

Greetings to all! Summer is ending all too quickly, and a new school year has begun. We at the Mission Office wish you all a safe and successful 2023-24 year. Thank you, teachers, catechists, school staff and administrators, for your hard work and thank you to all the students in school and parish religious programs who prayed for and donated money to the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) during the past year.

MCA is about inspiring our students to come to the forefront with their God-given talents so they can inspire and prayerfully educate themselves and others. If any religious ed programs or schools are looking for MCA mite boxes to incorporate into your programming this year, please contact our office at (315)-393-2920. We are looking forward to working with you again for the 2023-24 school year! This week we would like to highlight the life of Saint Mary MacKillop (1842-1909), a religious sister of Australia who's many talents included a focus on education.

In his catechesis, Pope Francis recalled that the apostolic fervor of Saint Mary MacKillop manifested itself and bore fruit especially in the field of formation and teaching; "Wisely reading the signs of the times," Sister Mary understood that "for her, the best way to do so was through the education of the young, in the knowledge that Catholic education is a form of evangelization." Education, added Pope Francis, "does not consist of filling the head with ideas, but in accompanying and encouraging students on the path of human and spiritual growth, showing them how friendship with the Risen Jesus expands the heart and makes life more humane." A vision that Pope Francis has recognized as "fully relevant today, when we feel the need for an "educational pact" capable of uniting families, schools and society as a whole."

Pope Francis recalled the gift of inner peace received and witnessed by Sister Mary MacKillop in her life, also marked by crosses, misunderstandings and bad things suffered: she "had to pay bills, negotiate with local bishops and priests, manage the schools and look after the professional and spiritual formation of her sisters; and, later, she suffered health problems."

Sustained by grace, Saint Mary "did not give up in times of trial and darkness when her joy was dampened by opposition or rejection. All the saints" the Pope said "faced opposition, even within the Church. This is curious. And she faced it too." She remained convinced that even when the Lord gave her "the bread of adversity and the water of affliction," The Lord Himself would soon answer her cry and surround her with His grace. This is the secret of apostolic zeal: the continual relationship with the Lord."

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

OBITUARIES

Brushton — Ray J. McCaffrey, III, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

Canton — John "Jack" Lawson Colton, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Hermon Cemetery.

Carthage — Marchia Ann (Bisha) Ablan, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Dania Michelle (Mullarney) Decosse, 48; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Genevieve L. (Swanston) Gero, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery.

Chaumont — Elizabeth "Liz" (Cody) Taddonio, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2023 at All Saints Church.

Colton — Rose Maguire Camp, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Norwood.

Crown Point — Daniel Arnold LaFountain, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Daniel P. Fetcie, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2023 at St. Hames Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Keeseville — Alice M. (Sawyer) Parrish, 84; Funeral Services Sept. 6, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Long Lake — Thomas Taylor Bissell, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2023 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Lowville — Bernadette Farr, 77;

Graveside services Aug. 31, 2023 at Martinsburg Cemetery.

Madrid — William E. "Bill" Bradley, 89; Funeral Services Aug. 29, 2023 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena — David A. Brown, 70; Graveside Services Sept. 23, 2023 at Hopkinton Fort Jackson Cemetery.

Moir — Sharon C. (Richards) Deon, 79; Funeral Services Sept. 6, 2023 at Flint Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

Norwood — Shirley I. (Currier) Cornwall, 94; Funeral Services Sept. 15, 2023 at the Hammill Funeral Home; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Norwood — Thomas W. Oakes, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2023 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Susan M. (LaFave) LaRose, 81; Graveside Services Sept. 6, 2023 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — John Alden Miller, 61; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — Linda M. (Ellard) Measheaw, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2023 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Robert J. Perry, 87; Graveside services Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Marie Mae (Sears) Manor, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Kurt M. Stout, 65; Military Services at Miramar National Cemetery, Sand Diego, CA

Sackets Harbor — Frank Curcio, 81; Mass of Christian Burial at St.

Andrew's Church.

Saranac Lake — Rosaleigh Marie Blanchard, infant; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2023 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Saranac Lake — Carmelo R. Longo, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Union Cemetery, Vermontville.

Tupper Lake — Catherine Ann (Graham) Carroll, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake — Janet (Richer) Chartier, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown — Helen T. (Ruddy) Goss, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Joseph M. Harwood, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2023 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Josephine (Catania) Johnston, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Ralph Louis Marziano, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church.

Watertown — Winifred (Rowsam) Sweredoski, 101; Graveside services Sept. 23, 2023 at Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Watertown — Samuel Tufo, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

we view short video talks based on the book *Mysterion* by Father Harrison Ayre. He will unveil how to see Christ in the world and be Christ to the world through the Sacramental Worldview. Please bring your own lunch.

Contact: To register go to www.rcdony.org/christ

HIGHSCHOOL LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake – Highschool students in grades 9-12 are invited to a leadership weekend.

Date: Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. to Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Place: Camp Guggenheim
Cost: \$95

Features: Grow your leadership skills, meet great people, make a difference in the world.

Contact: Register by Sept. 18 at: <https://www.rcdony.org/youth.html> Questions contact, Anita Soltero, Youth Director at info@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

BLUE MASS

Morrisonville – The entire Northern NY Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well being of all first responders and public safety personnel.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Bishop LaValley will celebrate the annual Blue Mass. The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Communications. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend the celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

Contact: Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.



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JOB OPENING

Secretary for Regional Faith Formation Offices, Formation for Ministry and Vocations Coordinator

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the full-time position of **Secretary for Regional Faith Formation Offices, Formation for Ministry and Vocations Coordinator**. The Secretary is responsible for supporting the work of the Regional Assistant Directors of Faith Formation, the daily operation of the Western Faith Formation office as well as duties assigned by the Eastern Faith Formation Director. The secretary also supports the work of the Formation for Ministry Office and the Vocations Office.

The Secretary must possess strong secretarial, bookkeeping, and computer skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required. Strong interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills are also required.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office
Diocese of Ogdensburg
P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669
or e-mail: ksnover@rcdony.org

Deadline for application is September 21, 2023.

*"Come to Me,
all you who labor
and are burdened."*

MATTHEW 11:28

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

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and Catechists of the diocese as we
Celebrate Catechetical Sunday Sept. 17**