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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 21

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

## CELEBRATING THE FEAST



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Holy Day Mass for Our Lady of Grace parish on August 15, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was held at St. John's Church in Morristown. Each year, the parish holds a picnic following the evening mass on August 15 at Our Lady of Grace Family Life Center. Parishioners enjoyed the opportunity to visit with Bishop at the picnic. Pictured are, from left, Deacon Demers, Della Lyons, Joey Kring, Jensen Gardner, Bishop LaValley, Luke Young, Vivian Gardner, Porter Lonsbery, Christine Young, Father Chris Carrara, pastor, and Isebella Lyons. Not shown in the photo was another server, Walter Kring.

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS!



Father Lukas Gruber, pictured being vested by Father Howard Venette, discusses his first few months in priestly ministry in this annual Priest Appreciation edition of the North Country Catholic. Also read about Father Bryan Stitt's efforts to climb all 46 Adirondack high peaks and Father Daniel Chapin's return to ministry from retirement.

STORIES ON PAGES 3, 4, 6 & 8

## Pope: Forgiveness heals 'poisons of resentment'

By Courtney Mares  
Catholic News Agency

Think of someone who has hurt you and ask God for the strength to forgive that person, Pope Francis told the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square on Sept. 17.

Speaking from a window of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace on Sept. 17, the pope underlined that forgiveness can heal "the poisons of resentment" and "restore peace to our hearts."

In his Angelus message, the pope said that forgiving is "not a good deed that we can choose

to do or not do" but "a fundamental condition for those who are Christians."

"Every one of us, in fact, is 'forgiven,'" he said. "God gave his life for us and in no way can we compensate for his mercy, which he never withdraws from his heart. However, by corresponding to his gratuitousness, that is, by forgiving one another, we can bear witness to him, sowing new life around us."

"For outside of forgiveness, there is no hope; outside of forgiveness there is no peace."

The pope compared forgiveness to "oxygen that purifies the air polluted by hatred" and

heals the "many diseases of the heart that contaminate society."

He reflected on Jesus' response to Peter, who had asked: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

"Jesus answered, 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times (Mt 18:21-22).'"

Pope Francis added: "Jesus' message is clear: God forgives incalculably, exceeding all measure. This is how he is; he acts out of love, and gratuitously. ... We cannot repay him but, when we forgive a brother or a sister, we imitate him."

"May Mary, Mother of Mercy,

help us to receive the grace of God and to forgive each other," he said.

After praying the Angelus prayer in Latin with the crowd, Pope Francis noted that he will travel to Marseille, France, on Friday to attend a meeting of bishops from the Mediterranean region that will have a special focus on the issue of migration.

He said that migration is a "challenge" that must be faced together, adding that the future will only be prosperous if "it is built on fraternity, putting human dignity first ... especially for those most in need."

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
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USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry****R. LaValley**

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# They're part of our family

"It was like having an uncle at camp," said my son, Jake, when describing a priest of our diocese.

"He's definitely part of your faith family," I responded. "I wouldn't be where I am today if not for him. He was a big part of me returning to the faith when you were little, and he was one of the people who suggested I apply for my job."

"Does that mean he's like my faith grandfather?" Jake replied, grinning.

"I'm guessing he'd prefer you stick with uncle, but I'm going to tell him you referred to him as grandfatherly," I said, also laughing.

I did not tell the priest involved. Though I now

think of "faith grandfather" every time I see him or hear his name.

It's something I don't think of often, but my interaction with Jake made me think about that familial title - father - we use when addressing our priests.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

If I think of my father or think of my husband in his role as father, I think of wisdom, perseverance, strength, guidance, humor and sacrificial giving, and I think of someone who is consistently present in my life, accompanying me along the way.

We ask our priests to display those characteristics, too.

Our priests share wisdom gained through

education, formation and experience in their preaching, teaching and counsel. They persevere through the challenges of administering our parishes and serving the people of Christ, maintaining their own spiritual, physical and mental health, and the regular challenges of life. They share with us the strength of their relationships with the Lord. They guide our parishes. They give of themselves as they work to serve the Lord and His people. They accompany us and help lead us to Christ. They do it by offering us the sacraments, their wisdom, their counsel and their service.

But they do way more than that. Our priests also serve as chaplains in fire departments, law enforcement, medical facilities and prisons; they serve in

diocesan leadership roles; they lead and participate in ministries; and they do much, much more.

Here at the *North Country Catholic*, we're especially blessed to have as part of our family Father Bill Muench and Monsignor Paul Whitmore, who write so beautifully and insightfully for our publication.

One note: While all our priests are appreciated, some aren't mentioned in these pages. Despite best intentions, people miss deadlines. People forget to submit their notes of thanks.

Though they may not be mentioned, these priests are still appreciated and loved. They're still part of our family.

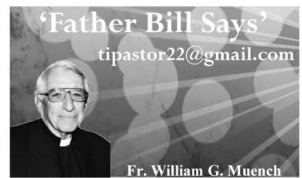
And, as we do with our family, please keep our priests in your prayers.

## Reflecting love with our lives

Recently, I presided over the wedding ceremony of my great niece, Mary, and her now husband, Eric. This was the first wedding ceremony I had in ages, so I was a little anxious about what to say in the homily. Mary and I have been great friends over the years. I was one of her babysitters years ago when she was an infant. But I didn't intend to use those stories in this homily.

The first thing that I thought of was something I have often used in talks - that is "listen." I like to encourage people to be good listeners. We are so busy that we miss so much of what is happening around us. I even encourage people to listen each day to the Lord's messages to us.

Well, in a curious way these thoughts led me to remember a song, a song that would add something to my homily. It's a song from "My Fair Lady." Eliza

**Fr. William G. Muench**

is singing to Freddy.

"Words, words, words! I'm so sick of words! I get words all day through; first from him; now from you. Is that all you blighters can do? Don't talk of stars burning above; If you're in love, show me! Tell me no dreams filled with desire - If you're on fire, show me!"

Yes, the wedding ceremony has lots of words. The words mean nothing if a couple, like Mary and Eric, don't truly demonstrate and live in their love. The world should be able to see in all that they do and say that they are truly in love. Show us. And I am certain you will agree with me that it is about all those little things. It is all

about all those wonderful things that truly demonstrate care and concern, true love for each other. I am certain that you could tell me so many of those little but important things that show true love.

Now as I think about this: I believe I can imagine our God singing this same song about his people, about you and me. We, Catholics, have lots of prayers with many good words.

However, I can imagine the Lord looking down on us and singing "Show me." What did you do today that truly demonstrates how much you love God, how much you love your neighbor as Jesus taught us. Again, it is about those important little things that truly demonstrate love and make our lives better, those little things can make our world a better place.

Let me give you an exam-

ple: I remember a Sunday Gospel message that challenged us to be a forgiving people. God loves us and has blessed us in so many wonderful ways. Our God continues to forgive us over and over again. Jesus is our perfect model and teacher. On the cross Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing." In the same way Jesus forgives us. And we are called upon to be forgiving as the Lord teaches us.

Prayer is important for us as Catholics. Prayer builds up our friendship and relationship with the Lord Jesus. I am certain that the Lord constantly urges us to reflect our prayers in the way we live our Christian life. The Lord teaches us that others should be able to recognize in the way we live and love as disciples of the Lord. Our lives demonstrate that we are true Christians.

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



FILE PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered with Bishop Terry R. LaValley for the celebration of the annual Chrism Mass on March 30. Sept. 24 is Priesthood Sunday, an opportunity to honor, celebrate and pray for our priests.**

## Celebrating our priests

**By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI**  
Diocesan Vocation Coordinator

*"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."*  
- Hebrews 7:17

These words are spoken to every man who receives the sacrament of holy orders. Priesthood Sunday will be celebrated in the parishes on Sunday, September 24.

The perfect model for every priest is Jesus Christ - the priest whose ultimate sacrifice was offered on the cross. Jesus Christ's mission was to proclaim the love of the Father. His "High Priestly Prayer" is found in the Gospel of St. John Chapter 17. It is a prayer of petition to the Father that his disciples know the Father and the person of Jesus Christ whom the Father sent. These apostles are a gift to Jesus, and they have come to believe in Him. It is Jesus' desire that the Father

keep them in His name. These apostles will go out into the world to carry forward the Gospel message. Jesus pleads with His Father to keep them from the Evil One.

This is the same mission that every priest has when he ministers to every member in the parish community. The person of Jesus Christ is celebrated in every Eucharist, "Do this in memory of Me." It is the prayer of every priest that no one is lost to the Evil One as he brings the Gospel message and the sacraments to his people.

The month of October is the month of the Holy Rosary. What a wonderful opportunity to pray for more vocations to the priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The Vocation Office has scheduled Andrew Dinners around the diocese to give men discerning their vocations

an opportunity to come, to pray, to hear the vocation stories of Bishop Terry R. LaValley and some of our priests. We are inviting young men from our high schools, colleges, and communities to come and learn more about the call to priesthood in the life of the Church today.

The Andrew Dinners are being held in the following deaneries and locations:

**CLINTON-NORTHERN FRANKLIN DEANERY**

October 1 at St. Alexander's Parish Center, Morrisonville  
**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN DEANERY**

October 8 at Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake  
**ST. LAWRENCE DEANERY**

October 15 at Church of the Visitation Hall, Norfolk  
**JEFFERSON-LEWIS DEANERY**

October 29 at St.

James Parish Hall, Carthage

Pray for Bishop Valley, all the priests and deceased priests who have served so well in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Pray for your parish priest(s) and thank them for being "another

Christ" for the people.

Pray for more vocations to the priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

St. Jean-Marie Vianney, patron of parish priests, says, "Priesthood is the heart of Jesus."



*The Sisters of St. Joseph are grateful to the priests who celebrate daily Mass at the Motherhouse.*

*We especially thank:  
Fr. Matt Conger, Fr. Mickey Demo,  
Msgr. Paul Whitmore & Fr. Leo Wiley,  
The Diocesan Priests of Jefferson Deanery  
and the  
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart,  
for their priestly presence among us.*

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

## Fr. Stitt goes 'to the heights' hiking &amp; beyond

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin  
Contributing Writer

"I started hiking when I was a kid growing up in Crown Point, surrounded by beauty. Though I wasn't from a family of hikers, I had a number of friends who were, and I got pulled into it. I love being able to get out into the quiet and the peace and the beauty and sometimes in the excitement of nature as well," shared Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor of Saint Mary's in Canton and diocesan director of Worship.

For Father Stitt, hiking isn't simply an activity but also a lesson about the spiritual life.

"Normally things are pretty calm out there, but there are times when one sees a wild animal that's not expected or a storm that comes up," he said. "But it's mostly about realizing that the human person is capable of much more than the things we think we are."

Father Stitt has enjoyed adventures with his nieces and nephews, along with kids from Catholic schools and high schools, and Boy Scouts from throughout the diocese.

"When I'm taking kids up the mountains into the heights, you get to one summit and then see another - it seems so far away and so vast," he said. "Then you realize it is where you just were. Sometimes you can be discouraged and say 'I can't get all the way over there,' but you can."

It's not uncommon for Father Stitt to take individuals out for their first hiking experiences.

"I went hiking with a couple from my parish a couple of months ago," he said. "They had never been hiking so they were a little nervous about doing so. They had a great time the beauty of the Adirondacks, and the quiet there was just amazing."

Along the way, Father Stitt has also had some heart-pounding moments of daring. Once, the terrain he encountered was like walking on a gigantic tower of Jenga blocks.

"When I was in high school, I went on a back packing trip to New Mexico in the Rockies - one of the Baldy Mountains,"



Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, is attempting to complete the Adirondack 46er, hiking all 46 high peaks.

he explained. "It was like a pile of rocks that were so steep. Our mountains are huge hunks of granite, but theirs are a heap. It looks like if you added one more rock it would all fall down when you're up there."

Currently, Father Stitt is endeavoring to climb all 46 high peaks. So far, he has scaled 18 of the mountains.

"I started back in 1992 because we were training to go to the Rockies," he said. "I got to do a few others when I was in college and working at Camp Guggenheim. Some friends decided to also - Father Scott Belina and Father Justin Thomas and the great priest of the mountains, Father Phil Allen. Father Ray Moreau has also done the 46. There may be others as well. Father Thomas was the last to become a 46er. His was number 9000 something. There are now well over 10,000 people."

Father Stitt said the idea of completing the 46er was daunting, but perspective shifts at a certain point.

"Once you've done a dozen, you realize this could be a thing," he said. "After you do the obvious ones, the entry ones, then you start doing three or four or sometimes five in one day. It's not like climbing five times, sometimes you're barely going down and then going back up. It would be crazy to do them

all as individual hikes. I don't think it's possible with some of the trails. You'd have to go out of your way to do one at a time."

Father Stitt's hiking isn't simply limited to the most arduous heights, however.

"There are a lot of beautiful mountains out there that aren't high peaks," he said. "There is the joy in being in the beauty of creation. Hands down, the one I've climbed more often is Baker near Guggenheim in Saranac Lake because I've brought campers up there so many times. Big Slide is one that I climbed with my parents. Another one I've done a number of times is Colden thanks to Drew Benware of Saranac Lake, who is one of the great hikers of the Adirondacks - the guy can hike like it's nobody's business."

Sometimes there are surprises when climbing in the North Country.

"My nieces and nephews saw a couple of Martens (weasel-like animals) while we were hiking this summer," Father Stitt said. "One of them brushed up against their legs, so that was kind of fun."

Part of hiking, he said, is trying to be prepared.

"It's a trick in the mountains," he said. "We always bring head lamps and rain jackets because things happen. Earlier this summer we were in a downpour,

thunder and lightning and hail. There was so much rain that it turned into torrential rain. Sometimes we do these things in the winter too."

Hiking is also meditative for.

"Whenever I go into the mountains, I can't help but remember all the different passages in Scripture that people are going up: Abraham on Mount Moriah, the Transfiguration, and of course Mount Calvary," Father Stitt said. "Not everyone can go hiking up the mountains, but we all have to go up the spiritual mountains in our lives. We are all trying to respond to that call to take up our cross and follow Him. Doing something that involves that much huffing and puffing while also trying not to complain about huffing and puffing has got to be good for the spiritual life."

Given that he will soon be leading a pilgrimage in the footsteps of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, I asked Father Stitt about the saint's influence.

"Often Pier Giorgio will be invoked when climbing the mountains because of his love of the outdoors and of the mountains in particular," Father Stitt said. "His unofficial motto was 'Verso l'Alto,' - To the Heights. We're going to be following his footsteps all the way up to the Italian Alps. I'm not planning on doing any major mountain climbs, but I'll definitely get into the foothills."

For those who are just beginning, Father Stitt had some practical wisdom to offer.

"We're blessed with a big diocese and places to hike all over," he said. "I would not recommend starting with the high peaks unless you're a very good athlete. If you're not, start with something small - just do a mile and look for something that has a nice summit. It's always nice to have a payoff, a transfiguration experience on the top of the mountain. Try to do it without complaining as you do this hike. If you go, bring lots of water. The motto of the Boy Scouts is to be prepared. It's a good way to live our lives, not living in fear but going out and doing great things."

# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

## Father Chris Looby

We, of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, are blessed in having you as a Priest! You are an outstanding Good Shepherd!

God Bless,  
Deacon Bernie Slate



*Fr. Garry Giroux,  
Thank you so much for all that you do for the church and our family.*

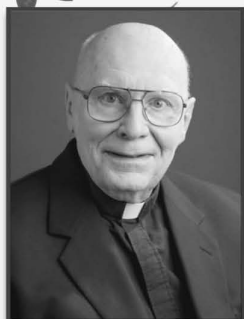
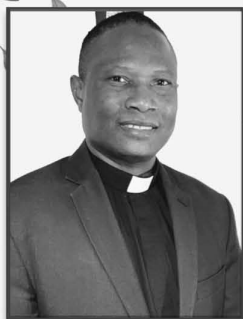


*Scott and Mary Loomis*

*We are grateful and blessed to have **Father Jay Seymour** who does all with love, respect, and dignity.*

*We are also grateful and blessed to have **Monsignor John Murphy**, our retired- priest- in- residence, for all he does.*

*Many thanks and much gratitude from St. Hubert's, Star Lake St. James, Gouverneur and Sacred Heart, Edwards*



**Rev. Medenel Angrand and Rev. John Looby**

St. Mary's of the Fort, CC of Constable, Westville & Trout River, CC of Burke & Chateaugay, wish to extend a sincere thank you for your faithful service and commitment to our parishes. Your kind words, wise counsel and unwavering spirit have been an immense source of strength for all of us here. May God continue to bestow many blessings upon you both.



## Fr. Doug Decker & Fr. Severinus Torwoe

Giving thanks for your invigorating and empowering faith enriching spiritual development in our local faith community.



St. Peter's Rosary & Altar Society, Lowville

*May God Bless our current and all former priests of Sacred Heart Church, Massena.*

*~Dishaw Family*

## Thank you Fr. Clyde Lewis, Fr. Alan Shnob & Fr. Nicolas Revilla

For all that you have done and continue to do for our churches.

The Champlain Knights of Columbus 3525

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

**'So much grace' in early priesthood**

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Staff Writer

"Each day is different, but most tend to be fast and furious," is one way Father Lukas Gruber describes his first few months as a parish priest. Yet that is only part of the story: "There is just so much grace! And some days it is very, very clear how grace-filled this or that moment was!"

Ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 27, 2023, Father Lukas reported to his first assignment at the end of June. As parochial vicar at the Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville (with parishes in Cadyville and Peru) the Diocese of Ogdensburg's newest priest gladly welcomes both the joys and challenges of his vocation.

What does an "ordinary" day look like for Father Lukas?

"All our daily Masses are in the morning, so that comes first," he said. "Then I check in with the parish office, do pastoral visits as needed, work on whatever project is current, attend meetings, and celebrate funerals as scheduled. On weekends, there are confessions and Sunday Masses. And I do whatever else I am directed to by our pastor, Father Scott Seymour. Recently, he asked me to update the parish website and the parish Facebook page. And we, like most parishes post-COVID, are working to rebuild our master lists, including lists of our parishioners who are homebound or in nursing homes. This is an important ministry, involving a number of committed parishioners. I know I, too, am blessed to bring Communion to

our parishioners, wherever they live."

Clearly, the summer was busy for Father Lukas, as autumn also promises to be.

"I enjoyed helping out at Vacation Bible School," he notes, "and am looking ahead to involvement in Religious Education and youth ministry - now combined for better allocation of time, resources, and sharing of ideas. Also, I am assigned to regular visits at Seton Catholic, as our parish is quite involved with the school. There are always opportunities to join the good work being done at our outreach centers (Morrisonville and Peru). In addition, every priest is required, in rotation, to be on call to administer the sacraments in emergency situations."

Provisionally, none of this came as a surprise to Father Lukas. In fact, he was familiar with the demands of the priesthood long before he thought of becoming a priest.

"Before the seminary, I spent lots of time in parish work, in music ministry and as pastoral associate in Potsdam," he said. "That gave me a solid sense of how a parish works, and what the priest's role in that is. My summer assignments in parishes here in the diocese allowed me to build on that understanding, as did my deacon year assignment (via the Pontifical College Josephinum) to an exceptionally large parish in Columbus, Ohio."

Even Covid helped shape Father Lukas' expectations. The pandemic shut down the seminary just after he had arrived in Canton for a school break. That visit stretched into three months, "a unique and

interesting experience in which I learned so much from Father Bryan Stitt, like the joys and frustrations of live-streaming, and of outreach in harsh conditions. I learned valuable lessons about flexibility," says the young priest, "and about patience and kindness and being intentional in staying close to Jesus and finding ways to help parishioners do the same."

Those lessons have endured. Noting that he can become impatient with himself as he continues to adjust from a life of serious study and formation to the demands of active ministry, Father Lukas explains: "I realize that what I really need is to remain open to the Lord, to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, and to stay rooted in prayer. A blessing I had not anticipated was my new freedom to dive into Scripture. Rather than strictly academic, there is a new and different focus now. There are more opportunities for meditative prayer, of which Scripture is the cornerstone. Yet sometimes that must yield to legitimate demands, and I try to find balance. My prayer then

is to be open in that moment to what God wants to grace my life with."

Father Lukas said finds celebrating the sacraments to be a life-giving experience.

"For me as for all, the sacraments are wonderful moments of prayer, of encounter and conversation with God," he said. "They are an endless source of grace."

And while the new priest fully anticipated the wonder and joy in celebrating the Eucharist, he was surprised to discover the depth and power of other sacraments as well.

"Hearing confessions is an incredible ministry of great importance and beauty," he explains, "and I am blessed to be able to do it so often. It is powerful and profound, and it has helped me to be a better penitent. An entirely unexpected blessing is how powerful it can be to celebrate someone's funeral Mass and burial. Each is a different and beautiful moment of encountering God and his people as the Lord chooses to break through our deafness and blindness in unique and wonderful ways. Likewise, celebrating the

anointing of the sick has been another series of grace-filled moments in my short time in parish ministry."

As he settles into the life of a parish priest, Father Lukas finds himself filled with gratitude.

"I thank God for the joys of daily life, of meeting people and getting to know them, of helping where needed, for the warm welcome of parishioners, and for experiencing God's presence at work in all of it," he said.

Noting the irreplaceable importance of priestly fraternity, he is also grateful for "the truly wonderful priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, each of whom has modeled for me some part of what means to be a priest."

Echoing St. John Vianney, Father Lukas understands that the heart of the priesthood is the love of Jesus Christ. "Listening to the Lord and directed by the Holy Spirit, we do our best to be a bridge to all we meet, to transmit comfort to our world that so desperately needs it. We try to live our priesthood so that Jesus can shine through to the Church and to the world."

**God Bless Father Lukas Gruber**

Many thanks to Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Priests of the North Country who have assisted in his discernment and formation.

Markus, Elena and Maria Gruber  
Louise and Strati Mimicopoulos  
Ed and Louann Gruber



We thank you for inspiring us to be the Face of Christ to the People of God. Your faithful ministry is appreciated. From, The Office of Vocations & Seminarians

## Thank you, Lord for our priests!

**Most Reverend Terry LaValley**  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

**Reverend Joseph Morgan**  
Rector of Saint Mary's Cathedral

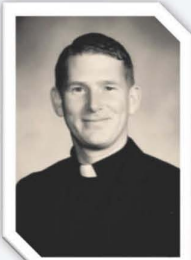


**Reverend Kevin O'Brien**  
Pastor of Saint Raphael's Church & Saints Philip and James Church

**Reverend James Shurtleff**  
Pastor Emeritus of Notre Dame Church


**Reverend Jude Nnadibuagha**  
Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary's Cathedral

**Reverend Monsignor Robert Aucoin**  
In Residence at Saint Mary's Cathedral

From your parishioners and the Vocations Committee of Ogdensburg, Heuvelton and Lisbon

*Fr. Frank Natale*      *Fr. Joseph Kanimea*



*Fr. Jaya Kumar Francis*

*We are truly blessed and grateful for the grace of your ministry to our parishes!*

*May God shower you with blessings!*

*The Parishioners of St. Mary's, Evans Mills & St. Paul's, Black River and Knights of Columbus Council 7471*

**As Trinity Catholic School celebrates its 40th year, we'd like to thank all of the priests who have been a part of our school!**

Fr. Mark Reilly	Fr. J. Michael Gaffney	Fr. Joseph Morgan
Fr. Leagon Carlin	Fr. Garry Giroux	Fr. Kevin O'Brien
Fr. Andrew Amyot	Fr. Joseph Giroux	Fr. Sony Pulickal
Msgr. Robert Aucoin	Fr. Albert Hauser	Fr. Pat Ratigan
Fr. Scott Belina	Fr. Michael Jablonski	Fr. Alan Shnob
Fr. Tojo Chacko	Fr. Thomas Kornmeyer	Fr. Bryan Stitt
Fr. Jack Downs	Fr. Don Manfred	Fr. Severinus Torwoe
Fr. Joseph Elliot	Fr. Kevin McEwen	Fr. Leo Wiley

Also to the deceased priests who have served our school

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

## Out of retirement and still serving

By Michelle Beagle  
Contributing Writer

A familiar face in the North Country, Father Daniel L. Chapin has come from mission territory and out of retirement to return to parish work in southern Lewis County.

Father Chapin, who has worn many hats in his priesthood, is now serving as pastor at St. Mary's in Constableville, St. John's in Lyons Falls, St. Martin's

in Port Leyden, and St. Mary's Nativity in West Leyden. Coming out of retirement to serve the four small Catholic communities and spread the good news of Jesus, Father Chapin has eagerly dived into his pastoral duties. One must glimpse his myriad years of shepherding to appreciate this dynamic move.

Father Chapin, 76, was born in Malone and grew up in the North Bangor area. In 1963,

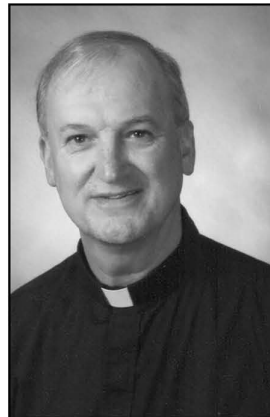
he spent a year volunteering for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the Peruvian mission. He was ordained by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on May 13, 1972.

Since that first commitment to Holy Orders, Father Chapin has propelled his faith forward, moving others forward in their faith journey as well. From 1976-86, he would return to St. Martin de Porres Parish, Mollendo, Peru.

During his time in Peru, he learned to speak fluent Spanish. Speaking Spanish would later be an asset that Father Chapin still uses today. Upon his return from Peru, he served in various parishes throughout the North Country. He worked in different ministerial functions, including serving as part-time chaplain at Gouverneur Corrections, and working in outreach to migrant workers, primarily in Jefferson County.

Father Chapin recalls receiving permission from the farm owners who would allow him to visit the workers, primarily from Guatemala and Mexico. At the same time the workers were carrying on their work, Father Chapin would converse in their native tongue and spread the gospel message. He led a Spanish Mass at St. Anthony's in Watertown while a pastor there, also providing a service to the Spanish families stationed at Fort Drum with a service at St. Paul's in Black River.

Given his quiet personality and welcoming smile, St. Mary's welcomed a new pa-



Father Daniel L. Chapin

and northern Franklin County.

After discussion with Bishop LaValley, Father Chapin agreed to come out of retirement to shepherd the four southern Lewis County churches. Now 77 years old, Father Chapin is transitioning from a more relaxed year in 2022 to full-speed ahead.

He is slowly uniting the four parishes by reconfiguring the Sunday bulletin so all four churches will share the same publication.

Father Chapin previously served in Croghan and Harrisville, so he is familiar with the southern region and is excited to get reacquainted in this region.

He stated the North Country population is an aging population with social and economic struggles. His primary role is to help shepherd the four parishes in their faith journey through the struggles and make this Catholic community one of vibrancy and deepened faith.

In closing, Father recounted a story about his brother, who he calls his Irish twin. His brother was born November 9, a year later than Father Chapin, and they are the same age for three days yearly. His brother asked the priest if he had thought about coming out of retirement at 77 and if it was a good idea. However, he followed it up, saying, "I know you always want to help."

Father Chapin said he plans to keep the parishes alive and active, letting everyone know he will retire at 80.



*Rev. Theodore A. Crosby*

*Thank you, Fr. Ted,  
for all you do for our  
parish family.*

*You are greatly appreciated  
by all of us!*





**ONLINE EVENTS**

**FRIENDSHIP GROUPS**

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

**Date:** Oct. 19

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** Father Leland Thorpe, OMV will talk with us about the book *A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass* by Father Tim Gallagher, OMV and answer your questions. To help you fully tap into the abundance of grace offered at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Father Gallagher resurrects the teachings of Venerable Bruno Lanteri. A holy priest seeking to root himself in prayer during the turbulence of war and persecution in northern Italy, Venerable Bruno developed a biblical way of praying the Mass that transforms it into a true prayer of the heart. Through a selection of biblical figures, he invites you to live each part of the Mass with these figures' sentiments and hearts.

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

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN**

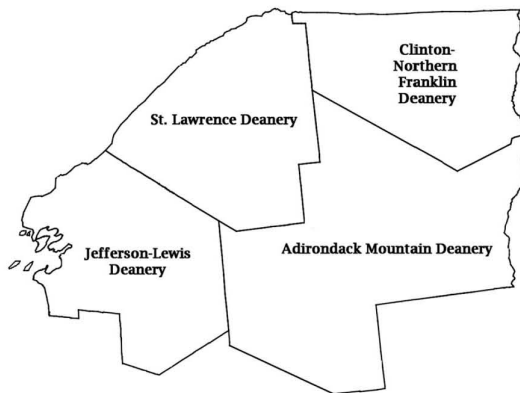
**FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS TRAINING**

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

**Date:** Oct. 4

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

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



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).  
Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

plementary lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program Director, at [abevilacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto:abevilacqua@adkmercy.org) or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

**CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CELEBRATION**

Plattsburgh - Eucharistic Adoration began in Plattsburgh almost forty years ago, you are invited to Mass to celebrate the anniversary.

**Date:** Sept. 30

**Time:** 5:15 p.m.

**Place:** St. Johns

**Features:** Learn more about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and the benefits of Eucharistic Adoration. Following the Mass, in honor of St. Therese, there will be a blessing of the roses. Adoration of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist exposed in the monstrance takes place in the Adoration chapel at St. John's (downstairs) every Wed., Thurs., and Fri. from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Contact:** For more information or to sign-up for an hour, please call 518-563-3773.

**POT ROAST DINNER**

Chateaugay – Take-out Pot Roast

dinner to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 1

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

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church Hall

**Cost:** \$15 per meal

**Menu:** Roast Beef, Potatoes, Carrots, Coleslaw, roll and Apple or Pumpkin Pie for dessert.

**Contact:** Orders can be made by calling Monique Dwyer, 518-651-0144 or the Parish Office, 518-497-6673.

**LIVING STONES, A CALL TO SERVICE**

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

**Date:** Oct. 4

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

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

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

**Contact:** RSVP to Mary Skillan at [mskillan30@gmail.com](mailto:mskillan30@gmail.com)

**CHICKEN DINNER**

Lyon Mountain – Baked Chicken Dinner to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion

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

**Menu:** Baked chicken, stuffing,

mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetable and dessert. Dine in or take out.

**Contact:** 518-735-9998

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

**HARVEST DINNER**

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

**Date:** Oct. 8

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

**Place:** St. Ann's Parish Hall

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

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

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

**WALKING WITH PURPOSE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Contact:** For more information contact Janice Tobin at 518-569-5370

**PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT**

Plattsburgh - Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood?

Consider joining others who are listening and seeking to respond.

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

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

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

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

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

**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE FOUNDATION COURSE**

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

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

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

**Contact:** For more information, contact Lexi Bevilacqua at [abevilacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto:abevilacqua@adkmercy.org) or 518-523-5446

**JEFFERSON-LEWIS**

**HARVEST DINNER**

Constableville – St. Mary's will be holding a drive thru only harvest dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 1

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. until gone

**Cost:** \$15

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

**Menu:** A turkey dinner all homemade with gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash and a roll will be provided.

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**

Houseville - A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

**Date:** Oct. 7

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**THEME BASKET RAFFLE**

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

**Date:** Oct. 8, 15, 22 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets sold during Mass.

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

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

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

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

**ROSARY RALLY**

Turin - Rosary Rally to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Spiritwalk Fatima Garden

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

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

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

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

**Date:** Oct. 14

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

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

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

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

**ST. LAWRENCE****MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

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

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

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

**CATHOLIC PARENTING**

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

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

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

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

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

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

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

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

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

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

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

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

**Date:** Oct. 7

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

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

**TRINITY 40TH CELEBRATION**

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

**Date:** Oct. 15

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

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

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

**DIOCESAN EVENTS****THE LETTER**

Join us for a viewing and discussion of The Letter: A Message for our Earth as part of our Diocesan Celebration of the Season of Creation.

**Schedule:** St. Anthony's Church in Watertown or Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

**Features:** The Letter is a documentary about how spiritual values call us to take action on the ecological crisis. The Letter follows six leaders from around the world who were invited to the Vatican by Pope Francis to speak about the effects of climate on their communities. We will screen the movie in three segments interspersed with discussion.

**Contact:** For more information and to register: <https://www.rcdony.org/theletter>

**LIFECCHAIN**

Consider joining this year's Lifecchain at one of the several locations throughout the diocese.

**Date:** Oct. 1

**Locations:** Plattsburgh, 2p.m. to 3:30 at Smithfield Blvd; Saranac Lake, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 at Band-

shell Park and River Street; Massena, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 at Main St. And Rt 37; Potsdam, meet at 1:45 p.m. goes from 2 p.m. to 3 at Main Street across from Roxy Theatre.

**Features:** Signs are provided. We stand for life rain or shine. Invite a friend to this peaceful, prayerful, prolife, public presence. More information at [lifechain.org](http://lifechain.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 or go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>. Donations accepted to be payable to OLRHR and sent to Wadhams hall.

**ANDREW DINNERS**

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

**Dates:** Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery, Oct. 1 at St. Alexander's Parish Center, Morrisonville; Adirondack Mountain Deanery, Oct. 8 at Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake; St. Lawrence Deanery, Oct. 15 at Church of the Visitation Hall, Norfolk; Jefferson-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

**Time:** The program begins at

5 pm followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and area pastors and priests.

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

**CELEBRATE CHRIST**

Celebrate Christ for parish personnel to held.

**Date:** Oct. 14

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

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

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

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

**NEIGHBORING DIOCESES****SILENT RETREAT**

Syracuse - Join us on a special silent directed retreat with an opportunity to be guided on your Spiritual journey by a trained spiritual director.

**Date:** Oct. 15-20. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Sun. with dinner at 6 p.m. Retreat ends at 11 a.m.

**Place:** Christ the King Retreat House

**Cost:** Offering, \$600; Religious, \$550

**Features:** This retreat will be an unstructured silent retreat. Retreatants will have the opportunity to meet with an experienced spiritual director daily. Daily Mass will be offered. Retreat directors will be Father John Rose, Steve Moore, and Marge Babcock.

**Contact:** to register go to [www.ckretreat.com](http://www.ckretreat.com) or call 315-446-2680.



Thank you for everything you do for us  
**Father Jay and Msgr. Murphy.**  
You are a blessing to St. Hubert's Parish.

Knights of Columbus  
Council 5718 of Star Lake

# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

**Fr. Joseph Giroux**

Thank you for being such a good shepherd.

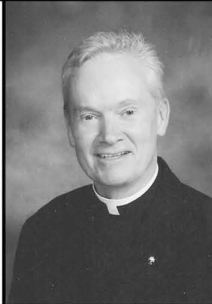
Ted and Debbie Hintopoulos



*Fr. Donald Robinson*

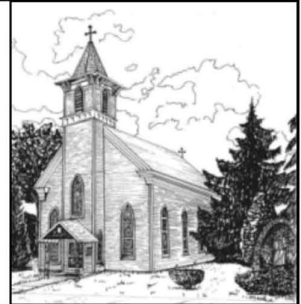
*Thank you for your dedication!*

*St. Andrew's Altar & Rosary Society,  
Sackets Harbor*

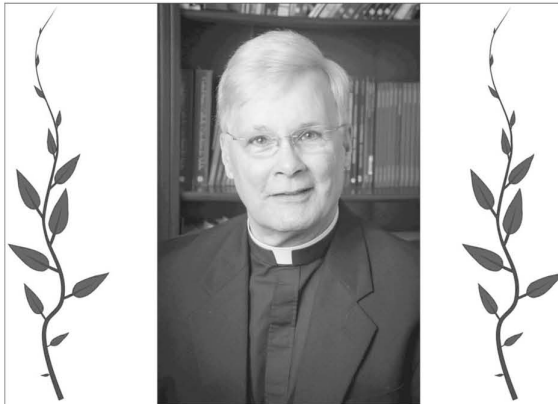


Father Allen,

Thank you for driving all those extra miles for us to St. Joseph's in Olmstedville.



**FR. O'BRIEN**  
The parishioners of Ss. Philip and James Church, Lisbon and St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton are grateful for all you do. We appreciate your leadership.



We can't believe we survived a year with you Father Garry Giroux!  
Here's to more than just a few!  
Thanks for all you do!

God Bless  
and  
**AMEN**

From the parishioners of St. John the Baptist, Madrid and St. Mary's Church, Waddington

**Fr. Kevin McEwan  
Fr. Mike Marzan  
Fr. John Ojuok**

Thank you for everything that you do for our parish!  
We appreciate your dedication and guidance.

**HOLY CROSS PARISHIONERS**

The Students, Faculty & Staff of Seton Catholic wish to express their appreciation to the many priests who are fundamental in the success of our school.

**Fr. Scott, Fr. Kevin,  
Fr. Reamer, Fr. John,  
Fr. Mike, Fr. Lukas  
& Fr. Jay**

We thank the Lord for calling all our pastors to their ministries. Equipping them with the spiritual gifts, talents and skills for such a time as this. We pray over our pastors Lord that you would help them to lead with courage and strength. Help them to be leaders marked by humility, compassion and wisdom.



From all your staff and parishioners at St. Alexander, St. Augustine, and St. James for your leadership, your faithfulness and your heart. May God Bless you!

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Deacon Raven

A funeral Mass was celebrated for Deacon William S. Raven on Sept. 25 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Black River. Burial was in Glenwood Cemetery.

Deacon Raven, a long-time resident of Black River, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2023, in Syracuse.

He was born in Rome, New York, on July 10, 1932, to the late Harold J. and Lillian (Looft) Raven.

Bill's remarkable life journey was defined by his commitment to education, military service, and his deep faith. After graduating from Oneida Public Schools in 1950, Bill joined the U.S. Air Force on March 20, 1952 and served during the Korean War. He served as an aca-

demical and tactical instructor and later as a dedicated chaplain's assistant.

Following his honorable service in the Air Force, he pursued higher education, attending St. Mary's Seminary in Kentucky and St. Peter's Junior College in Baltimore. In 1959, he proudly earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Albany, a journey partly supported by the Regents War Service Scholarship, which enabled him to complete a master's degree at Siena College.

In 1960, Bill married Barbara Forand of Boonville. Together, they raised three children Mary Beth, Christopher, and Jennifer. Barbara passed away in 1979. Bill then married Frances (Nolan) Tripp



Deacon William S. Raven

in 1982 and the couple continued to reside in Black River.

Bill's career in education was notable. He served as a high school principal, teacher, chaplain, and deacon in the Roman Catholic Church.

Bill's career began at Colonie Central High

School as an English teacher before becoming a principal at Mechanicville High School from 1968 to 1977 and later at Carthage Central High School from 1978 to 1987.

In 1988, Bill was ordained as a deacon, a role that brought him immense joy, especially when officiating at weddings and baptisms. He served as the chaplain at Jefferson Community College from 1995 to 2002 and held the role of director of religious education at St. Paul's Parish for several years.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife Frances Raven of Syracuse; three children, Mary Beth Raven and Mark Duckworth of Merrimack, New Hampshire, Christopher (Susan) Raven, of Scotia, and

Jennifer Raven and Michael Marshall of Dublin, Ohio; five grandchildren; four stepchildren, Mary (Tim) Demeree of Little Falls, Julie (Mike) Streeter of Syracuse, Patrick Tripp of Syracuse, and John Tripp of Watertown; and many step grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and his brother and sister in law, Roy (Connie) Raven of New Hampshire.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Barbara, and siblings Lester, Harold, Lillian, and Betty.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org).

Online condolences and tributes can be shared at [www.brucefh.com](http://www.brucefh.com)

**We Share the Burden**

**2023 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL**

**The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg**

Your gift helped me to become a priest, thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to build my leadership skills.

Your gift is helping me receive a Catholic Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to become a Deacon.

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

<u>Gift</u>	<u>4 Pledge Payments</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	\$250	Gift/Pledge Total \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$800	\$200	Amount Enclosed \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	\$100	Balance \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	\$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	\$25	

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** Please charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_



Visit us on the web at:  
[www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa)

Clip and Mail to:  
The Bishop's Fund Appeal  
PO Box 150  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

## *Father Arthur J. LaBaff, VF & Father Douglas G. Comstock*

*The Catholic Community of Alexandria & St. Mary's in Clayton  
are so blessed in having you as our pastors!*

Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller, Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank, Deacon Bernie Slate,  
Deacon Bruce & Liz Daugherty, Deacon Joel & Dawn Walentuk,  
and your parishioners,  
St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay  
St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood  
St. Mary's Church, Clayton



Thank you,  
**Fr. Mickey Demo, Fr. Matt Conger,  
& Fr. Jaya Kumar Francis**  
for all you do for us!



We are truly blessed by your joyful  
ministry and so very grateful for your  
leadership.

*From the People of  
Blessed Sacrament Parish  
St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's & Holy Family,  
Watertown*

# Catholic families flock to music festival

By Peter Pinedo  
Catholic News Agency

Appaloosa Music Festival, a folk music festival in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, offers Catholics a week-end of music, community, and the Eucharist.

This year Appaloosa, which took place Labor Day weekend, drew 9,000 attendees from states across the nation.

In the words of one attendee from the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Father Alex Brown, 26, the two-day experience is something of "an encounter with God."

Though not explicitly a Catholic festival, Appaloosa is organized by the Irish folk band Scythian, which is headlined by Catholic brothers Dan and Alex Fedoryka.

The festival boasts multiple stages with a mix of folk, country, bluegrass, and Irish performances as well as food trucks, vendors, and a kids' play zone.

Since starting in 2015, the festival has become known by attendees and musicians alike for its wholesome and joyful atmosphere.

"There's something different happening here," Dan Fedoryka told CNA. "It's contributing to a culture of life, but in the most organic way that I've experienced a culture of life."

Catholics, especially young Catholic families, flock to the festival in Front Royal, Virginia every year. Despite high temperatures, this year was no exception.

Attendees in lawn chairs and tents or under large awnings, enjoyed the performances with the Appalachian

Mountains as a backdrop. In the evenings, campfires dotted campsites, and families socialized underneath the Virginia stars.

While many music festivals are known for drug use and immorality, Appaloosa focuses on bringing people together to enjoy the arts in God's creation.

At the heart of the whole festival, Fedoryka said, is a genuine love of God.

He called the Mass, which is held outdoors on Sunday morning and is heavily attended by festival goers, the festival's real "headliner."

This year well over 700 attended the Mass, which had a string band and choir leading the worship. The Mass was celebrated by Brown and another young priest, Father Andrew Clark, 32, from the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

In his homily, Brown said the music experienced by the festival goers during the week-end calls them into the deeper joy of God.

"There's something divine in music, something that reflects the great musician, God himself," Brown said. "And that's what we're encountering this week-end."

"It may be bold but not wrong to say that Appaloosa itself is an encounter with God, a glimpse into his sanctuary," Brown added.

A Front Royal native, Clark said one of the root causes of society's ills, such as record-high depression and suicide rates, is a general loss of identity and community rooted in God.

The reason Appaloosa is growing and resounding with so many

people, Clark explained, is that it helps people truly experience the joy of being in a community built around God.

"One of the things that the world hungers for is what it means to live in a community where Christ is king," Clark said.

"Sin alienates us," he said. "We feel like we don't belong."

"Yet the experience of Christ, when he becomes our brother, our savior, our king, he tells us, you belong, you belong to me, and you belong to my family," he went on. "Having that experience of belonging here at Appaloosa is why families love it so much."

Twenty-eight different bands and performers performed during the festival.

Though the performances were not explicitly Christian, the event still helps to build something one performer, Ben-David Warner, called "Catholic culture."

A North Virginia-based musician, Warner is the director of sacred liturgy and music at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Arlington, Virginia. He also leads the folk-acoustic group the Ben-David Warner Band.

Warner said that in America "we don't have a Catholic culture" but instead "we have a very secular culture."

For many Catholics, Warner pointed out, the

only time they spend with other Catholics is once a week during Mass.

"It's good to have events like this because it's an opportunity for a lot of Catholics to come together and have something outside the liturgy," Warner said.

Maura Butler, a Catholic mother who was attending her fifth Appaloosa Festival, told CNA that she loves taking her family to the festival because it allows her and her husband to explore their passion for mu-

sic in a safe and family-friendly environment.

"When we were dating, and even when we didn't know each other, we loved music," Butler, who is from Virginia, said. "Our kids love it, and we love to bring them up loving music."

"Our children can see and admire and think musicians are cool and then see them at Mass, and that makes a good impact," Butler said, adding that "you can't really do that with kids very easily anywhere else."



**Bishop LaValley**

**Fr. Joseph Morgan**

**Fr. Jude Nnadibuagha**

**Fr. James Shurtleff**

**Msgr. Robert Aucoin**

**Fr. Kevin O'Brien**

We are truly blessed and grateful  
for your ministry.

**Thank you**  
for all you do for  
St. Mary's Cathedral and  
Notre Dame Church.

Peace, Love and Prayers  
*Deacon Mark & Vicky Lalonde*



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Republicans urge repeal of 'weaponized' FACE Act

(CNA) – Texas Republican Rep. Chip Roy and 25 House Republicans introduced a resolution Tuesday to repeal the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, a law that has been used extensively by the Biden administration to penalize pro-life activists. Passed in 1994, the FACE Act imposes criminal penalties on individuals convicted of “violent, threatening, damaging, and obstructive conduct” that interferes with access to abortion clinics, places of worship, and pregnancy centers. The resolution introduced by Roy in the House and sponsored by Utah Senator Mike Lee in the Senate would repeal the FACE Act on the grounds that it is an unconstitutional use of federal power and that it has been weaponized against people of certain religious and political beliefs. In a Monday press release Roy said that “free Americans should never live in fear of their government targeting them because of their beliefs. Yet, Biden’s Department of Justice has brazenly weaponized the FACE Act against normal, everyday Americans across the political spectrum, simply because they are pro-life.”

## Nigerian diocese calls for prayers for kidnapped priest

(CNA) – Prayers are being sought for the safe release of Father Marcellinus Obioma Okide, who was reportedly abducted from Nigeria’s Enugu Diocese on Sept. 17. In a Sept. 19 statement obtained by ACI Africa, CNA’s news partner in Africa, the diocese’s chancellor provided details about the abduction. Okide, who serves as a parish priest at St. Mary Amofia-Agu Affa Parish, was on his way back to the parish in the late afternoon when he was kidnapped along the road. “The diocese requests your prayers for the quick and wholesome release of Father Okide and for a change of heart on the part of the kidnappers,” Father Wilfred Chidi Agubuchie said. “It is quite disheartening that this evil scheme is still plaguing our people,” Agubuchie continued. “May the Lord who came to set captives free (Lk 4:18) deliver our brother from the hands of our enemies and save our country Nigeria.” Nigeria has experienced insecurity since 2009 when Boko Haram insurgency began with the aim of turning the country into an Islamic state.

## Three pro-lifers found guilty on FACE Act charges, face prison

(CNA) – Three pro-life activists who took part in an October 2022 “rescue” in a Washington, D.C., abortion facility were each found guilty of felonies that could land them up to 11 years in prison and fines as much as \$350,000. The verdict follows a separate trial in which five other pro-life activists were also found guilty. The activists – 74-year-old Joan Bell, 73-year-old Jean Marshall, and 41-year-old Jonathan Darnel – were indicted on felony conspiracy against rights and violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, known as the FACE Act. The FACE Act increased penalties for people who accost or obstruct women who are seeking abortion at clinics or pregnancy resource centers. According to the Department of Justice, the activists engaged in a conspiracy to create a blockade of an abortion clinic.

# Bishops urge ‘radical solidarity’ with mothers for Respect Life Month

By Tyler Arnold  
Catholic News Agency

The United States Catholic bishops are calling on the faithful to embrace “radical solidarity” with mothers who are facing difficult or challenging pregnancies this October, which the Church in the United States has observed as “Respect Life Month” since 1973.

Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge, the chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, echoed St. John Paul II’s call for “radical solidarity,” which means, according to the bishop, “putting our love for them into action and putting their needs before our own.”

“This new mindset requires that we come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their preborn children,” Burbidge wrote in a statement to Catholics for the 50th anniversary of Respect Life Month.

“It means addressing the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her,” Burbidge continued. “This includes collective efforts within our dioceses, parishes, schools, and local communities; engagement in the public square;

and pursuit of policies that help support both women and their preborn babies. It all the more so requires our individual, personal commitment to helping mothers in our own communities secure material, emotional, and spiritual support for embracing the gift of life.”

“Radical solidarity,” the bishop said, “means moving beyond the status quo and out of our comfort zones.”

The statement cites Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, which says solidarity “presumes the creation of a new mindset” and does not simply refer to “a few sporadic acts of generosity.”

Burbidge added that although “ending legalized abortion remains our preeminent priority,” it is not enough. Rather, he stressed that “the most immediate way to save babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with lifegiving support and personal accompaniment.”

The statement encourages Catholics to ask themselves whether they know of efforts in their area to help women who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances, what their gifts and talents are, and how they can adjust their schedule or budget to help mothers in need and their children. It references the

“Walking with Moms in Need” parish-based initiatives, which help parishes become welcoming places for mothers facing difficulties, as a possible option to get involved.

“Radical solidarity can be lived out in countless ways, including volunteering at your local pregnancy center; helping an expectant mother find stable housing; babysitting so a mom can work or take classes; providing encouragement and a listening ear to a mom without a support system; or speaking to your pastor about beginning Walking with Moms in Need at your parish,” Burbidge said.

The statement emphasizes that “the transformation of our culture also requires continual conversion of our own hearts, so that we can recognize in every person the face of Christ and place their needs before our own” and that this must be a focus, in addition to promoting pro-life laws and policies.

“This October, I invite all Catholics to think about building a culture of life in terms of radical solidarity,” Burbidge said. “We are the Church. Our prayers, witness, sacrifices, advocacy, and good works are needed now more than ever. We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world today and we each have a personal responsibility to care for one another.”



# Charity mission to aid Ukraine city hit by drones

By **Hannah Brockhaus**  
Catholic News Agency

The head of the Vatican's charity office is traveling to Ukraine to inaugurate a new home for displaced mothers and children in Lviv days after a warehouse containing aid burned to the ground following a Russian strike.

According to a Sept. 20 press release from the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, papal almoner Cardinal Konrad Krajewski is in Ukraine this week to open the House of Refuge "in the name of Pope Francis, as a sign of support and closeness to the many people who were forced to flee because of the conflict, bringing the apostolic blessing."

The shelter was built during the conflict with Russia and financed in part by the Vatican. It will provide temporary housing to women who have fled the bombing in other parts of Ukraine.

The visit follows Russian attacks in Ukraine that killed nine people Sept. 19, according to Reuters. In Lviv, a drone strike set on fire several industrial warehouses,

including a warehouse used by the Catholic charity Caritas-Spes to store humanitarian aid.

The secretary general of Caritas Internationalis, Alistair Dutton, said the attack destroyed more than 330 tons of humanitarian aid for Ukrainians.

"The mission's employees were unharmed," the head of Caritas-Spes Ukraine, Father Vyacheslav Grynevych, said, "but the warehouse with everything inside burned to the ground including food, hygiene kits, generators, and clothes."

"We will be able to calculate the final details of the losses later, as special services are currently working at the scene. We already know that 33 pallets of food packages, 10 pallets of hygiene kits and canned food, 10 pallets of generators and clothes were destroyed," the priest said, according to a press release from Caritas Internationalis.

Dutton is in New York this week to attend the U.N. General Assembly at which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke Tuesday.

The Caritas-Spes ware-

house served as a place to store aid from other countries, including Caritas Poland, before it was transported to families in eastern Ukraine.

The Caritas-Spes warehouse has also been used as a deposit for supplies, including generators, donated to Ukraine by Pope Francis through the Vatican's charity office.

"I am sorrowful for what happened in Lviv with the attack on the warehouse of Caritas-Spes," Krajewski said. "They struck to destroy the possibility of helping people who are suffering."

In a message to Cardinal Peter Turkson on Sept. 19, Pope Francis denounced "the use in contemporary warfare of so-called 'conventional weapons,' which should be used for defensive purposes only and not directed to civilian targets."

The pope's message, dated Sept. 12, was sent to the chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences on the occasion of a Sept. 19-20 conference on Pacem in Terris, St. John XXIII's 1963 encyclical on peace.



Father Aubin and Father Ray,  
We give thanks to your steadfast service  
to our Catholic Community!

~All Saints Altar and Rosary, Chaumont



In appreciation for all you do.

Thank you  
**Monsignor Aucoin!**

From the Deacon Candidates

We are so  
blessed to have...



Rev. John Demo



Rev. Matt Conger

**The Dynamic Duo**

~St. Anthony's Divine Mercy Group



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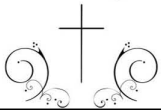
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# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

## Fr. Mark & Fr. Leagon

~The people of  
St. Peter's Parish  
thank you for your  
spiritual care and guidance.

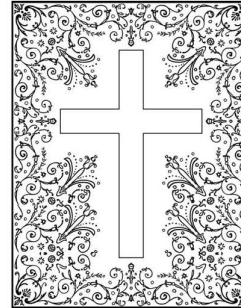


## HAPPY PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY!



Father Stitt,  
Thank you for all that you do in  
shepherding those that the Lord has  
placed in your care. May the Lord  
continue to draw you closer to His  
Sacred Heart each and every day.

from your parishioners  
at St. Mary's Church in Canton

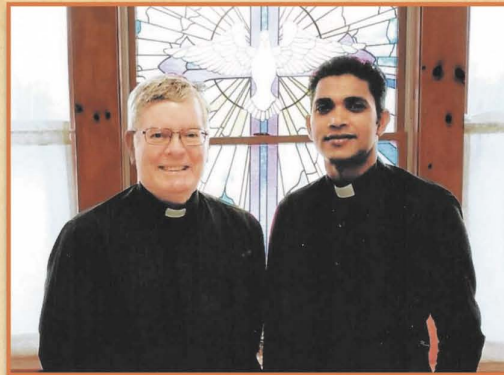


## Rev. Douglas Comstock

Most People retire and go  
off to do their own thing,  
but you continue to insure  
we are able to receive the  
sacraments. We are truly  
blessed by your generosity.  
Thank you for your  
service.

~The Trickey Family

*Fr. Jaya Kumar  
Francis,  
Welcome to our  
parish.  
We are blessed!  
~Divine Mercy Group  
at St. Anthony's*



We would like to celebrate Father Doug Decker and Father Clement Rimonds. They together brought love and laughter to an otherwise serious subject. They made us feel welcome in our hometown church in Tupper Lake and their smiles and laughter fill the church. They are both truly missed here in our small town. We hope their new churches appreciate and love them as much as we did.

With our heartfelt blessings, Terry and Sandi Clement. We will be around to visit your new churches soon.

*With thanks and appreciation  
for your Priestly Ministry*



May God bless,

*Father Todd  
Thibault*




## Fr. Robert Decker,

Thank you for  
being our priest &  
Brother Knight!


~Knights of Columbus,  
Adams

# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

*Father Don,  
We appreciate your service.  
~ From the members of  
St. Francis Solanus Church,  
Harrisville*




MANY THANKS AND PRAYERS OFFERED FOR  
MOST REVEREND TERRY LAVALLEY  
FATHER JOE MORGAN  
FATHER JUDE NNADIBUAGHA  
FATHER JAMES SHURTLEFF  
MONSIGNOR ROBERT AUCOIN



For your support, prayers,  
and guidance to the Legion of Mary  
as we complete our ministry  
of spiritual works of mercy  
for the people of our community.

**Many thanks and appreciation to:**



*Fr. Clyde Lewis  
Fr. Nick Revilla  
Fr. Alan Shnob*

*For all you do for our parishes.*  
~Parishioners of  
St. Mary's, Champlain and  
St. Patrick's, Rouses Point

**Fr. Bill Edwards,**


Thank you for your  
help on my spiritual  
journey.

~Deacon Gerald Defayette





**Father Don,**

Your anointed hands are shaping  
our world with His love!  
Thank you.

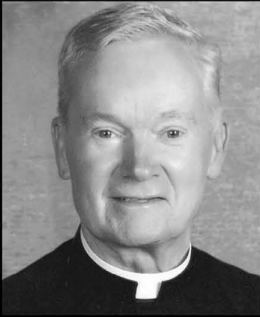


~St. Stephen's Parish &  
Knights of Columbus Council 2175

Thank you  
**Fr. Mark,  
Fr. Leagon  
&  
Fr. Shane**  
for the support you give to  
St. Peter's Outreach  
Ministry and the parish  
community.

**Thank  
You!**



**Fr. Robinson**

We appreciate your  
devoted service and  
caring and friendly  
ways.

The Altar and Rosary  
Society and Parishioners  
of Immaculate  
Conception Church,  
Brownville & Dexter.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

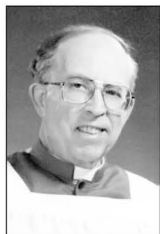
## Focusing on change

I'm sure you've heard the old saying, "A wise man changes his mind sometimes; a fool, never!"

In this Sunday's readings, God is giving us advice on when to change our minds and when not to. If we're pretty well secure in habits of virtue, then it's not a good idea to give in to the persuasions of friends who call us "old-fashioned" or foolish for following the teachings of our parents and childhood religion classes - and act contrary to our principles. To change because of fear of losing face or being the butt of ridicule could risk God's displeasure, loss

of grace and even loss of eternal happiness. As the old wisdom warns, why risk losing heaven for a few hours of the wrong kind of pleasure.

There's another kind of change discussed in the readings. And that's the kind of change that may be defined as conversion - from sinful ways to virtuous ones. The prophet Ezekiel (first reading) tried to persuade his fellow exiles in Babylon that as long as they persisted in their sinful rejection of God's commandments, God would continue their exile. When they refused to change, God allowed the destruction of the Temple as well



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

Oct. 1

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

as the whole city of Jerusalem. Eventually, they stopped blaming God for their crimes, repented of their stubbornness, and again followed the commandments.

That's the kind of change that also won the approval of Jesus in today's Gospel. The first son in the parable stubbornly said "no" to his father's request. He was ready to risk the father's displeasure and even punishment. Then, (wisely), he began to feel guilty. He decided it wouldn't kill

him to cut short a good time with his friends to work for his father. Let's hope that it was really love that made him change his mind. But even if it was just shame, and maybe a little fear of the consequences of his refusal, he did change his mind. If his friends were real friends, they more than likely respected him for his decision.

How different was the behavior of the second son who said "yes" to his father, but then never followed through. He just wanted to look good, and to avoid the disappointment and perhaps anger in his father's eyes. He was quite possibly a hypocrite who had no intention at all of helping in the vineyard. Jesus compared that young

man to the pharisees and scribes who had refused to accept the preaching of John the Baptist. By contrast, the prostitutes and tax collectors listened to both John and to Jesus.

How do we know when to change our minds and when not to? The second reading gives us sound advice: "Do nothing out of selfishness... rather, have that mind in you which is in Christ Jesus who humbled himself even to the point of death." To change one's mind is often humbling, especially if we risk the ridicule of worldly friends or even worldly family members. But isn't it far better to heed the truth than to stubbornly keep to the road that will eventually send us over a cliff?

## CALLED TO SERVE

## The Council of Deacons

We had a Council of Deacons meeting with Bishop Terry R. LaValley earlier this month. The council meets with him a couple of times a year to chat about issues of interest, perhaps concern, of his and those of members of the deacon community we represent.

Each of the deaneries, there are four in the diocese, has a representative elected by the deacons of that deanery. There are also two representatives of the wives and widows of deacons of the diocese, elected by the wives and widows.

The council also includes clergy that serve by virtue of their diocesan office, like me.

Bishop LaValley creat-

ed the Council of Deacons in 2015. A Council of Priests already existed in the diocese. So did a Diocesan Council of Consecrated Life.

Each of the councils advises the bishop. That means we offer our opinions and make our arguments, but the final decision in any matter is his, and we accept the decision.

Bishop LaValley is generous with his time to listen to our issues and considerate when it comes to simple or even thorny issues.

Take the issue we dealt with a few years ago. It dealt with deacon retirements.

Prior to the matter presented to the bishop, the diocese did not have a written policy about

when, even if, a deacon could retire. There is a retirement policy for priests.

We quickly agreed, "we" being the bishop and council, that the retirement age should be the same as published for the priests, 75 years of age.

What does retirement mean for a deacon?

He doesn't receive a pension since deacons serve the parish without pay so, financial consideration is off the

table. He is ordained, so the sacramental imprint of Holy Orders is forever so a man could, it might be said, exercise his gifts whenever he

wants.

Here is the language bishop accepted for the diocesan handbook. "Retirement" means that a permanent deacon is no longer expected to exercise an



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

office, ministry, or assignment after reaching a suitable age. Although after retirement he may voluntarily assist at liturgies, a retired deacon is no longer expected to assume any liturgical or service responsibilities in the parish.

A deacon attaining the age of retirement may request to stay in active or limited ministry in accordance with this policy."

If the deacon wants to remain active in ministry after reaching the "suitable age," 75, he needs his pastor's OK and then the bishop's OK.


And if he wants to assist at a Mass or a baptism or other liturgy after he is retired, he can, with the pastor's approval.

That's an example of what the council does. The council is not the St. Lawrence Society of Deacons. Tune in next week and I'll try to explain what the society is.

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

# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

**Fr. Martin Cline,**  
 We hope you enjoy  
 the week.  
 Happy Priest  
 Appreciation!



~Jimmy and Robin Law

We are so blessed to have you as priests at  
 St. Peter's Parish in Massena. We appreciate all  
 that you do for our parish and our community!

Thank you for your vocations and God bless you,  
**Fr Mark Reilly, Fr. Shane Lynch and  
 Fr. Leagon Carlin.**

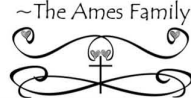



**Fr. Patrick Ratigan!**


Thank you for your unwavering guidance,  
 generosity, compassion, friendship and  
 being a first rate example of  
 living a life of faith.

Love and Prayers,  
 Jimmy and Robin

**Father  
 Joe Giroux.**  
 Thank you for  
 everything you've  
 done for our family,  
 ~The Ames Family



*Our Gratitude*




*Father Frank Natale, MSC*  
*and*  
*Father Joseph Kanimeca, MSC*

*Thank you for all that you do for the  
 Parishioners of St. Mary's in Evans  
 Mills and St. Paul's in Black River.*


*We welcome*  
*Father Jaya Kumar Francis,*  
*MSC*  
*to the North Country.*



Thank you,  
**Father Carrara,**  
 for your dedicated  
 ministry to the people  
 of Our Lady of Grace  
 Parish in  
 Morristown,  
 Hammond and Rossie.



**Rev. Phillip Allen,**  
 We are grateful for your  
 tender care of the people of  
 St. Paul's Catholic Church,  
 Blue Mountain Lake,  
 New York



**Environmental Stewardship****The Prodigal Son**

When reflecting on scripture about caring for creation, the parable of the prodigal son should be considered. In the story, we must identify with the behavior of the prodigal son as he demanded his Father's inheritance and parted company with Him to squander those riches maintaining an unsustainable lifestyle.

As the prodigal son, we are reaching the point when an important gift, a stable climate, may be exhausted or destroyed. In a world dominated by erratic weather, fires, floods, heatwaves, hurricanes and tornadoes, agricultural activities are being compromised. And just like in the prodigal son, we may eventually find our society facing famine and shortages of clean drinking water and air.

As followers of Jesus, we have a responsibility to help those in need, especially those suffering as a result of our throw-away society. Every light or appliance that is turned off, plastic container that is not purchased, car that is not driven, or shower that is shortened helps alleviate some of the damage we inflict on this planet and extends the time we may have before our Father's inheritance completely runs out. We can also mitigate suffering we have caused by making periodic donations to Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services. These organizations help those impacted by weather-related disasters in this country and around the world.

God is a loving and forgiving Father. When we ask for His mercy and compassion, He never refuses and always takes us back, regardless of the damage we have caused. The message of the prodigal son is that there is always hope when we recognize the error of our ways and seek His forgiveness.

**By Tom Kalinowski**

Faith and Ecology Member,  
St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake

**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:

**Sept. 28** – 1 p.m. – St. James Minor Church, Carthage

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

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

**Bishop's Public Schedule**

**Sept. 27** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4:30 p.m. – Prayer and Dinner at the Deacon's Retreat at Wadhams Hall

**Sept. 29** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

**Sept. 30** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Patrick's Church in Colton followed by Lunch

**Oct. 1** – 8 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Kris C. Lauzon as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Brushton and The Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor (at The Catholic Community of St. Augustine)

5 p.m. – Andrew Dinner at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville

Oct. 3 – 11 a.m. – Meeting of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

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

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

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**Rest in Peace**

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

**Sept. 29** – Rev. Patrick O. Thompson, 1955

**Sept. 30** – Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968

**Oct. 1** – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954

**Oct. 2** – Msgr. Joseph D. Creeden, 1944; Rev. Ambrose Raphael Hyland, 1954; Most Rev. James J. Navagh, 1965

**To Report Abuse**

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

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

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!  
[www.twitter.com/Pontifex](http://www.twitter.com/Pontifex)

 #Pontifex



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

# October is Respect Life Month

**We are inviting  
you to consider  
sponsorship of  
an  
advertisement  
with the  
USCCB theme**

**“Radical  
Solidarity”**



to appear in our October 25th  
issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

**NORTH COUNTRY  
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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

# Thank you, priests

We are grateful for all our priests and their continued service to the church. It is only with their ongoing hard work and support that we can complete the work we do every day. We are especially grateful for their efforts with this year's MPDO and Missionary COOP appeals.

We would like to specifically thank Bishop Terry LaValley, Father Joseph Morgan, Father Daniel Chapin, and Father Kevin O'Brien for supporting us on our Board of Directors. Both your guidance and the time and effort you put into helping us are invaluable.

The priests in our diocese and diocese around the world work hard every day to fulfil their vocations as priests. We pray for the priests in mission territories working to distribute the sacraments in areas torn by war and violence. We pray for the priests striving to keep their people fed and clothed in the face of poverty and corruption. We pray for priests fighting for the dignity of those who are not granted it by society.

As we come out of MPDO and Missionary COOP and move towards Extraordinary Mission Month, may we keep in mind all those men called to service in the Church with a vocation to the holy priesthood. We are especially grateful for those who spend their lives as missionaries. Because of them, we can become more interconnected with the rest of our church family and better live out our vocation of missionary spirit. We thank all priests in our diocese who served at our former mission parish in Mollendo, Peru, for their faith, dedication and hard work. We also thank those priests that have come to us from other countries and who share their faith and spirit with the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

As the Holy Father, Pope Francis, said of priest appreciation, "Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor!"

*To be added to our mailing list or to learn more please feel free to contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found at our website www.rcdony.org/mission. And as always, please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.*

## OBITUARIES

**Cadyville** – Lyman Victor Defayette, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Cape Vincent** – Barbara A. (Brown) McMullen, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2023 at St. Vince de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincet de Paul Cemetery.

**Cape Vincent** – James L. Wiley, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2023 at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincet de Paul Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – John Sucharski Jr., 81; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Doris Marguerite Spotts, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2023 at St. Agnes Church.

**Malone** – Anita (Marlow) Payne, 92; Funeral Services Sept. 21, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Brainardsville Cemetery.

**Massena** – John A. "beagle" Heagle, 74; Services to be held at a later date.

**Massena** – Lorraine M. Proulx, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Steven Michael Bashaw, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Susan (Trumble) Fishel, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2023 at Notre Dame Church

**Plattsburgh** – David Leo Ireland, 65; Private Mass Held Sept. 18, 2023.

**Plattsburgh** – Judy O'Connell, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2023 at St. Peter's Church.

**Rouses Point** – Diane M. (Gebo) Marks, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

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

**Saranac Lake** – Frederick Joseph Winderl, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**St. Regis Falls** – Malcolm F.

Wheeler, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2023 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Dickinson.

**Watertown** – William W. Corbett, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Russell L. Mayne Sr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2023 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** – Joseph A. Ratigliano, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
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## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

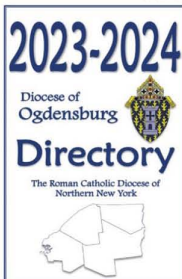
Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.

**OCTOBER**  
 The Most Holy Rosary

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2023		2023		2023	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAURDAY	
BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY	1 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	2 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	3 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	4 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	5 REV. MICHAEL H. MARZAN	6 MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	7
OUR PASTOR	8 REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	9 REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	10 REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU	11 REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN VG	12 REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH	13 MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY	14
POPE FRANCIS	15 REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY	16 REV. FRANK NATALE, MSC	17 REV. JUDE C. SSADRUAGHA	18 REV. KEVIN J. O'BRIEN	19 REV. JOHN KENNEDY OJUOK	20 REV. JEROME PASTORES	21
DECEASED PRIESTS	22 FERRENCE R. PATTERSON	23 MSGR. GILBERT J. POISSANT	24 REV. SONY G. PULICKAL	25 REV. PATRICK A. RATIGAN	26 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	27 REV. MARK R. REILLY	28
REV. NICHOLAS J. REVILLA	29 REV. CLEMENT RIMONDS, HCN	30 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669				

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. For more information visit us online at www.missionlife.com. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society, www.vocations.net

## Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2023-2024  
Directory of the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
includes detailed  
information about  
parishes, schools and  
other Catholic  
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## Three events mark Day of Truth, Reconciliation

This year, there will be three events taking place to honor the Canadian National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

On Sept. 29, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is sponsoring Every Child Matters Day at Generations Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be speakers, a community walk, singers and food. All are welcome to honor our children, past, present and future.

The St. Regis Mission Church and representatives of the Pastors of Akwesasne (Mohawk Assembly of God, the Hogansburg United Methodist Church, the New Life Christian Church and the Church of Christ) are supporting these events. Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honors the children who never returned home from and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Everyone is invited including all neighboring churches and their parishioners.

On Sept. 30, the first of two events,

a Mass for Truth and Reconciliation, will be celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Basil's Parish, Ottawa. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the presider will be Bishop Yvan Mathieu along with representatives of the Kateri Native Ministry, the Akwesasne Mohawk choir, Father Alain Guevremont and Father Daryold Winkler. The Mass is in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #80.

The second event, Orange Shirt Day, on Sept. 30 is sponsored by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and will be held at Lamoureux Park, Cornwall from 1-4 p.m. The event will feature residential school history, culture sharing, traditional teachings, social dancing and traditional indigenous food sharing.

For more information contact RJ Dolly McDonald at [rosealmamcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:rosealmamcdonald@gmail.com) or Pastor April Bender, Mohawk Assembly of God at (315)-212-2331. You may also visit <https://www.facebook.com/stregission>.

*God bless you Fr. Robert L. Decker!*

*Thank you for your generous and dedicated service  
to the people of St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams and  
Queen of Heaven Parish in Henderson.*

