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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 38

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

## CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP CONTEST WINNERS



Father John Cosmic Council #291, Knights of Columbus in Carthage recently sponsored a Winter Family Festival at Augustinian Academy; Awards for the Council's annual Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest were presented at the Festival. Pictured from left are Festival organizer Tom Wojcikowski, award winners Brodie Wojcikowski, Parker Richards, Adam Workman and Grand Knight Garry Stevens.

## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE



Bill and Margie Todd, with their sons Liam, Oliver, and Augustine at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. The couple were married in the church on July 18, 2008, by Father Martine Cline and Father Bryan Stitt. The Todds discuss their marriage and their desire to 'get each other to heaven' in this annual Marriage Edition of the *North Country Catholic*.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope Francis: Wrath is 'pervasive,' 'dark'

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis dedicated his Jan. 31 general audience to the subject of wrath, characterizing it as a vice that is "pervasive" and "particularly dark."

In his opening remarks, the Holy Father observed that wrath is an inherently physical vice, as it is "perhaps the easiest to detect from a physical point of view" because "one who is consumed by wrath" has a particular difficulty in "hid[ing] this impulse."

"You can recognize it from the movements of his body, his aggressiveness, his labored breathing, his grim and frown-

ing expression. In its most acute manifestation, wrath is a vice that concedes no respite," the pope said to the faithful gathered in the Paul VI Audience Hall on Wednesday morning.

Aside from its physical manifestations, Francis noted that the vice stems from a perceived "injustice suffered," which, in turn, permits it to be "unleashed not against the offender but against the first unfortunate victim," making it something that "destroys human relationships."

"It expresses the incapacity to accept the diversity of others, especially when their life choices diverge from our own," the Holy Father continued.

An antidote to this vice can be

found in the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, where Paul "recommends to Christians to face up to the problem straight away and to attempt reconciliation."

"Do not let the sun go down on your anger," the pope said, quoting from the epistle (Eph 4:26).

Pope Francis underscored this point by urging the faithful to seek reconciliation and not let anger become a rumination.

"If some misunderstanding arises during the day, and two people can no longer understand each other, perceiving themselves as far apart, the night cannot be handed over to the devil," the Holy Father said. "The vice would keep us awake at night, brooding over our reasons and

the unaccountable mistakes that are never ours and always the other's."

Expanding on how vice factors into human relations, the pope presented the Lord's Prayer as a testament to not only the supreme power of forgiveness but also one where Jesus "makes us pray for our human relations, which are a minefield: a plane that is never in perfect equilibrium."

The pope said: "Men do not stay together if they do not also practice the art of forgiveness, as far as this is humanly possible."

"Wrath is countered by benevolence, openness of heart, meekness, and patience," he argued.

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# And the stars aligned

It was like the fast-food stars aligned just for me that day.

I placed an order at a fast-food restaurant on my phone through the company's app for pickup at the drive-thru, but I ran into a delay after I placed the order. After this delay, I knew I was going to be cutting it close. I had to pick up my food, and I had somewhere I needed to be in around 10 minutes.

When I pulled into the parking lot, my heart sank. The line at the drive-thru was several cars deep.

Then, as I drove closer, I noticed all the cars were lined up in the outside lane of the two-lane setup. I

paused in case any of those cars wanted to move over.

When none of the vehicles moved after a short wait, I pulled my car into the inside lane. I went directly up to the speaker, gave my order information and was told to "pull ahead to the first window" before the driver in the vehicle at the outside lane speaker completed her order.

When I got to the drive-thru window, my favorite employee at that restaurant was at the first window (yes, I eat enough fast food to have favorite employees; feel free to judge me). She gave me her usual "have a great day, sweetheart," and

I pulled up to the next window to get for my food.

My order was ready and waiting when I got there. I was pulling out of the parking lot before the last car that had been in line when I pulled in got to the speaker to order.

Then after all that good luck, I opened my container of nuggets to find seven of the unhealthy chunks of deliciousness instead of the promised six.

And I was on time for my next commitment.

The whole situation made me so happy, I giggled. Then, I laughed at myself for how happy something as silly as a ridiculously fast and friendly drive-thru experience could make me.

It immediately struck me. I had been looking for

something to round out my planned Lenten practices. Longtime readers may remember this, but I try to ensure that in addition to any sacrifice/penitential practice I undertake, I also add something meant to help me focus on God's goodness and love.

That was it. I think I'm supposed to spend some time every day looking for the little gifts God gives me, the little moments of happiness.

I sometimes take the little moments, the little gifts for granted. I give the little gifts hardly any notice, but I let the little struggles dominate my thinking. I think God told me I need to give the little gifts bigger consideration.

And it aligned for me again that day.

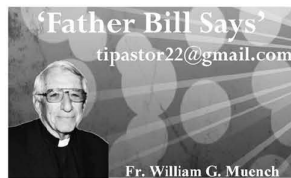
**Darcy L. Fargo**

## Find your desert

Our Catholic Liturgical year, the flow of the Mass celebrations that follow the life and teaching of Jesus, is the powerful way that our Church puts a new and alive spirit into our spiritual lives as the People of God, filling with joy and peace each step in our walk on the road that leads to our becoming saints. Now, we are beginning to prepare ourselves for our next spiritual exercise, the weeks of Lent.

For some people, Lent seems like such a terrible burden. Today, I want to take this opportunity to convince you that Lent is a wonderful part of our spiritual journey every year. As people of faith, Lent is a wonderful opportunity in our time of formation - really a transformation. Lent must be a time when we grow in our faith. Lent must form us into that new person, ready to celebrate Easter, the Lord's Resurrection.

I am certain that you remember that St. John the



Baptist was formed and prepared for his vocation to prepare the way for Jesus by a time spent in a desert. The desert experience taught him through silence and fasting. So, the desert would be a perfect place for you to spend your Lent. I want each of you to find your desert so that you will make your Lenten experience to be a success. So, let's find a desert - a place of silence and fasting.

First, I want to encourage each of you to discover the value of silence, especially during Lent. I believe you will be transformed by finding time for silence each day. This may be a few minutes for some or a more extended time for others. You see, silence will be your prayer in itself, a

time for you to find a true experience of the presence of God. I am speaking of a time of quiet silence. No prayers. No words. Simply be quiet with Jesus and make time for the Lord to find us in a special way. I have and hope you have friends you can be with in silence for a time. I believe Jesus wants to be that kind of friend to you. The Lord leads and guides us even during these times of silence. I believe the Lord brings a message, a word even, during such times of silence, in those times when we come to the Lord with an open heart and soul and listen in quiet.

Our desert experience must also be a time of fasting. Fasting has always been a part of Lent. We fast, sensibly giving up something for Lent. We give up something that will be a good challenge for us. We demonstrate to ourselves and to God that we can do it. Fasting becomes a prayer for us. We decide to fast to demonstrate our

dedication to our God. Fasting truly leads us to join Jesus on the way of the cross. Fasting allows us to join Jesus on the cross. Such dedication demonstrates our love for Jesus. We want to be there with him to support him in his suffering. We want to make room for Jesus in our heart. The challenge of fasting makes us a better person.

Each year as we begin the time of Lent, I spend some time encouraging you to make your Lenten desert experience even better by offering it up to God as a prayer for someone special, someone needy who needs your prayers, for a loved one who could use the support of Our Lord. I believe that this changes the time of Lent. It gives a powerful reason for going into the desert. With this special time with Jesus, you become a powerful intercessor, constantly bringing your intentions to the Lord. So, let us prepare in gratitude for the adventure of Lent.



## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

## Getting your spouse to heaven

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Staff Writer

“Your job is to get each other into heaven,” observes Bill Todd.

This may not be the job description most couples bring into marriage, but it speaks to the heart of the married vocation. For Bill and Margie Todd, this wisdom is so important that they recently joined the Canton Pre-Cana team in order to share it with couples preparing for marriage.

The Todds’ own journey to marriage began at Camp Guggenheim, Bill explains. “We met in the late ‘90s but were friends for 10 years before we started dating. We got married on July 18, 2008, at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam.”

Before that, of course, there was marriage preparation.

“We saw the value of going through the Pre-Cana process ourselves,” Bill said. “We

were lucky enough to do this with St. Mary’s pastor at the time, Father Garry Giroux, and also sit down and talk further through it with Father Martin Cline and Father Bryan Stitt, whom I had worked with at Guggenheim. It was both challenging and affirming of the steps we were taking towards married life. We had done Pre-Cana at church with four other couples and were surprised when one couple didn’t make it through. It showed me that this isn’t just a formality, but a tool to discern whether this is truly where God is calling a couple.”

Margie, too, recognizes the importance of marriage preparation.

“We believe that that in a society that does not value marriage, it is especially important to provide couples just starting out with a strong knowledge of what our faith teaches about marriage,” she said. “For

us, having a sacramental marriage has made so much difference. The graces received from that sacrament along with the fact that the Church sees marriage as indissoluble, allowed us to work through the problems in the early years of our marriage without any fear that we would lose one another. In recent years, the skills and trust we developed then have helped us through the harder things that have come up, like raising children, miscarriage and health issues.”

Knowing that marriage is a life-long commitment shapes a couple’s determination to make things work.

“Divorce has become such an acceptable option in our society,” Margie notes. “We live in a world where ‘my’ wants and needs are the most important – and there’s no place for that in marriage! At first it’s fun and exciting to be a ‘we,’ but once we get back to everyday

life and our flawed selves, that fades.”

“And then you add in that we’ve gotten away from what a family is,” observes Bill. “People don’t eat dinner together anymore. They’ve stopped connecting, and we’ve started to lose the wonderful traditions of our Catholic faith, and marriage is one of them. Marriage is a sacred thing, to be treasured and not thrown away. It is important, and it’s not about you.”

“The Catholic Church teaches that the purpose of marriage is openness to life, which is difficult to embrace in our society,” added Margie. “You need to be open with one another, with all your imperfections, as well as to any children God may or may not send you. Knowing that His will is better allows us to trust, even with the challenges that come into our lives.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office

Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.

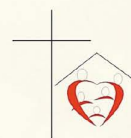
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If the answer to any of those questions is yes, contact:



Steve Tartaglia  
Director of Family Life  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
(315) 393-2920  
[startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

## Addressing current needs

By Steve Tartaglia

Diocesan Family Life Director

Over the past 10 years that I've been working as Family Life Director, this diocese has had an average of 50 couples per year prepared by our diocesan Pre Cana teams. More marriages actually occur within the diocese, but those couples are prepared in other ways that the pastor decides is most appropriate for their situations. When I got started as Family Life Director, I found old journal books that were handwritten registrations of Pre Cana enrollments from the 1980s and 1990s. I noticed that there were more classes, and each Pre Cana class had dozens of couples, if not more. It's quite disheartening to see the massive reductions in numbers of people responding to vocational calls from God, whether it be to the religious life or to marriage.

Why are so few couples getting married and what can we do about it? These are big questions and I think the answer is a bit too complex for the length of this article. But I will offer what I think are two critical elements of the problem and what the Family Life Office is doing in response.

The first issue is that most children are growing up in

less-than-ideal family situations. 55 to 58 percent of children are born of single mothers. Among adults, 63 percent have never been married. They are hooking up and cohabiting. Of those who are marrying, it's a civil marriage in front of a justice of the peace. Very few couples are choosing a sacramental marriage. And, of course, separation/divorce is still a very big issue.

Children that grow up in these types of situations, where they don't have their own father and mother who are married to each other, are wounded. They are statistically less likely to commit to marriage or a religious vocation. They are less likely to believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and more likely to leave the Catholic faith. Of those that get married, they are one-third more likely to get a divorce themselves.

Their wounds leave them with trouble with intimacy, trust and commitment. They distrust their parents because they were supposed to model permanent, faithful love, and they didn't. They don't have a good foundation in the Church because in many cases their religious education is lacking. And they distrust God because they don't understand how He could have allowed this to happen to them

and their family.

Children carry these wounds with them throughout their lives, even if they receive counseling at the time of the divorce. They don't just build a bridge and get over it. On the other hand, if those wounds are addressed, they can heal. They can have strong, healthy marriages and thriving faith filled families.

Ministry to divorce and separated families and especially to their children is strongly linked to improving marriage preparation. This is why the Family Life Office has introduced the Life-Giving Wounds Retreat, a peer-led ministry which addresses the wounds incurred by those growing up without their two parents together. We've held two retreats over the past two years. The first retreat had nine participants. We drew members from the participants at the first retreat to expand our ministry team. At the second retreat, we had 11 participants plus the team of 6 people, so 17 people in all. And in addition to people from our diocese, participants came from Tennessee, Louisiana, Ohio, Washington, DC, Toronto, and Syracuse. We are hoping to grow this ministry so that we eventually offer two retreats per year...one at Wadhams Hall in the colder months,

and one at Camp Guggenheim when that facility is available.

The second issue, another of the side-effects of the sexual revolution, is that young people don't know how to date and form meaningful relationships that lead to matrimony. The culture pushes them to have one-night stands called hook-ups. Dating is a lost practice. We'll be offering another program, the Dating Project, across the diocese. It is a movie and lessons built around a program developed by Professor Kerry Cronin from the University of Boston, who noticed the trend and decided to teach her students how to date. The Family Life Office is working together with the Office of the New Evangelization and the Youth Department to offer the Dating Project to parents and high school/college students.

I want to reemphasize that the challenge of turning this vocational crisis around is big and complex and requires the prayers and united efforts of everyone in the Church. I'll end with this bright light... the couples that are coming for marriage preparation are diamonds in the rough, swimming against the cultural tide, serious about their faith and serious about forming sacramental marriages and holy families. This gives me great hope for the future.

## Getting your spouse to heaven

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Fifteen years of marriage have brought the couple renewed appreciation for the wisdom of Church teaching on marriage.

"We have been blessed to have excellent examples of Catholic marriages among family and friends," says Margie. "One of the most important things we learned from them was that by putting

God at the center of our family, things became much simpler. Once we learned to trust in God's plan for us, we were able to trust each other more.

"We needed to make the choice together to go to Mass each week, to make time to go to confession regularly, and to pray together. Making that a priority early in our marriage made it so much easier once we

had children."

Bill, too, emphasizes the importance of faith in their relationship.

"Try to make time to pray together often - if you can't do the whole rosary, just say a few Hail Marys," he said. "Go to confession together. And when everything seems to fall apart, still thank God. There are graces given to you in your marriage whether you realize it or not."

These graces enrich every dimension of married life. Bill and Margie are quick to affirm the power of small things to make a big difference in their relationship.

"The little thoughtful things you do for one another make a huge difference in a marriage," Margie said. "For example, Bill sets up the coffee maker every night so I have coffee first thing in the morn-

ing, He also apologizes more readily than anyone I know."

"It's okay to do something nice just because you love your spouse," Bill added. "My wife pays attention to the little things - things like making sure we have dinner together every night that we can, and making holy days special so we can pass a love of the faith on to our children."



# 2024 Lenten regulations

February 14, 2024, is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent.

## THE CALL TO DO PENANCE

All of Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way, to do penance. However, so that all may be united in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days Christ's faithful are to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves, by fulfilling more faithfully their obligations and especially by observing the laws of fast and abstinence. The season of Lent is observed as a time of penance for the universal Church.

Thus, during these 40 days individuals are encouraged to attend daily Mass, set aside increased time for personal prayer and the study of scripture, give alms to the poor, perform voluntary acts of mortification, as well as show special solicitude for the sick, the discouraged, and the lonely. Likewise, parishes are encouraged to arrange for periods of Eucharistic Adoration and traditional devotions such as making the Way of the Cross and reciting of the Rosary (cf. cc. 1249-1250; USCCB, Complimentary Norms).

Ash Wednesday, which solemnly opens the season of Lent, and Good Friday, on which Christ suffered in the flesh and died for our sins, are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence from meat

for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat. The law of fasting is binding on Catholics from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted by long tradition to eat not more than one full meal, as well as two light meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The law of abstinence from meat is binding upon Catholics from age 14 onwards. Even those who by reason of age are not bound by these laws are to be taught the true meaning of penance (cf. cc. 1251-1252).

The ancient Paschal Fast should also be kept sacred. It is celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, when appropriate, may be prolonged throughout Holy Saturday as a way of coming, with spirit uplifted, to the joys of the Lord's resurrection (cf. Roman Missal-The Sacred Paschal Triduum, 1).

## EASTER DUTY

Once admitted to the blessed Eucharist, each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, and to fulfill this precept during the Easter season (cf. c. 920). In 2024, Paschal time extends from February 18 (First Sunday of Lent) until May 26 (Trinity Sunday).

Each of Christ's faithful who have reached the age of reason is bound to faithfully confess at least once each year all grave sins, in number and kind, of which after careful examination he or she is aware, and which have not yet been

pardoned in the sacrament of Penance. It is recommended to also confess venial sins. This precept has been laid down in light of the previous one, for anyone who is conscious of grave sin may not receive the Body of the Lord without previously having been absolved in sacramental confession (cf. cc. 916, 988-989).

## PARTICULAR CELEBRATIONS & OBSERVANCES

The distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday should take place according to the rubrics and in keeping with local custom, that is, by tracing a cross of ashes on the forehead (cf. RM-Ash Wednesday).

With St. Patrick's Day on a Sunday. According to the Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, Sundays of Lent have pride of place in the order of precedence second only to the Paschal Triduum. Therefore, even in those parishes where St. Patrick is the local patron, the Mass of the 5th Sunday of Lent is to be celebrated. Num-

ber 60 of the Universal Norms suggests how to celebrate the feast:

60. If several celebrations fall on the same day, the one that holds the highest rank according to the Table of Liturgical Days is observed. However, a Solemnity impeded by a liturgical day that takes precedence over it should be transferred to the closest day not listed under nos. 1-8 in the Table of Precedence.

Parishes are highly encouraged to offer increased opportunities for sacramental confession in preparation for Easter, whether by communal penance services with individual confessions, Days of Mercy (that is, confessions offered throughout the day), or at weekly times in addition to the regular schedule (such as before or after daily Mass, or in the evening during the week). The priests of neighboring parishes are encouraged to cooperate with one another to make these occasions widely possible.

If Marriage is to be celebrated on a day having a penitential

character, especially during Lent, the spouses are to be counseled to take into account the special nature of that day. The celebration of Marriage on Good Friday and Holy Saturday is to be avoided altogether (cf. Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 32; RM-Good Friday, 1).

The Chrism Mass of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be celebrated on Thursday, March 21 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. Those unable to participate in person may view the Mass via livestream at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>. Further details will be forthcoming.

A Funeral Mass may not be celebrated at any time on Holy Thursday or during the Paschal Triduum. The rite for a Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be used, even within the church, although Holy Communion may not be given (cf. GIRM, 380, Order of Christian Funerals, 178; RM-Thursday of the Lord's Supper, 4; RM-Friday of the Passion of the Lord, 2; RM-Holy Saturday, 3).



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## Environmental Stewardship

## Fact or myth?

Have you ever wondered if saves more money/fuel to leave your thermostat at the same temperature all the time OR to set it back at night or when you are away? Here are responses to this question from two different energy companies.

**First Company's response:** "Based on the average US home, it is more efficient to set your thermostat back (not off) at night and turn it up in the morning... I would only turn your thermostat down to night time settings 8° below your ideal setting. This way the home stays safely warm during winter and it doesn't have to spend the whole day trying to reheat in the morning."

**Second Company's response:** "After researching over 200 responses to this statement, 'turning down the thermostat costs more money,' every result, including energy companies, NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) and governments' websites, stated that it simply isn't true. In fact, the opposite is true, with proven results, over and over."

"The cooler your home is below your desired temperature, the less heat loss you incur, regardless of how energy efficient your home is. This is a simple matter of physics. Heat moves to cold; the less heat in the home, the less heat loss you incur. . . . The more heat you put in, the more loss you incur, and pay for."

The **myth** is it takes more energy to heat the home back up to 70 degrees than keeping the temperature constant at 70 degrees. **Fact:** What this myth doesn't take into account is that heat loss is constant. You lose less heat energy when you turn down your thermostat.

Numerous sources say reducing your thermostat during the night/day for 8 hours will save 5-15% of total annual heat expense. Investing in a digital thermostat allows for temps to be set any time you want. So, you can save money on heating cost and be more comfortable at the same time.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 8** – Msgr. Patrick Bernard Riley, 1981

**Feb. 9** – Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

**Feb. 10** – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

**Feb. 11** – Deacon David P. Wells, 2017

**Feb. 12** – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

**Feb. 13** – Rev. Richard J. Maloney, O.M.I., 1893; Deacon Edward F. McAuliffe, 1986; Rev. Harry E. Giroux, 2012

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

## 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 Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

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

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Please, hold the applause

During an idle moment, I believe it was two weeks ago last Thursday around noon, I was checking out the available Catholic podcasts on the internet. I happened to open "The Catholic Talk Show". It is a podcast that has been around for a while, just shy of 250 episodes.

The episode that popped up in my scan of shows was "5 Things That Need To Stop During Mass." This I have to watch.

Ryan Schell, who compiled the list and acted as focal point for this

episode, is joined by Father Rich Pagano and Ryan Dellacrosse.

I could spend a few paragraphs telling you about these guys, but you don't care. They are witty, occasionally serious, well spoken, educated and entertaining. That should be enough.

Number one on their list of things that need to stop at Mass is clapping.

Kathy and I used to attend Mass downstate where her parents lived. At the end of the Mass, the congregation would show their appreciation for the adults and kids in the choir by applauding.

They would applaud even if the singing and playing was mediocre.

Our relatives thought it, the not-so-spontaneous applause, was cute. We thought it was a joke.

Applause is appropriate sometimes. If the celebrant is observing an anniversary, or some-

one in the congregation at a particular Mass is celebrating a significant birthday, like 100 years, or the bishop leads the applause. Otherwise, I just do not think applause for human achievements warrants clapping at Mass.

So, I agreed with the hosts on that one. In fact, I could agree with all 15 items. It would take too much space and time to list all 15, but let me tease you with a few of the practices, besides clapping, the hosts identified as Must Stop during Mass.

Turn your phone off or, I will add, at least turn the ringer off and put the phone on silent.

Know where the Body of Christ is reposed. Genuflect to the tabernacle, not the sanctuary if no tabernacle is to be found there.

Try not to be late for the start of Mass and do not leave at the end before the celebrant and ministers. Judas left a dinner with Jesus early. As I recall, things did not work well for Judas.

You probably have some pet peeves to add to the list.

We attend Mass to praise God, hear his word and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Our preparation for Mass and our attention and participation at Mass are important.

Some of the other stuff is nonsense.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Feb. 10** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 11** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 12** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 13** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Noon – Diocesan Staff Mardi Gras Luncheon in the Brzana Conference Room

**Feb. 14** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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- Search archived papers
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# Scholars dispute study claiming thousands of rape-related pregnancies

By Tyler Arnold  
Catholic News Agency

A highly publicized study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that estimated there have been 64,565 pregnancies resulting from rape in states with near-total abortion bans has raised questions about its methodology since its publication last week.

The study's lead researcher was Planned Parenthood of Montana's medical director, Dr. Samuel Dickman. According to the study, it was conducted "to assess how abortion bans affected survivors of rape." Yet, the research did not use any data about rapes, pregnancies, or pregnancies from rapes collected during the times in which the pro-life laws were in effect.

"To our knowledge, no recent reliable state-level data on completed vaginal rapes ... are available," the authors explained.

The researchers instead used surveys from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2016 to 2017 to estimate how many rapes were likely to have occurred nationally since the abortion restrictions went into effect. They then used data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics to estimate what fraction of those survivors would likely be female victims between the ages of 15 and 45 at the national level.

Because neither of these sources break information down by state, the researchers then looked to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2019 Uniform Crime Reports on rapes. They assume that this data underreports rapes but use this information to estimate the proportion of rapes in a given state.

Using this data, the researchers estimated how many rapes would have likely occurred in states with abortion bans. The researchers estimate that about 12.5% of the rapes would likely have led to pregnancy, which brought them to estimate 64,565 rape-related pregnancies in the 14 states with near total abortion bans between July 1, 2022, and Jan. 1, 2024.

"Our estimates have several limitations," the authors acknowledged. "Most importantly, limited reliable information is available on rape victim-

ization and rape-induced pregnancy."

Some academics CNA interviewed said these "limitations" call into question the reliability of the study's conclusions.

Michael New, a senior associate scholar at the pro-life Charlotte Lozier Institute and professor at the Catholic University of America, told CNA that estimates about the number of rapes in the country and the percentage of rapes that result in pregnancy vary from study to study. He said the CDC estimates are "much higher than the others," while the criminal reports to police that are in the FBI numbers are "an undercount."

New noted in an article in *National Review* that if one extrapolates the calculations in this study nationally for 2017, it would suggest that "10% of all abortions were performed on rape victims" if half of the rape victims received an abortion. Yet he noted that multiple surveys from the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute found that rape victims only account for 1% of abortions.

Normally, New said, a study would provide "high-end estimates" and "low-end estimates," but the researchers in question "just assume that the high estimates are the best ones."

New referenced the primary researcher's affiliation with Planned Parenthood and said the study appears to be "advocacy-type research."

"Academic journals ... shouldn't serve as mouthpieces for pro-abortion activists," New said.

Ryan Burge, a statistician and associate professor of political science at Eastern Illinois University, told CNA that rape in the United States is "too prevalent but still very rare" and trying to estimate the number of pregnancies caused by rape in this way is creating an estimate of "a rare event inside a rare event."

"Making an estimate of something like this is incredibly hard even when it's not so hotly contested," Burge explained.

He added: "I don't think there's ever going to be an effective way to get at this number — not in a way that would give me a ton of confidence that it's correct."

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Supreme Court to hear abortion pill case in March

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 29 that oral arguments in a high-stakes abortion pill case will be heard on March 26. The decision in the case could determine whether the abortion pill mifepristone can be prescribed by telemedicine or sent through the mail. The Biden administration is challenging a federal court ruling that found that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) did not follow proper testing and safety protocols when it approved the abortion drug in 2000. Mifepristone is the first of the two abortion pills that cut off progesterone from the baby, essentially starving the child to death. In August 2023, the Fifth Circuit Court affirmed a lower court ruling that the FDA must reinstate restrictions on the mifepristone pill in place before 2016. Those restrictions are currently on hold pending the Supreme Court's decision. The ruling could also determine up to what point in pregnancy is it legal to take mifepristone.

### Quebec cardinal 'temporarily' steps down, denies allegations

Cardinal Gerald Lacroix, head of the Archdiocese of Quebec, has temporarily stepped aside from his duties as archbishop after being accused in a lawsuit of sexual abuse of a 17-year-old, allegations that the archbishop is strongly denying. In a short French-language statement released on Friday, the archdiocese said that though Lacroix "categorically denies the allegations against him," he is "temporarily withdrawing from his activities until the situation is clarified." According to the statement, Lacroix maintains that the allegations are "unfounded." The statement said, however, that archdiocesan authorities "will continue to move forward in the process of collective action, with respect for the truth and with a concern to offer reparation to survivors of sexual abuse." Lacroix, 66, is a member of the Council of Cardinals advising Pope Francis. He has been a cardinal since 2014 and archbishop of Quebec since 2011. The legal action filed against the archdiocese last week is a continuation of a class-action lawsuit that originated in 2022 and initially involved 101 people who were allegedly sexually assaulted by priests and laypeople since 1940.

### Pope creates diocese in China, borders drawn by Beijing

The Vatican announced Monday that Pope Francis has created a "new" diocese in mainland China — a decision that tacitly recognizes diocesan borders drawn by Beijing, according to Asia News. The pope has suppressed the former Apostolic Prefecture of Yiduxian, which had been a vacant see since 2008, and replaced it with the Diocese of Weifang, which takes its name from the prefecture-level city of more than 9 million people in China's central Shandong province. The Vatican announced the erection of the Weifang Diocese on Jan. 29, the day of the consecration of the diocese's first bishop, Bishop Anthony Sun Venjun. The Holy See Press Office said that Pope Francis established the diocese on April 20, 2023, "in the desire to promote the pastoral care of the Lord's flock and to attend more effectively to its spiritual good."

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

**Date:** Feb. 11, Feb. 25, Mar. 10

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

**Place:** On-Line

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

**Contact:** You must register in order to attend, please go to [www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment](http://www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment)

## FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

Father Craig MacMahon, OMV will talk about the first half of "Struggles in the Spiritual Life," by Father Tim Gallagher, OMV and answer questions.

**Date:** Feb. 22

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** You'll gain confidence as you journey through desolation, and you'll learn to reject the enemy's ploys to infect you with a sense of hopelessness. You'll also learn: What to do when you are tired, burned out, or overwhelmed by life; How to respond when you feel burdened or confused in prayer; What it means when the enemy causes a disturbance in your soul; Spiritual tactics to employ when you are experiencing struggles; What to do when you experience disquiet from worldly agitations and temptations; How to push back when the enemy threatens your confidence in God.

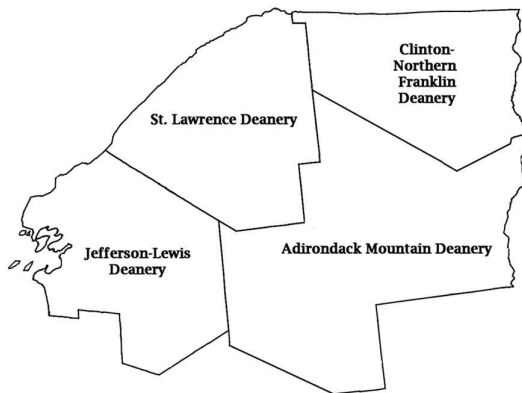
**Contact:** If you haven't signed up for the Friendship Groups, here is the link: <https://mailchi.mp/sophiaainstitute/friendship-groups>

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## ALPHA

Lake Placid – All are invited to Alpha.

**Date:** Wednesdays, starting Feb. 28



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail [news@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

**Time:** 6:15 p.m. to 8:15

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Free to all, regardless of belief and includes dinner.

**Contact:** Go to <https://stagneslakeplacid.com/alpha> for more info and to register.

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## WOMEN'S LENTEN STUDY

Plattsburgh – Walking with Purpose to have a Women's Lenten Study.

**Date:** Thursdays, Feb. 15 to March 21

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

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

**Cost:** Suggested donation, \$20

**Features:** Discover God's plan for friendship, how to navigate toxic relationships, let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, and explore what it takes to have deep connections for the long haul.

**Contact:** Janice Tobin C/T 518-569-5370

## BREAKFAST

Brushton – St. Mary's Church will sponsor a breakfast.

**Date:** Feb. 18

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 11

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children

6-12, \$6; under 5, Free

**Menu:** Scrambled/fried eggs, home fries, homemade corned beef hash, sausage, bacon, pancakes, French toast, toast, OJ, tomato juice, coffee, tea.

**Contact:** Take out available, call 518 529 6580

## BREAKFAST

Altona – At. Ann's Church to have a breakfast prepared by the Mooers Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** Feb. 25

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children 5-12, \$7; 5 and under, Free

**Menu:** Juice, Coffee, Tea, Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Pancakes, Cinnamon Rolls, Home Fries

**Contact:** For more information, please call the Parish Office 518-236-5632

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## AUGUSTINIAN ACADEMY GALA

Carthage - Augustinian Academy to have their 20th Annual Gala.

**Date:** Feb. 10

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

**Place:** Elks Club, Carthage NY

**Cost:** \$35 per ticket - paid in advance. RSVP by Feb. 5

**Features:** "Hula in the Snow" - A Luau featuring tropical music by The Patti Stanford Band. The evening will include cocktails,

appetizers, buffet dinner, dancing, prizes for best-dressed guests, live music, silent auction, raffles and surprises.

**Contact:** Talitha Workman 315-493-1301

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

**Date:** Feb. 10

**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

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy.

**Date:** Feb. 11

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

**Place:** St. James Community Room

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

**Menu:** Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

**Features:** Event is sponsored by Carthage K of C, Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

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

## BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH MASS

Immaculate Conception and St. Andrew's Church will be have a parish Lenten Program, "A Biblical Walk Through Mass"

**Schedule:** Brownville, Immaculate Conception, Tues. starting Feb. 20 until March 19; Sackets Harbor, St. Andrew's, Wed. starting Feb. 21 until March 20

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10 for all materials

**Features:** In this video-based study A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance.

This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome.

**Contact:** Please register for the study at the entry of the church.

For more information contact Chris Lapointe at 315-783-5147 or Sister Flavia at 315-836-5272.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ST. JAMES GALA

Gouverneur – Adventure awaits at the St. James Gala.

**Date:** Feb. 10

**Time:** Doors open at 5:45 p.m., Treasure keys go sale at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School

**Cost:** \$75 per person. Tickets available at the parish and school offices or from a "gala gal", as well as online at [stjamesk-6.org](http://stjamesk-6.org).

Includes admission to our auctions and raffles, prizes, appetizers, cocktails, full course dinner, dessert bar, and dancing.

**Features:** Join our online auction on Wednesday, February 7th - 16th at <https://www.32auctions.com/SJS24>.

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

**Date:** Feb. 11 (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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg - All Catechumen and Candidates who are ready to be received into the Catholic Church this Easter, are invited to attend the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

**Date:** Feb. 18

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

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



## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

# Bring others to Christ this Lent

In biblical times, leprosy was a dreaded disease. Ostracized from the community, lepers had to live at the fringe. Lepers sought a cure and would do whatever to be cured. Both the first reading and gospel contain stories about such cures. Jesus exhorted the leper not to tell anyone. Why? In his mission, Jesus did not want to emphasize his ability to cure. Rather, he wanted people to accept and internalize his message as a way of life. Jesus wanted people to see, feel and perceive the value of his message for their lives. He wanted them, as St. Paul says, "to eat, drink or whatever, do everything for the glory of God." Jesus wanted them to value the message as a way of life, not merely to get a cure.

Making Christianity, specifically Catholicism, a way of life continues to be the goal of the Church's evangelization efforts that all of us share in, not just the clergy, religious, and lay ministers. All of us must evangelize because, as Church, we are responsible for each other. We are not merely a gang of individuals under a common roof.

Frankly, we are not doing a good job at reaching out to those who no longer actively participate in the life of the Church - our friends, our children, our relatives and even our parents. They are among the lost as defined by Jesus.

We might not like

that term, but Jesus referred to them as lost. Remember the three parables in the gospel of Luke. The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son, the prodigal son, all speak about the lost. In all three cases, when the lost came back or were found, there is great rejoicing.

The Catholic evangelist, Matthew Kelly, estimates that only 7% of Catholics are highly engaged in their faith. Just think of what would happen if that number were 14%! How much more we could do! Maybe about 20% of Catholics attend Mass weekly. What would it look like if that number were 40%. About 40% attend Mass a few times a year. Thus, the fallen away or ex-Catholics outnumber the active Catholics.

If you have been baptized, then you must evangelize.

How will this happen? Well, a simple answer: Lent. That's right, Lent. Traditionally, during the Lenten season, we take on penitential practices. Everyone should take on a sacrifice of some kind for Lent: give up a particular type of food, devote five uninterrupted minutes a day to prayer,

February 11

**Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Sirach 15:15-20  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
Matthew 5:17-37

*This homily is offered  
courtesy of a priest of  
the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

read the four gospels, pray the rosary daily, attend daily Mass, fast on occasion, nourish your spiritual life with spiritual reading and/or participating in a Lenten adult education series. Maybe giving up Facebook for Lent would be an appropriate sacrifice for some. All are time-honored practices and bring about time honored results for us.

However, in the realm of evangelization, in undertaking these practices for your own benefit, offer them for those who are lost, who don't know where to turn, who are blinded in such a way that faith and church are no longer valued. The bottom line - do something.

People claim they don't like the idea of trying to evangelize someone else. Lots of excuses abound for not

evangelizing. Well, here is something a bit different, but something very doable: If you are a Facebook user, once a week, starting on Ash Wednesday, post on your Facebook a statement like: "My Catholic faith is important to me because...", "The Church is important to me because...", "My Catholic faith nourishes my life because..." If you use X (formerly Twitter), tweet something similar every week. If you are on LinkedIn, do you list among your many qualities "Happy to be a practicing Catholic?"

Don't wimp out on this activity.

Some may falsely say: "I'm too humble to do something like that." Well, it's good to be humble, but does that mean that we should hide our faith? What's wrong with expressing our faith?

There are seven Wednesdays in Lent. This gives each one reader who uses contemporary media seven opportunities to evan-

gelize, seven opportunities to reach out to others some of whom may be among the lost, the lost who need to hear once again about the value of faith, the value of religion, the value of the sacraments, the value of principles that give coherence to our lives.

The other nice thing about this exercise is that maybe your pastor can check up on you to see what you are doing.

So, we stand at the threshold of Lent. This year, use Lent to build up your faith life and spirituality and to reinvigorate the faith life of others.

Evangelize face to face. Evangelize with the new media. Seven Wednesdays, seven opportunities to evangelize or give witness to who knows how many people.

Just as there was great rejoicing when the prodigal son returned, may we, too, rejoice in reaching out to others. In the words of St. Paul: "do everything for the glory of God."



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## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

# Marriage: the *other* vocation crisis

By **Suzanne Pietropaoli**  
Staff Writer

“To belong to God and to serve him in love is the vocation of all.” Simply and beautifully, these words of St. Edith Stein remind us of who we are and what we are made for. This truth provides a framework for understanding the “vocation” dimension of the current crisis. That word, “crisis,” always gets our attention:

something is not right, and will likely become worse unless we identify the cause and apply suitable remedies. There is an increasing awareness within the Church that dwindling numbers of priests and religious actually reflect serious fractures in the family.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, in fact, identifies marriage and family life as “the most fundamental vocation crisis of

all.” It is also of critical importance for the entire Church, as the archbishop explains.

“Marriage, religious life, the single vocation and the priesthood are all designed to fit together and complement each other in the life of the Church,” he wrote. “Each in its own way fulfills the fundamental human vocation to give ourselves away in love.”

Marriage is a vocation,

one of the ways God calls us to make a sincere gift of ourselves in love. It is the original human vocation. When God created us male and female in his image, he created us with the capacity for communion and the promise of parenthood. Marriage is a joyous, demanding path to holiness, an authentic and sacramental means of serving God. “In fact,” writes Archbishop Chaput, “the love between husband and wife is the foundation stone upon which every other vocation is built. It is no accident that most priests and religious emerge from believing, practicing, loving families. Strong marriages and families make a vital, joy-filled Church.”

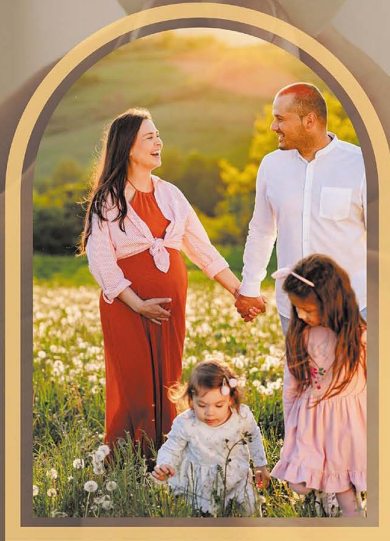
What are the steps to a more vital, joy-filled Church with an abundance of committed families and of priestly and religious vocations? The words, “believing, practicing, loving” go a long way towards the change we seek.

The Church needs married couples who understand what the Church is (and is not), and who believe the totality of what the Church teaches, including her vision of marriage. Archbishop Chaput reminds us that these teachings are not true because the Church teaches them - rather, the Church teaches them because they are true. Since Jesus promised that the truth would set us free, couples need to be educated to the meaning of Catholic marriage. This

is critically important in a culture which reduces marriage to an arrangement shaped entirely by individual preference. Opposite this destructive cultural construct, the Catholic Church proposes God's design for married love with its innate requirements (and blessings!) of permanence, faithfulness, and openness to life - a deeply personal unity that, beyond one flesh union, leads to forming one heart and one soul (CCC, 1643). This is how God loves us; this how we long to be loved.

Practicing our beliefs makes them real. Our faith in Christ, in the sacraments, in the teachings of the Church must be lived in the world and lived with faith in God's goodness, and in openness to the gift of life. The scarcity of children in many parishes is a visual link to the vocation crisis: children who have never been born cannot grow up to become priests, religious, or parents. As Archbishop Chaput emphasizes, “Catholic marriage - exactly like Jesus himself - is not about scarcity, but about abundance. It's not about sterility, but rather the fruitfulness which flows from unitive, procreative love. Catholic married love always implies the possibility of new life; and because it does, it affirms the future.... When God joins a woman and man together in marriage, they create with him a new wholeness; a new “belonging” which is so real, so concrete, that a new life, a child, is its natural expression and seal. This is what the Church means when she teaches that Catholic married love is by its nature both unitive and procreative - not either/or.”

## MARRIAGE



one flesh, given and received

### Natural Family Planning

...supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage

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**Diocese of Ogdensburg  
Natural Family Planning Office**

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Website: [www.rcdony.org/nfp](http://www.rcdony.org/nfp)







## 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

# Aiding the visually impaired

For many of us, glasses and contacts are a part of our everyday life. One that, perhaps, we take for granted. It's easy to forget that in many parts of the world, these and other medical aids are not readily available. Missionaries in the Gaya and Dosso regions of Niger, Africa, are working to change that, providing healthcare and awareness for visually impaired and blind children.

"There are more and more, almost a hundred in Gaya and Dosso, with ever better prospects for their education and ophthalmological care," writes Father Rafael Casamayor, who works as a missionary in Dosso, about the situation of children with visual impairment in the communities in which he works.

"A house has been purchased in Gaya and is already in use, another is being set up in Dosso and we plan to open it soon to be able to prepare a good training program during the summer", explained the religious of the Society of African Missions.

Kaaryan ma dumi, "may the light always shine," is the new organization dedicated to children and young people with visual impairment from the communities. Created from the union of the two associations Zankey Handuriya in Dosso and CIES in Gaya, the organizers want to combine their efforts and improve care.

"Light to live, grow, love and prepare for the future," added Dieudonné, who cares for these children in Gaya. "The two charities have the same goals, and these children light up as soon as they experience interest, affection and respect for their situation."

The two associations work on the social integration of these children who are seen as a burden or even a curse by their families and society in general.

"To achieve today's result, it was necessary to have several years of experience and a lot of educational work, human support and social inclusion of children, as well as a long and complicated training process. The results achieved so far are positive if one takes into account the change in mentality that has occurred among some parents, in the society and among the children themselves," he emphasized.

They also organize a training course called "Parent's Guide" to help parents recognize the different opportunities their children have to improve themselves and achieve new goals. The aim is to help parents to know and demand the rights of their children in society and to be aware of these rights.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Brushton** – Eileen B. (McGraw) Snyder, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

**Carthage** – Mary L. Carlin, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2024 at Lundy Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Inc.

**Carthage** – Anne E. Renaud, 77; Graveside Services in the spring at St. James Cemetery.

**Evans Mills** – Susan G. (Doxtater) Greenwood, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Evans Mills Cemetery.

**Indian Lake** – Carmen Beatrice Loretta Austin Klein, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Benton Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Randolph "Randy" G. Morrison, Sr., 77; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2024 at the Isenker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Claire L. (Boulanger) Bailey, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Massena** – Doris (Doran) Haggart, 98; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2024 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Moers Forks** – Anna J. (Baker) Meseck, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2024 at St. Ann's Church.

**Morrisonville** – Joyce Mary (Hemingway) Kelley, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**North Bangor** – Clarence A. Debyah, Jr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**North Bangor** – Arnold John LaFlesh, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 29, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Norwood** – Shirley M. (Villnave) McGregor, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 2, 2024 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Martin J. Gleeson Jr., 74; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2024 at Fox & Murray Funeral

Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Shirley Ann (Disshaw) Hawes, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

**Ogdensburg** – Joan Marie (Goult) Stevenson, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2024 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Aline G. Cote, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2024 at Our Lady of Victory.

**Plattsburgh** – Patricia G. (Lanoue) Welch, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 2, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** – Patricia Rose Lavery Carroll, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 25, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Jean J. (Esposito) Jacob, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 16, 2024 at St. Anthony's Church.

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

Norfolk – The Vocation Office in conjunction with LEAD will be presenting a conference "Creating A Culture of Vocations in the Parish."

**Date:** March 9

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

**Place:** Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

**Features:** The speaker for the conference is Leticia Ramirez, from Vocation Ministry, Houston, Texas. Ramirez will share her experiences supporting and promoting a culture of vocations in parishes and within families to

the priests and parish representatives and to catechetical leaders and catechists.

**Contact:** To register: <https://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture>. Free book "The Harvest" to the first 30 registered.

## CHRISM MASS

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

**Date:** March 21

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral  
**Features:** This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <https://www.rcdony.org/live-mass>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

## HEALING MASS

Potsdam – Bishop LaValley has scheduled a Healing Mass for those hurt by the Church on Divine Mercy Sunday.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

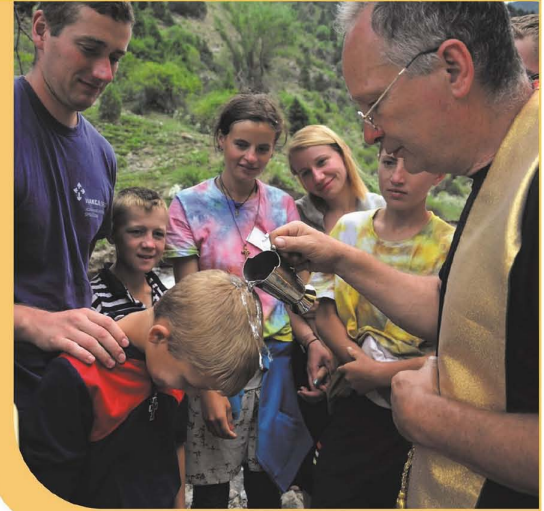
**Place:** St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

SPECIAL COLLECTION

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14, 2024



SUPPORT THE CHURCH  
IN CENTRAL AND  
EASTERN EUROPE



RESTORE THE CHURCH  
BUILD THE FUTURE

Catholics are called to evangelize their neighbors and loved ones by leading them into an encounter with Jesus Christ. When faithful disciples offer a visible and active presence in their communities, they live that calling through their works of mercy, their public worship, and their willingness to share the gospel message with those they meet.

In two former republics of the Soviet Union, which experienced 70 years of communist oppression, the Church is becoming that visible and active presence. Since 2018, the Center for Catholic Youth in the Republic of Georgia has brought together hundreds of children and youths for faith-enriching activities like Bible school, Lenten spiritual exercises, pilgrimages, and works of service in parish communities. Meanwhile, in central Asia, the construction of a new cathedral and pastoral center in the heart of Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, is a

visible sign of hope and welcome in a land where 90% of the population is Muslim.

For more than 30 years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has worked to restore a visible, active Church in Central and Eastern Europe and to build a hopeful new future in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and more than 25 other countries throughout the region. Your contributions to the USCCB's Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe fund grants to construct churches, enliven the faith of children and young people, and form disciples who live to help others encounter Christ.

More information about the collection and the range of projects it supports can be found at [www.usccb.org/ceee](http://www.usccb.org/ceee).

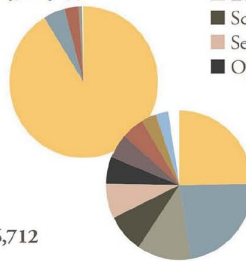
2022 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 354

Total Amount Approved: \$8,522,439

EXPENSES

Grants and Donations	91.28%
Program Costs	4.76%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	3.06%
Administrative Expenses	0.88%
Allocations-Internal Grants	0.01%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,326,712</b>



PROGRAM AREA	GRANTS	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Construction	73	\$2,108,439	24.74%
Emergency*	9	\$1,951,804	22.90%
Evangelization	77	\$1,007,437	11.82%
Scholarships	80	\$728,122	8.54%
Seminary Support	16	\$629,884	7.39%
Operational Support	28	\$503,860	5.91%
Equipment/Accommodation Purchase	19	\$452,180	5.31%
Social Aid	21	\$412,320	4.84%
Education	10	\$283,976	3.33%
Vehicle Purchase	11	\$242,423	2.84%
Multimedia	10	\$201,994	2.37%

\*Includes grants for urgent humanitarian and pastoral responses to the crisis in Ukraine.



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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