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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 4

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 24, 2024

## MASS AT THE MOUNT



PHOTO BY FATHER CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA/ FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass along with priests at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, aided by Deacon Carter Pierce and Deacon Douglas Schirmer, seminarians for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, during a visit to the seminary with Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan Vicar for Clergy and director of Vocations and Seminarians.**

## AIDING MOTHERS



An Amish buggy parks outside the Watertown home of Joyce Wilder as she assists its recent occupant, a pregnant Amish woman, in preparing to give birth. A Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Certified Nurse Midwife, Wilder aids in home exams and births, as well as exams and births in a birthing center constructed in the home she shares with her husband, Deacon Don Wilder.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

# Pope: Temperate person is balanced

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on April 17 presented the fourth and final cardinal virtue of temperance in his ongoing catechetical series of vices and virtues by noting that temperance itself is crucial for living a happy, balanced life.

"The gift of the temperate person is therefore balance, a quality as precious as it is rare. Indeed, everything in our world pushes to excess. Instead, temperance combines well with Gospel values such as smallness, discretion, modesty, meekness," the pope said to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"In a world where many peo-

ple boast about saying what they think, the temperate person instead prefers to think about what he says," the pope said. "He does not make empty promises but makes commitments to the extent that he can fulfill them."

The pope noted "the temperate person succeeds in holding extremes together: He affirms absolute principles, asserts nonnegotiable values, but also knows how to understand people and shows empathy for them."

The pope opened his reflection on temperance by looking to Aristotle's "The Nicomachean Ethics," an ethical treatise on the art of living. Francis noted

that according to the Greek philosopher, man's flourishing and the ability to live a happy life is realizable only by "the capacity for self-mastery, the art of not letting oneself be overcome by rebellious passions."

This reflection on Aristotelean ethics sets the foundation for an understanding of virtue present in the Church's teaching. "Temperance is the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods," the pope said, quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

For the pope, temperance, as expressed in ancient thought and in the Church, can be summarized as "the virtue of the

right measure," a point he made by contrasting it with those who are "moved by impulse or exuberance," which makes them "ultimately unreliable."

Francis explained that being temperate does not always require one to be "peaceful" or with a "smiling face." Instead, in certain situations, "it is necessary to be indignant, but always in the right way."

"A word of rebuke is at times healthier than a sour, rancorous silence. The temperate person knows that nothing is more uncomfortable than correcting another person, but he also knows that it is necessary; otherwise, one offers free reign to evil," the pope observed.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
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# God gave me a second chance

Every time I think of this interaction, I wish I handled it better.

I was on vacation, I was walking through an amusement park wearing a t-shirt with a taco on the front along with the text, "It's ok to fall apart sometimes. Tacos fall apart all the time, and we still love them."

A young park employee at a cart selling popcorn and drinks stopped me.

"Can I give you a free Gatorade? I love your shirt, and I needed to hear that

today," he said.

I accepted the free drink, thanked him for his kindness and went on my merry way to the next ride.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Later, it occurred to me that I never asked that young man if he was ok. He basically told me he was falling apart, and I thanked him for a beverage and walked away.

That was years ago, and I still think about it occasionally, and I still wish I had handled it better.

Last week, God gave me a do-over.

This time, I was waiting in line to order a sub. Instead of my taco shirt, I had on a hooded sweatshirt with text on the back reading, "Dear person behind me, You matter. You are enough. The world is a better place because you're in it," followed by a few hearts and "- The person in front of you."

From behind I hear, "I love your hoodie."

I turned around to thank the lady. She told me she needed that message at that moment.

As she paid for her lunch order, I said, "Are you ok? I just thought I'd check."

She cried. She told me she was, in fact, ok, and

she thanked me for asking and for caring.

I cried, too. We were complete strangers crying together at the cash register at Subway.

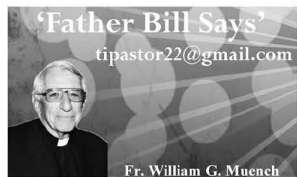
It was a beautiful moment that I can see only as a gift from God. God made sure that woman received a message she needed. He gave us both a beautiful moment of connection. He gave me a moment to do better than I had in the past and the grace to recognize it. He reminded me how important it is to let others know I care about them and their wellbeing.

I'm really grateful God gave me a chance to handle it better.

## Transformed by the Holy Spirit

Today, I would like to take a moment to remember my friend, Father Dan Keefe. Father Dan died recently. When I think of Father Dan, I remember his many years as pastor of the John XXIII Newman Center on the campus of SUNY Plattsburgh. I know he made a real difference in the lives of many college students, as well as many faculty, during his years at the college. So, please join me in remembering Father Dan in our prayers.

Now, we are continuing to celebrate the Easter Season. In many parishes it is traditional for the celebration of Confirmation during this time. The bishop of the diocese is invited to the parish to confer this important Sacrament of Confirmation on the young people of the parish. This Sacrament of Confirmation calls down the Holy Spirit to come with wisdom and courage to challenge those prepared to live in the way of the Savior, to make a difference by liv-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

ing well and witnessing to God's love and peace for all. Those confirmed are called and encouraged to truly transform their part of the world.

The Church hopes to transform those confirmed just as the original disciples were transformed on that first Pentecost. I hope you remember the story of descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at the Pentecost as described in the Acts of the Apostles. The apostles knew what Jesus had promised: the coming of a new advocate, the coming of the Holy Spirit with all the gifts of the Spirit. The apostles did not understand what this was going to mean.

The apostles had experienced the vision of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus had challenged them with

the mission to teach and baptize all in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. However, before the Holy Spirit came, they were still very timid, afraid to be seen, just waiting for something to happen. Then on that Pentecost Day, the Holy Spirit comes in wind and fire. They were truly transformed. The Holy Spirit changes all. They were no longer afraid; they were ready to go into the streets and preach the message of Jesus to all. They found the courage to walk in the way of the Lord no matter what this would mean for them. They preached, they baptized, they discovered the wisdom and the courage of the Holy Spirit to unite the people into a community.

Now, each year, the question comes up: what will the Sacrament of Confirmation accomplish with this year's class? Will they truly influence others in any way? Will this sacramental life in the Holy Spirit lead others closer to God? Will they find the

courage and wisdom like those first apostles? The Church hopes that the Holy Spirit will lead them to live lives dedicated to being good Christians, dedicated disciples of the Lord Jesus. May they live with a new respect for others - for their friends and even for those they do not know at all.

Each time I attend a confirmation, I pray that someone in this class will be the one to truly accomplish something spectacular. I know that occasionally, over the years, I have recognized it. The Holy Spirit leading someone - possibly more than one person - finding them ready to become a terrific Christian, a marvelous leader.

Each Pentecost is a time for each of us to celebrate the anniversary of our confirmation. How have I been doing? Have I been the one who truly have made a difference as a disciple of the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit? Have I made the world a better place?

# Serving mom, aiding in home births

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Contributing Writer

Joyce Wilder was unemployed by choice in January 2020. She had worked as a registered nurse in the maternity units of hospitals since 1995. She is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and a licensed Certified Nurse Midwife.

"I had many prayers for guidance what to do," Wilder said. "I woke up one morning (and a voice was telling me) you are going to do home births. I said, 'OK!'"

That set an odyssey in motion. There have been 120 deliveries in the four years since that first delivery to an Amish woman. Half the pregnant women are Amish, Wilder told us. The other half are either born to Mennonite women or English women. Most are home births. A few, 15 so far, have been born in the birthing center recently located in the Wilder home.

## THE FIRST HOME BIRTH

Right after Wilder decided to put her midwifery skills to work in home births, she called a fellow midwife, Sunday Smith, in Potsdam. Smith had been working in the field a long time. She had clients throughout St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Jefferson Counties. Wilder was assisting Smith with a case in LaFargeville as an apprentice. She felt this was her call; to assist another midwife with home births.

The Amish mother in that case was expecting her 10th child.

Wilder was called to check-up on the mother one day near the pregnant woman's term. Wilder was to determine



PHOTO BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**An Amish buggy carrying a pregnant mom leaves the home of Joyce Wilder after Wilder assessed how the pregnancy was progressing.**

if it was time for Smith to make the trip from Potsdam to oversee the delivery.

Wilder arrived to find the woman in full labor.

"It all happened so fast; I didn't really have time to be nervous," she said. "Within 10 minutes, we had a baby."

The midwife cannot remember if the baby was a boy or girl, but the experience convinced her the path she had chosen was the right one.

## WORD SPREADS QUICKLY

Wilder lives with her husband, Deacon Don Wilder, in the Town of Watertown. It is not unusual to see an Amish buggy outside their home. A pregnant woman is in the birthing room for a check-up or giving birth.

Soon after that first birth, Wilder had a call from another patient. "It

is amazing to me how quickly word spreads in a community that doesn't use phones or social media. But they do go to church every Sunday and talk to others in that large commu-

nity.

The demand for her assistance has her traveling into Oswego County, Lewis County and north to St. Lawrence County as well as clients in her home county, Jefferson.

With the expanded demand comes the predictable headaches. Wilder told us about planning a recent birthday party for her husband Don. She had invited relatives, ordered pizza and wings to be delivered and at the last minute received a call from a patient who was going into labor.

"There is no one to cover for me when that happens," she said. "There are only a few of us in this area. We can arrange coverage during vacations or long absences, but not a one-timer like that. Everybody enjoyed the birthday party but me."

## GETTING TO KNOW THE CLIENTS

Soon after Wilder recognized she was becoming the "go to" midwife for the Amish in several counties, she investigated their culture and practices.



Joyce Wilder

She learned they are religious. As mentioned earlier, they attend church services each Sunday. They celebrate Christmas and Easter but without commercialization.

They believe in God. They read from the Bible often.

"The prayers and the text are usually in Dutch or another language," she said. "They learn English in the one-room school they attend beginning at age five. Once an Amish child graduates from eighth grade, they are in the field or shop for boys; in the kitchen, the barn or performing other household chores for girls.

They believe all things are God's will. Wilder recalls visiting a pregnant client who had recently lost a four-year-old son. The boy had drowned in a pool of water. "It was God's will," Wilder recalls the mother saying. Wilder also recalled they both cried as they discussed the death.

The story was poignant since the Amish are known to be emotionless. They rarely laugh or cry in public.

We wondered how we could get some pictures of an Amish client to accompany this story. "That will be almost impossible," Wilder said.

She recalled a moment a couple of years ago when a three-year-old Amish girl was holding her newborn twin brothers. It was what we called a Kodak moment back in the day.

"I wish I had your permission to take their picture," Wilder said to the mother. "Keep the scene in your memory," was the mother's response. No photography allowed.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

"Right now, I am really struggling with retiring because these Amish women have few alternatives," Wilder said. "Most Amish women have an Amish midwife attend their birth for next to no cost.

Those midwives have been trained on-the-job and have little, if any, technical training, or experience.

The parents reach out to Wilder and other licensed midwives because "they want a healthy baby and a healthy mom. If they feel like something is not right, they call me. Most of the time all they want is a check-up. They want me to reassure them, mother and father, that everything is Ok for the baby and the mother to have a home birth."

Often that is the case "but there have been times I have said I will not proceed with a home birth and have told the couple this mother needs to go to the hospital; usually because the mother's blood pressure is much too high or there is a complication with the pregnancy."

The parents might argue with Wilder's assessment but usually accept the recommendation as "God's will" and follow the midwife's direction.

# Dorothy Day Café dishes up food, community

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

"I feel like COVID caused us to lose some of our sense of community," said Patty Moosbrugger, a parishioner and volunteer at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. "We thought we'd try to build some of that back."

Moosbrugger and fellow parishioner Elizabeth Pietropaoli thought a monthly community dinner - open to everyone in the Potsdam area community, parishioners and non-parishioners - could help foster that missing community.

"Elizabeth and I met with Father Joe (Giroux, pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton), and we asked for his per-

mission," Moosbrugger said. "When he agreed to the idea, we started talking about names. It became the Dorothy Day Café."

A portrait of Day, a Catholic activist and social justice worker whose cause for canonization opened officially in 2000, hangs in the basement hall of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam, the room where the café is held.

As part of their preparation process, Moosbrugger and a friend visited a community dinner held by Trinity Episcopal Church and reached out to the organizers of that dinner.

"We made sure to pick a day that wouldn't compete with an existing community dinner," she said. "We don't want to detract from what others are doing. We wanted to add to it."

When the Café opens for service in May, it will be celebrating its

one-year anniversary. Organizers recently began working with various organizations and ministries within the parish - Knights of Columbus, Gabriel Project, confirmation classes... - to provide the meals.

"At first, we had just a core group of volunteers doing the meals," she said at the April 10 dinner. "A few months ago, we sent letters to all the different ministries of our parish telling them about the café and giving specific examples of how they could help. Gabriel Project provided the food today. We've had the Knights of Columbus here grilling. Father (Bryan) Stitt came and did some grilling for us."

In addition to serving food, volunteers take time to sit and chat or eat with people attending the meal, served at no cost.

"We want people to feel welcome," Moosbrugger said. "And we don't worry about the numbers. We trust whoever is meant to be here will be here. It's a nice ambiance, and the

food is good."

Toward that goal, all meals are served on "real plates, real silverware," not paper plates and plastic utensils, and the tables always have linens on them.

Some months, the dinners or other offerings were themed around nearby holidays.

"We did chocolates for veterans in November for Veterans Day," she said. "We've had music a few times, including music and dancing for St. Patrick's Day. We had a table of books to give away near National Book Lover's Day. For Valentine's Day, the kids at Siena Academy made valentines with messages for us to give to the people who came that month."

The café has been warmly received so far.

"The food is always good, and I've met people I might not otherwise meet - people from the parish and people from the community," Moosbrugger said. "It's been really nice."

Gerard Monnat, a parishioner at St. Mary's in Potsdam and regular

café attendee, agreed.

"I used to go to Trinity Episcopal when they did it before COVID," he said. "When St. Mary's started doing it, I wanted to be involved. My dad was a deacon in Syracuse. He liked to go serve at the rescue mission all the time. I look at the way he reached out to people who had nothing. It's like Dorothy Day reaching out to people who had nothing. That's what the Church is for."

Moosbrugger said she also hopes the café will help people become more familiar with Dorothy Day.

"It's nice for us as Catholics to be familiar with Dorothy Day and her work to build unity and community and love," she said.

The Dorothy Day Café meals are held the second Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the basement hall at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. The entrance to the café is at the rear of the building.

Meals are advertised through local media and through fliers around town.



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### News brief

#### Malone Knights offer Camp Guggenheim scholarship

Attention area youth: Are you considering 2024 Summer Camp Guggenheim?

The Malone Council Knights of Columbus will provide scholarships to two local youth who want to attend camp this year.

To apply for the scholarship, please submit a short essay explaining why you want to attend the camp and why you deserve a scholarship by May 1.

Essays can be either e-mailed to Grand Knight David Petrelli at [davidpetrelli@yahoo.com](mailto:davidpetrelli@yahoo.com) or mailed to Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 695, Malone, NY 12953.

We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for a memorable experience this summer.

## Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Fr. Keefe

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Daniel T. Keefe was celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024, at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. Bishop Terry R. LaValley was principal celebrant, and Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant was the homilist.

Burial followed in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

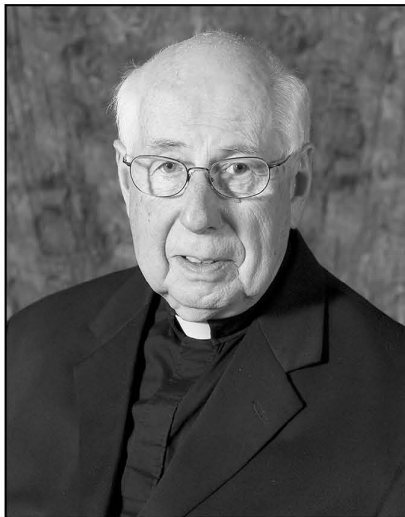
Father Keefe died April 11, 2024, at Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid, where he had been a resident. He was 95.

Born February 27, 1929, in Plattsburgh, he was the son of Francis J. and Kathryn (Tobin) Keefe.

He graduated from St. John's Academy, Plattsburgh, in 1946. Immediately after, he attended Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg on May 22, 1954, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg.

Father Keefe began his ministry as parochial vicar at Church of the Holy Family in Watertown. He then served in that role at St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay. During that assignment, he also spent a year as Deanery Youth Director. After serving most of 1958 as administrator of Church of the Immaculate Conception in Keeseville, he became parochial vicar at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam, with additional duties as moderator of the Newman Club and Father Prior of the Columbian Squire Circle -1096 in Potsdam. He was later parochial vicar at St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora, with additional duties as teacher at the Catholic school in Redford and chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Council -2166 in Dannemora. His next assignment was as administrator at St. Patrick's Church in Rossie and St. Peter's Church in Hammond, later becoming pastor of those churches. During his first assignment as pastor, he also served on the Senate of Priests, as Defender of the Bond and as seminary confessor at Wadhams Hall.

In 1969, Father Keefe was named pastor of the John XXIII College Community Center in Plattsburgh, a role he held until 1984. During that time, he was also named diocesan



Father Daniel T. Keefe

director of Newman Campus Ministry and a member of the Liturgical Commission. He was later named pastor of St. Joseph's in Malone followed by St. Mary's of the Lake in Cumberland Head, also serving on the Council of Priests, as dean of the Franklin Deanery, on the Priest Personnel Board and as dean of Clinton Deanery.

He was later named pastor of St. Joseph's in Malone also serving on the Council of Priests, as dean of the Franklin Deanery, on the Priest Personnel Board. Father Keefe's final assignment before retirement was pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake in Cumberland Head and as dean of Clinton Deanery.

He retired in June of 2004.

In addition to his parents, Father Keefe was predeceased by his brothers, James Keefe and Jack Keefe; and nephews, Kevin Keefe and Daniel Keefe; and brother-in-law Bruce Cornell.

Father Keefe is survived by his sisters-in-law, Margaret Keefe and Mary (John) Roach; nephews, Patrick Keefe and Sean Bedard; and nieces, Doreen Cornell, Donna Keefe (Don) Dick and Molly (Christopher) LaMountain.

Arrangements were under the care of Brown Funeral Home, and the funeral Mass was streamed on the funeral home's Facebook page.

## OBITUARIES

**Canton** – Phyllis (Dunkelberg) Cunningham, 102; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Canton** – James I. Monroe, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Jody LaBombard, 53; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2024 at St. Edmund's Church.

**Fort Covington** – Albert James Smith, Jr., 91; Memorial Mass April 18, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

**Lowville** – William Anderson Jr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 22, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Lyon Mountain** – Shelly Benware, 54; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Marcella J. Goulet-Poitras, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Massena** – Francis "Ona'tsiò:kon" Jackson, 70; Funeral Services April 17, 2024 at Donaldson Funeral Home.

**Morrisonville** – Ellen (Bowen) Cronk, 74; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Morrisonville** – Roswell Sorrell, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – John C. Porier, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2024 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

**Saranac Lake** – Thelma L. (Landry) Pooler, 64; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Saranac Lake** – Theresa (Morford) Taylor, 96; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery, Bloomingdale.

**Ticonderoga** – Rodney L. Budwick, 64; Funeral Services April 20, 2024 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in White Church Cemetery, Crown Point.

**Ticonderoga** – Anthony J. Paniccia, 88; Graveside Services May 31, 2024 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Gary Lee LaFountain, 76; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Waddington** – Robert A. Morley, 54. Graveside Services April 26, 2024 at Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Phyllis J. (Solar) Gaffney, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 20, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Choices

My commitment to eliminating plastics remains strong, the presence of plastics drags behind me like the weight of a much too heavy suitcase as I struggle to make it to the gate on time! The more plastics I remove from my life, the more I see how much our daily lives rely on plastic. I choose the toothpaste in a recyclable tube and box only to find a plastic cap! Adding to my frustration is the recent exposure of the truth regarding how much of recycling never happens. What to do?

Reflecting on Sister Bethany's most recent essay which asks us to look at the plastic crisis through the lens of "Faith, what if," my head began to spin with the possibilities of "what if..." My initial reaction was how non-threatening this concept is and the myriad situations where it could be received as a helpful tactic, a road to a plastic-free world. The message leaves room for the possibility of success by trial and error.

I now use "what if" when I sense the moment might make it possible. Being told to give up plastic to save our planet may be perceived as a forceful, so a gentle tone introducing alternatives and leaving room for suggestions connects us in this endeavor.

Sister Bethany asks us to place our faith first and foremost before any "what if." Speaking from my own heart, there is no request Sister Bethany could put before me that refusal would ever be my answer, but there are moments when I will choose a silent whisper of faith in respect of another's belief or non-belief. I want to inspire others to come up with their own "what ifs" as I continue to pray for each person who will listen to my "what if you stop using plastic bags and change to cloth bags?" Perhaps making an initial one month commitment is a good place for me (us) to start.

**By Maureen O'Connor**

Watertown Faith and Ecology Group

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**April 24** – 11:45 a.m. – Mass at Elderwood of Uihlein in Lake Placid

**April 25** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 26** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 27** – 4:30 p.m. – Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy with St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy

**April 28** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. – Confirmation at Holy Angels Church in Altona with St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, St. Mary's Church in Champlain and St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point

**April 29** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 30** – 10:30 a.m. – Priest Personnel Board Meeting followed by Lunch

**May 1** – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. James Minor Church in Carthage with St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen

## Rest in Peace

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

**April 24** – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., 1994

**April 26** – Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998

**April 27** – Rev. John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., 1908; Rev. Michael F. Ambrose, 1934

**April 28** – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

**April 29** – Rev. Arthur C. Kenny, 1945; Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

**April 30** – Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

# NY AG, Brooklyn Diocese reach agreement over abuse mishandling

**By Daniel Payne**  
Catholic News Agency

New York Attorney General Letitia James has announced that the Diocese of Brooklyn has agreed to "significant action" to address shortcomings in how it handles sexual abuse complaints.

The diocese "knew about this pervasive problem" for years, James said upon making the announcement, but "did not adequately address allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct," leading the organization to fail to "consistently comply with its own policies and procedures for responding to sexual abuse."

In 2018, James' office launched an investigation into the diocese. Among the failures highlighted by the investigation include an instance

in which the diocese for more than a decade neglected to inform parishioners after a priest admitted to sexually abusing minors.

In another case, the diocese "repeatedly transferred [a] priest from parish to parish" in order to avoid complaints of inappropriate conduct.

Overall, the attorney general's report on the inquiry cited nearly a dozen "clergy case histories" in which the diocese failed in various ways to investigate or address abuse claims against priests.

Among the terms to which the diocese agreed include the installation of an "independent, secular monitor," one who will both oversee the diocese's compliance with its abuse reporting procedures and who will also "issue an annual report" on its handling of sex abuse claims.

The diocese will also strengthen its current abuse reporting and monitoring policies, create new safety offices and committees, and

hire a "Clergy Monitor" with "law enforcement or counseling experience" who will "develop and oversee abuse prevention plans for priests who have been accused of sexual abuse."

The diocese "has made a commitment to implementing holistic reforms that will ensure every report of sexual abuse or misconduct is handled quickly and transparently," James said in the press release. "New Yorkers deserve to trust their faith leaders, and my office will continue to support the diocese's efforts to rebuild that trust with their community."

Brooklyn Bishop Robert Brennan said in a statement on Tuesday that the agreement "concludes a difficult period in the life of the Church."

"While the Church should have been a sanctuary, I am deeply sorry that it was a place of trauma for the victims of clergy sexual abuse," said Brennan, who was installed as the eighth bishop of Brooklyn in November 2021.

"I pray God's healing power will sustain them. Today, we move forward with the strongest policies in place for the protection of children and adults."

In addition to its updated reporting and monitoring policies, the Brooklyn Diocese will in the future also "publicly announce any decisions to remove priests or other clergy members from active ministry" by "issuing a press release and adding the offender's name to a published list of credibly accused clergy."

## To Report Abuse

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

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

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled Protecting God's Children training sessions. This required training addresses child abuse, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. Pre-registration is encouraged at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**April 24** – 6 p.m. – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown  
**May 6** – 10 a.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur

# Catholic, Anglican nuns defend religious freedom in New York's high court

By Tyler Arnold  
Catholic News Agency

A coalition of Christian groups - including Catholic nuns, Anglican nuns, Catholic dioceses, and other faith-based ministries - defended their religious freedom rights to abstain from covering abortions in their health care plans in front of New York's highest court on Tuesday.

The New York State Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in a lawsuit that challenges a New York Department of Financial Services regulation that could require the organizations to cover "medically necessary" abortions. Although the law includes a narrow religious exemption, the strict criteria needed to qualify for the exemption could prevent many faith-based organizations from being approved.

Even though the New York State Court of Appeals previously upheld the regulation, the United States Supreme Court asked that the court reconsider its ruling in light of the new religious freedom precedent set in 2021.

Noel Francisco, the lawyer representing the religious groups, told the seven-judge panel that the regulation would force these groups to violate their religious beliefs. He said the narrow religious exemption allows some faith-based groups to abstain from funding abortion but that others fail to qualify, which effectively lets the state "pick religious

winners and losers."

Per the state regulation, a faith-based organization would only qualify for the exemption if it primarily employs people who share in its religious tenets and primarily serves people who share in its religious tenets. Effectively, charitable faith-based organizations that provide services to people regardless of their faith are unable to qualify.

In his oral arguments, Francisco argued that the law is not generally applicable because it does not treat all religious groups equally and prevents some faith-based groups from qualifying for an exemption based on its narrow criteria. Under the strict rules, he noted that the ministry of St. Teresa of Calcutta, widely known as Mother Teresa, would not even be able to qualify for a religious exemption under such rules.

"Under this law, the state would have the discretion to deny a religious employer exemption to Mother Teresa and the sisters of Calcutta because, the last time I checked, the poor people of Calcutta were not predominantly Catholic," Francisco told the judges. "This is a regime that is contrary to the Supreme Court precedent from root to branch."

The judges challenged Assistant Solicitor General Laura Etlinger, who represented the state agency that promulgated the regulation, during oral arguments. One of the primary concerns

expressed by the judges was that the regulation would force faith-based ministries to either provide abortion coverage or drastically curtail their religious mission to conform themselves to the exemption criteria.

In her oral arguments, Etlinger claimed the state drew "a reasonable line" when setting the criteria for an exemption. She further argued that ruling against the state would "discourage the state from providing accommodations" and the result would be "restrictions on free exercise rather than promoting free exercise."

Etlinger told the judges that there is "deference [given] to the requesting objector" when an organization applies for the exemption and noted the organizations suing the state "have never sought an exemption."

In a rebuttal, Francisco countered that his clients did not apply for an exemption because they provide services to people regardless of faith and clearly did not meet the criteria set in the state regulation.

The United States Supreme Court requested that the New York State Court of Appeals reconsider the case in light of the religious freedom victory in *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that Philadelphia could not discriminate against faith-based adoption services that refuse to facilitate adoptions for homosexual couples.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Republicans call for NCAA ban on men in women's sports

A group of 17 House Republican lawmakers, led by Rep. Claudia Tenney from New York, is urging the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to prohibit biological men from participating in women's sports. Under current NCAA rules, biological male athletes who self-identify as women can participate in women-only sports competitions if they take testosterone suppressants and bring down their testosterone levels to the maximum allowed for a specific sport. The athletes must provide documentation several times per year to show their testosterone levels. The lawmakers penned a letter to NCAA President Charlie Baker that asks him to limit participation in women-only sports to biological women. They sent the letter to Baker about a week after a smaller college athletics association — the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) — unanimously voted to restrict most women's sports to biological women and forbade biological males from participating in such competitions. "We must protect the opportunity for women and girls to compete and succeed in athletics fairly," Tenney said in a statement. "While I applaud the NAIA's recent decision to ban biological men from women's sports, I am deeply disturbed that the NCAA is ignoring the facts and failing to do the same," Tenney added. "Women fought hard to earn the critical protections of Title IX, and we must continue to protect these opportunities for generations to come."

### Notre Dame in Paris to reopen Dec. 7, five years after fire

On April 15, 2019, Paris witnessed one of the most devastating tragedies in its recent history. Notre Dame Cathedral, a religious, architectural, and cultural symbol that had withstood the passage of time, was engulfed in flames. The fire, which originated in the space under the roof, quickly spread through the wooden rafters of the attic loaded with centuries of history and flammable material. The flames consumed the iconic spire of the cathedral, which collapsed in a dense column of smoke. Despite the disaster, except for the main altar, all the works of art in the cathedral and the reliquary containing the crown of thorns were rescued and safely stored in different places. The archbishop of Paris, Laurent Ulrich, announced in a pastoral letter that the reopening of the cathedral is scheduled to begin with a triduum on Dec. 7 that will include the official inauguration in which the French state, which actually owns the cathedral, turns it over to the Catholic Church for the use of worship. A liturgical celebration with a Magnificat or a Te Deum will be held that day and then vespers. The consecration of the altar is scheduled to take place on Sunday, Dec. 8, during the first Mass in the restored cathedral. Finally, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated, which this year is moved to Dec. 9 because the feast falls on the second Sunday of Advent.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

# 'To be connected to him and bear fruit'

When was the last time that you got pruned? Have you ever been pruned? I remember as a child hearing this gospel story and wondering about vines and prunes. I had never heard the verb prune before, and envisioned prunes as just dried up fruit as in the old commercial: "Have you had your prunes today?" or as in the expression "Don't have such a prune face!" or "Don't be an old prune!" None of these expressions sound very complimentary.

Jesus does not mince any words. He clearly states his understanding of pruning. If we want to enjoy life, we need to be connected to him and bear fruit: two big demands. Just like a branch cannot survive if it is not attached to the rest of the tree, so we cannot survive unless we are attached to him.

Pruning makes the tree bear even more fruit. So,

being attached to Jesus is important, and, if we are not bearing fruit, then, in his words: "Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither." I don't know about you, but that sounds serious to me. Again, there are two very important aspects, remaining attached to Jesus and bearing fruit.

Think back on your own lives. Were there ever times when you were not bearing much fruit? Were there times when the fruit was nonexistent? Here's the point: At those moments of your life when you were not a vibrant part of the tree, in other words, a vibrant part of Christ, was your life better? I would be willing to bet that the answer is "no," that you were not better without Christ, without being attached to the tree.

Put another way, is your life better with or

April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 9:26-31  
1 John 3:18-24  
John 15:1-8

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

without Christ? You see we were made to be part of God's life. When Christ came into the world, he made that even more clear especially with the image of him being the vine and us being the branches.

There are three very important ways to remain united with Jesus: when we gather in his name, when we listen to and obey his word, and when we share his body and blood. It sounds so very simple, and it is, but so many have forgotten this fact and have chosen to try to live lives apart from the

true vine.

Where do we find Jesus? Clearly, the answer is in his Church. We hear some say that they do not need a church to find Jesus. Well, no matter what anyone of us may think, it's Jesus who decides where he can be found, not us. Jesus established the Church to be his living presence among men. The Jesus who rose from the dead lives in his Church. Paul said it this way in his letter to the Colossians: "Jesus is the head of his body, the Church; he is the source of the body's life."

However, and here's the hook, if others are to find Jesus in the Church, it has to be through us who are the Church. The Church is not a body of bricks or stone. Rather, the Church is the body of Christ, his people.

When we gather in his name, especially at the Eucharist, we are Church. As Church, we celebrate God's word. In this context, we share his body and blood. What an awesome privilege we have! What an awesome responsibility, to be the body of Christ. Perhaps this little reflection can help us realize even more the greatness that we celebrate in the Eucharist: Lord, you are the vine, and we are your branches. As the branches draw life from the vine, so we draw life from you. Lord, help us remain united to you always, by gathering in your name, by hearing your word, and by sharing your Body and Blood. For in this way, we make you visible to our world. Lord, help us remember always that where your Church is, there you are.

FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

## Kids getting more out of Mass

*Editor's Note: In celebration of the Eucharistic Revival, Father Bryan Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will answer questions about worship, the Eucharist and related topics. To submit a question, email bstitt@rcdony.org.*



### FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

**What can we do as a family to help our kids get more out of the Mass?**

Great question. Thanks for asking.

Here's a tip from a family I know well: include the Sunday readings in your family prayer each night. I've been with

them a number of times when they do so. It's never fancy, but it is profound. Dad reads just one of the 4 readings that will be proclaimed the following Sunday. (That way they're sure to get through them all by the end of the week.) He might ask a question about it or offer an insight. Then they go on

to sharing what they are thankful for that day and what they each want to pray for the following day. I'll tell you what, those kids soak it up. They might not always sit very still, but they are absorbing the Word of God, and then they and their parents have a much easier time absorbing it on Sunday.

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him



(With ecclesiastical approval)

MAY 2024

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2024		Our Lady		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY	REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG	REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF	REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	REV. JOSEPH P. LEA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
OUR PASTOR	REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS	REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
POPE FRANCIS	REV. MICHAEL H. MARZAN	MSGR. JOHN MCAVOY	REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU	REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
DECEASED PRIESTS	REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH	MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY	ORDINAND REV. C. PIERCE & REV. D. SCHIRMER	REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY	REV. FRANK NATALE	REV. JUDE C. SNADBIUGHA
29	30	31				
REV. KEVIN J. O'BRIEN	REV. JOHN KENNEDY CHUOK	REV. AMRUTA KUMAR PASALA				

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



## CALLED TO SERVE

# Fragrance of a field the Lord has blessed

There are certain markers that never leave you. The first light snowfall reminds me to get the snowblower ready for the next several months. The sound of geese flying in formation to the north always makes me look up and smile. Spring has arrived.

You can probably name half a dozen things that prompt instant memories.

Certain smells cause me to remember places and events.

The aroma of dew on wet ground in the early morning takes me to Boy Scout camp. The pungent smell of the ocean catapults my mind to Jones Beach off Long Island and the happy memories of family on an outing. It

also reminds me of my Nana's aversion to even the word "fish" and the code my grandfather developed to let everyone, including his wife know the rest of the family would be dining out next Friday. Oh joy! That meant halibut steak for Kevin, not scrambled eggs.

For some reason, I was thinking about smells while I was driving to a meeting in Ogdensburg recently. There was no particular reason my brain went to the olfactory sense, at least none I can conjure. My mind works that way sometimes. I have learned to live with the meanderings.

So here I was driving at the speed limit, or just slightly above the limit, watching traffic

ahead and behind me and thinking about my other grandmother's baked ziti dish. The smell of that dish is how I remember Nanny.

Nana and Nanny. It was tough for a kid to forget their names. Shows how clever my parents were.

The radio in the car was on too. It is always on when I drive except when Kathy and I are praying the Rosary or something.

At that moment, as I passed by a couple of billboards on the side of the road and remembered for the umpteenth time that they were regulated or banned or something once, that the announc-

er on the public radio station started talking about aroma billboards.

He was talking about some company in New Zealand that was offering billboard space to clients that would not only attract your attention visually; the billboard would also impress your sense of smell with a scent. I almost lost control of the car.

Then I remembered a fast-food restaurant in my hometown that vented the ovens directly into the atmosphere above the store. You could smell the restaurant before you got to it.

How about a billboard that not only enticed

you to come to the Golden Arches a mile away with its clever wording and graphics but also appealed to your salivating glands with the aroma of French fries?

I did some research. Aroma Marketing is a big deal in other parts of the world. South Africa, France, Germany, United Kingdom, and others popped up immediately. It shouldn't be long before we see the smiling face of our bishop urging us to come home to Mass and the aroma of incense greets our nose and says, "Come Home!"

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown NY.

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



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

## New film depicts life of Flannery O'Connor

By Francesca Pollio Fenton  
Catholic News Agency

A new film depicting the life of American writer Flannery O'Connor, whose work reflected her Catholic faith and frequently examined questions of faith, morality, and suffering, will be released in theaters on May 3.

"Wildcat" follows O'Connor as she struggles with a lupus diagnosis at age 24, the same disease that took her father's life, and dives into an exploration of beliefs. Actress Maya Hawke portrays O'Connor, and her father, Ethan Hawke, directed, co-wrote, and produced the film.

The inspiration for the movie came from Maya Hawke, who created a monologue from entries in O'Connor's "Prayer Journal" for an audition

for Juilliard, to which she was accepted. After performing her monologue for her family, they were blown away. She said that ever since, she's had a personal connection with O'Connor and eventually asked her father to help her make the movie.

Executive producer Eric Groth, a Catholic and the CEO of Renovo Media Group and president of ODB Films, told CNA in an interview that he was drawn to the movie because "we [his company] really love to bring beautiful, good, and true stories front and center and that certainly focus on things of a Catholic nature."

"I hadn't read a lot of Flannery, I had read a little bit, but I was very intrigued by her and who she was and how important she was in the 20th

century as an author," he added. "And I was very fascinated by the fact that there hadn't been a lot of things produced about her or her stories."

However, what attracted him the most to the film was the "family element."

"I love that Ethan and Maya were doing something as a father and daughter and even Ethan's wife, Ryan, was one of our lead producers and all of Ethan's other kids found their way into the film as well," Groth said.

Groth pointed out that he believes this story is important to tell today because "the culture can really learn from her."

"I think she had a really great ability to converge all her faith with what she was living out in her day," he explained.

The producer shared

that in his eyes, O'Connor "kind of flips grace on its head. We kind of put God in a box and think if God is going to deliver grace it's going to come through this really nice channel ... I think Flannery says, 'Look, God can deliver his grace in any way, any time, any fashion.'"

He continued: "People need to know that God is there, God is present, and we can look and see that God's grace comes from all different things."

Groth hopes that viewers will "walk away with a tremendous appreciation" for the 20th-century Gothic-style writer.

"She saw the messiness of the world, and that messiness — God is in the midst of it, that God enters into it and that our lives are messy," he said. "I want

people to walk away seeing somebody who saw that and understood it. I want them to walk away seeing a young woman who suffered terribly from a disease that ultimately took her life, but that she pressed on."

He added that he hopes the audience will see that "we're called to seek that relationship with God and it's going to be difficult at times, but also that we can be victorious and that we can look to see how God's going to deliver grace to us in all kinds of ways."



## 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:** Apr. 28

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

**Place:** Online

**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)

**PLANTING CREATION CARE TEAMS**

Join us for two virtual gatherings of presentations, reflection time, and opportunities to share ideas to start and maintain a creation care team in your parish organized by the Laudato Si' Committees of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Syracuse.

**Date:** May 16 and 23

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

**Place:** Zoom (link will be sent a few days before event)

**Features:** Creation Care Teams raise awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on the care for our common home, discover practical ways to promote ecologically sound practices, and foster a thriving sustainable community within your parish.

**Contact:** To register: [www.rcdony.org/laudatosi](http://www.rcdony.org/laudatosi)

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

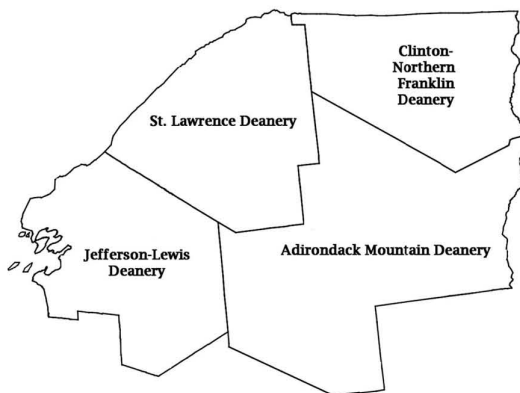
**FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM**

Lake Placid - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

**Date:** May 15

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

**Features:** Complementary lunch will be provided. New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's nearly 100 Friendship Volunteers



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.

from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and 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.

**Contact:** There is no cost for the training but registration is required. To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Katherine Rhodes, Mercy Care's Elder Care Manager, at [krhodes@adkmercy.org](mailto:krhodes@adkmercy.org) or call 518-523-5585

**DINNER & BUFFET FUNDRAISER**

Lake Placid - St. Agnes and Mr. Mike's are teaming up to host a fundraiser to benefit the NEW Food Pantry and Thrift Store Building Fund.

**Date:** May 19

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

**Place:** Mr. Mike's Pizza

Cost: Suggested Donation is \$20 per adult, \$12 per child. Cash or Checks (made out to Ecumenical Food Pantry) only. Sorry, no credit cards.

**Features:** Eat So Others May Eat! Join us for an Italian Dinner & Pizza Buffet.

**Contact:** For further information [contact: stagneslpoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:stagneslpoutreach@gmail.com).

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

**BELATED ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Ellenburg - Father Garvin J. Demarais, who was ordained May 2, 1981, will celebrate a belated 40th anniversary Mass.

**Date:** May 26

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** Bishop LaValley, along with priests, religious, deacons and lay people from around the diocese will be in attendance. Reception to follow.

**Contact:** Send notes to PO Box 1741, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

**Date:** April 25

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

**Place:** St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adult, \$10; Child, \$7

**Features:** Take-out available, please bring your own containers.

**RUMMAGE SALE**

Constableville - St. Mary's Church will hold their annual Rummage Sale.

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Church Hall

**Features:** Household items,

clothing, baby items, miscellaneous. Food and beverage available. Lottery board raffle and 50/50

**Contact:** For more information contact Julie Hutchins at (315) 397-2708

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

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

**Date:** May 4

**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

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**

Houseville - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

**Date:** May 5, June 2, July 7

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## ST. LAWRENCE

**ORGAN CONCERT**

Ogdensburg - German organist and composer Paul Fey journeys to Ogdensburg as part of his 2024 U.S. Tour.

**Date:** April 24

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

**Features:** The program titled "Music from Leipzig," includes composers who have lived and worked in Leipzig, Germany, starting with the famous J.S. Bach and continuing through the centuries, including works by the artist himself.

**Contact:** For more information, please call the parish office at 315-393-3930.

**TRINITY GALA**

Massena - Trinity School to have their annual Gala.

**Date:** April 27

Cost: \$70 per person, \$540 for a

Table of 8

**Theme:** Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Looking towards the Future.

**Contact:** Please call Trinity Catholic School at 315-769-5911 to purchase tickets or for questions, or see our website for more details [www.trinitycatholic-school.net](http://www.trinitycatholic-school.net)

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

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

**Date:** May 4

**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:** May 4

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

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

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

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

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** May 12 (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 Gonthier 315-212-5166.



## 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

## Faiths cooperating

In Miri, a Malaysian city in the province of Sarawak (in Malaysian Borneo), less than 100 meters apart are the “Masjid An Naim” mosque and the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd. There is mutual hospitality between the communities. On Fridays, the church opens its gate to allow Muslims to park their vehicles during prayer time, while on Sundays, the mosque does the same. Christian faithful of the church and the Muslim faithful of the mosque come together on special occasions for each other’s religious holidays.

As *Fides* learned, the religious communities of Miri share spaces, facilities, events “and for them it is so natural that it is part of their daily way of life,” explained the Archbishop of Kuching, Simon Poh Hoon Seng, noting that the people of Sarawak “show that they are truly a big family, not in slogans but in everyday life.”

It should not be forgotten, he continued, that “racial and religious intolerance continues to manifest itself from time to time in the country, with acts of hostility that create tensions and divisions within society,” but precisely because of this, he noted, “there is a need for greater understanding and respect for the diversity that exists in our country and, to work for harmony.”

The archbishop also presented the Message of the Vatican Dicastery for interreligious dialogue for the month of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, entitled “Christians and Muslims: extinguish the fire of war and light the candle of peace,” inviting us to “look together at the Almighty as the God of peace, the source of peace, who loves all those who dedicate their lives to the service of peace in a special way.”

A large “interreligious Iftar” was also organized by the Muslim Council of Elders in Kuala Lumpur, with the participation of numerous Christian leaders, including Msgr. Julian Leow, Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur. Numerous Muslim personalities emphasized the importance of interreligious dialogue in the creation of peace and asked the faithful to make an effort to get to know people of other religions. The Christian faithful present appreciated the opportunity to come together with people from different backgrounds, emphasizing the importance of promoting understanding and cooperation between different faith communities. The Muslim Council of Elders stressed the vital importance of supporting peace and mutual acceptance within Malaysian society. In a world troubled by wars and discord, the end-of-Ramadan celebration “represents a poignant reminder of our common humanity, illustrating the profound capacity for unity and compassion among all individuals and peoples,” the Council said.

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

## Around the diocese

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### DIOCESAN EVENTS

#### DOVS RAFFLE

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) is having a Raffle from Sunday, April 21-June 20, 2024 to support promoting the culture of vocations in the Diocese. On June 20, the DOVS will be making a Pilgrimage to St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle la Motte, VT to pray for vocations.

Cost: The cost of the tickets is \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

**Features:** 1st Prize--\$500.; 2nd Prize—Quilt and Rocking Chair; 3rd Prize--\$50 gift card, \$25. Visa Gift Card, \$25.00 Gift Card to Walmart.

**Contact:** For any questions, contact Constance Randall, connierandall47@yahoo.com (315) 783-0574.

#### LEAD EVENTS

The following is a list of LEAD (Leaders for Evangelization and Discipleship) events that will be held across the diocese. Schedule:

April 27, Massena, St. Mary’s Social Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., “Using CHOSEN as a Tool for Catechesis,” <https://www.rcdony.org/Chosen1>, \$10

May 4, Plattsburgh Regional Office, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., “Fostering Holiness in Children”, No Cost

May 8, Virtual, 6 p.m. to 8, “Fostering Holiness in Children”, No Cost

**Features:** We are all called to know our faith and to share it with others. LEAD offers quality diocesan and regional events to support the varied work of parish ministries. These opportunities include spiritual, personal and professional development, networking and days of reflection. All involved in parish ministries are invited to attend LEAD events. If there is a cost associated with the event, parishes may receive a bill.

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/certworkshops](http://www.rcdony.org/certworkshops) unless otherwise noted.

#### ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Ogdensburg - Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Carter Gabriel Pierce and Deacon Douglas Alexander Schirmer.

**Date:** May 25

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Features:** A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at [www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://www.rcdony.org/ordination). The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

#### RACHELS VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – A Rachel’s Vineyard After-Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

**Date:** May 24-26

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** If you or a friend are suffering after abortion loss, you are not alone. Find hope and healing at the spring Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat.

**Contact:** Register online: [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life) or contact The Respect Life Office for more information: [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org) or [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) for a list of locations.

#### CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is now open for Camp Guggenheim. Schedule: Session 1: June 30 to July 3 (11-13 yrs old); Session 2: July 7 to July 12 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 3: July 14 to July 19 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 4:

July 21 to July 26 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 5: July 28 to Aug. 2 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 6: Aug. 4 to Aug. 9 (16-18 yrs old) \$425

Cost: Session 1, \$200 per Camper. Session 2-6, \$425 per camper

**Features:** Are you ready to have a week of summer camp like no other? Since 1972, young people have called Guggenheim “home away from home.” Located on the shores of lower Saranac Lake, Summer Camp Guggenheim is a great place to make friends, draw closer to Christ and have a fun in a natural setting.

**Contact:** For more information or to register go to [www.rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp) by June 1

#### FOSTER GRANDPARENT

FGP is a local program that shows you how you can apply the skills and wisdom you have acquired throughout your life to make a difference in the lives of others. Get involved in the community and build relationships to last a lifetime. If you’re 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent. You’ll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave. Opportunities available in Franklin, Essex, Clinton, St. Lawrence and Jefferson County.

**Contact:** Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator at (518) 359-7688 or E-mail: [mhoward@cathcharities.org](mailto:mhoward@cathcharities.org)

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# Opportunities for Adoration

*Editor's Note: The following has been compiled as a joint effort of the North Country Catholic and the diocesan Vocations Office. To add or update a listing, email [news@rcdony.org](mailto:news@rcdony.org).*

**Holy Angels Church, Altona**  
After 8 a.m. Mass, dedicated to Vocations and the church

**St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls**  
Wednesday & Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**St. Mary's Church, Canton**  
Tuesday 4:10 p.m. to 5:10

**St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent**  
First Friday of the month

**St. James Church, Carthage**  
Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 6, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11, First Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday morning

**St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay**  
Wednesday 5 p.m. to 6, Adoration, First Friday 8:30 a.m., Communion Service followed by Adoration for Vocations

**All Saints Church, Chaumont**  
First Thursday of the month 3 p.m.

**Sacred Heart Church, Chazy**  
At various times as needed, please contact parish 518-846-7650 for more information

**St. Mary's Church, Clayton**  
First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass

**St. Stephen's Church, Croghan**  
First Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 including prayer for Vocations

**St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora**  
Wednesday & Friday 11 a.m. before noon Mass

**St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown**  
Summer 9 a.m. to 10, Winter 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg**  
Monday after 5:30 p.m. Mass

**St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington**  
Tuesday 5 p.m. to 6, Sat. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., except when it's a First Saturday

**St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville**  
First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

**St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid**  
Tuesday 1 p.m. to 5:30, with vocations emphasized

**St. Peter's Church, Lowville**  
First Friday of the month with intention to Vocations

**St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain**  
First Friday of the month after 9 a.m. Mass

**St. Peter's Parish, Massena**  
Held at Sacred Heart Church 12:45 p.m. to 1:45

**St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks**  
After 8 a.m. Mass, dedicated to Vocations and the church

**St. Augustine Church, North Bangor**  
Thursday 10 a.m. to 11

**St. Andrew's Church, Norwood**  
Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon

**St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg**  
Entryway for the Deacon Winter Chapel, Thursday before First Friday from 7 p.m. to 8, Wednesday 3 p.m. to 6

**St. John's Church, Plattsburgh**  
Holy Family Basement Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden**  
Rectory Chapel, Wednesday Mornings after Mass for 30 minutes

**St. Mary's Church, Potsdam**  
Tuesday 12:45 p.m. to 4:30, First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

**Church of the Assumption, Redford**  
Tuesday & Thursday 11 a.m. before noon Mass

**St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls**  
First Saturday, following 4:30 anticipated Mass

**St. Andrews Church, Sackets Harbor**  
Friday 4 p.m. to 5

**St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake**  
Monday 7 p.m. to 8

**Holy Family Church, Watertown**  
Monday's following noon Mass

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown**  
One hour prior to Mass, First Friday of the Month

**St. Anthony's Church, Watertown**  
First Sunday of the Month 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**St. Patrick's Church, Watertown**  
Every Thursday after Noon Mass until 8 p.m.

**St. Ann's Church, Wells**  
Half an hour after Sunday Mass every Third Sunday of the month.

**St. Philip Neri Church, Westport**  
Half Hour every other Friday (before Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)

**St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro**  
Holy Hour on First Fridays (before Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)



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