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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 5

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 1, 2024

## Sisters of St. Joseph to sell Motherhouse

Last week, the Sisters of St. Joseph announced that they have listed 1425 Washington St., the Motherhouse location, on the market.

"The current number of 18 Sisters living in the residence has led them to the decision that the property and buildings could be repurposed for a broader and better use to meet the needs of the Watertown Community and surrounding area," the Sisters of St. Joseph said in a press statement.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## AT THE YOUTH RALLY



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Participants in the diocesan Youth Rally play a game, Electricity, as one of the final activities before 4 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. The rally was held April 20 at Trinity Catholic School in Massena. See the full story on Page 3 and additional photos on Page 12.

## RETREAT RETURNS

*Our Lady of  
the Holy Rosary*



*Women's  
Healing Retreat*

The third Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Women's Healing Retreat is scheduled for Oct. 10-13 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. Deborah Hintopoulos attended the first two retreats, and she's already registered for the third.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

# Pope begins series on theological virtues

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Wednesday opened a new chapter in his ongoing catechetical series on virtues by pivoting to a reflection on the three theological virtues - faith, hope, and charity - which he noted form the key pillars of Christian life.

The Holy Father bolstered his analysis by looking to the legacy of St. John Paul II.

"Looking at his life, we can see what man can achieve by accepting and developing within himself the gifts of God: faith, hope, and charity," the pope said to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Saturday will mark the 10th anniversary of St. John Paul II's canonization.

"Remain faithful to his legacy. Promote life and do not be deceived by the culture of death. Through his intercession, we ask God for the gift of peace for which he, as pope, has worked so hard."

The pope framed his predecessor's legacy within the context of the three theological virtues, which he characterized as the "fundamental attributes" of a Christian life and "the great antidote to self-sufficiency."

"The Christian is never alone," the pope said. "He does good not because of a titanic effort of personal commitment but be-

cause, as a humble disciple, he walks behind the master, Jesus."

Harkening back to his previous reflections on the four cardinal virtues - prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance - Pope Francis noted while they "constitute the 'hinge' of a good life," it is the three theological virtues that lead Christians "toward the fullness of life," as they are "received and lived out in relationship with God."

But the pope stressed that the four cardinal virtues were not "replaced" by Christianity but instead "enhanced, purified, and integrated."

The pope stressed that living a life predicated upon the theological virtues forms a firewall

against the vices, namely pride, which can "spoil a whole life marked by goodness."

The pope asked: "A person may have performed a mountain of good deeds, may have reaped accolades and praise, but if he has done all this only for himself, to exalt himself, can he still call himself a virtuous person?"

But the Holy Father reminded the faithful: "If we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, he re-views the theological virtues in us. If we have lost confidence, God reopens us to faith; if we are discouraged, God awakens hope in us; if our heart is hardened, God softens it with his love."

NORTH  
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# It's amazing!

He'll never stop surprising and amazing me. My son, Jake, turns 17 in just over a week.

When Jake was diagnosed with autism just before his second birthday, I didn't know what our lives would look like moving forward, and I didn't know what the future held for my joyful and delightful "little big man," as I referred to him, who happened to be non-verbal and have profound sensory issues around loud noises, strong smells, and food

textures and flavors, but I certainly didn't think it would look like this.

As of last year, Jake is no longer classified as a student in need of special education services. He attends typical classes with almost no required accommodations beyond extended test time, which he typically uses only for Regents tests or similar. He brought home his report card this week. The lowest grade on it was an 88 in English. He had a 100 in his business math class!

**Darcy L. Fargo**

I feel like words can't adequately describe how proud I am of him.

Beyond that, Jake has a close group of friends. They regularly talk and text about sports, day-to-day happenings and whatever else teen boys talk about. They occasionally video chat to show one another new sports cards or collectibles. A couple of them altar serve with Jake.

He was also asked this year to be the manager of the varsity baseball team at his school. He's been warmly accepted and included as part of the team. He's learned to keep stats in a sport that isn't necessarily

his favorite, and he gets to spend even more time with some of his closest friends and his favorite teacher, who coaches the team. He was beaming when he received his uniform, and his team hat and jacket.

I thank God every day for this amazing young man. I thank God every day for planting us in a community that has embraced him, quirks and all. I thank God for all the teachers, therapists, support professionals, providers... who helped him get to where he is.

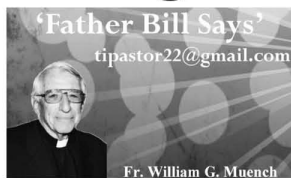
Both God and Jake will never stop surprising and amazing me.

## Considering our confirmations

Today, I would like to continue to write about the Sacrament of Confirmation. Last week, I mentioned to you that our parish had our confirmation ceremony recently. Our bishop came to confirm the high school students who have been preparing to receive the sacrament this year. It was a great ceremony.

On the next Sunday, I described this confirmation ceremony to the congregation. I was inspired to tell them that I believed that each time the bishop comes for confirmation, we should consider this the anniversary of our own confirmation. I must say that for many of us, that was years ago. Yet, we believe that this Sacrament of Confirmation, this coming of the Holy Spirit is for a lifetime. The reception of confirmation is the beginning of the action of the Holy Spirit that continues throughout our entire lives.

Each year, as a new class of students prepares to receive this important Sacrament of Confirmation, we emphasize that the Holy



Fr. William G. Muench

Spirit comes to lead them to live well in the way of the Lord Jesus. Our Church hopes that those to be confirmed will become spectacular disciples of the Lord Jesus. We pray that they will live holy, dedicated lives as Christians, always witnessing to their love for others in the spirit of Jesus. Our constant hope is that these young people are confirmed to make a difference by their lives here and now.

Now, for us, we, who have celebrated our confirmation, now celebrating our anniversaries, this is the time to consider in prayer how we are doing. Have our lives demonstrated the constant action of the Holy Spirit each day. Have we brought Jesus' love and peace into our own lives and the way we treat others? As confirmed Catholics, have we lived as good Christians,

as good disciples of the Lord Jesus?

Recently, our Church celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus wanted an image to show us his spirit. This Good Shepherd was perfect for Jesus' time. A Good Shepherd, then and now, is dedicated to taking care of his flock. He is protective and loving - ever ready even to lay down his life to protect his sheep.

Jesus challenges us, confirmed Catholics, to live in this very same image, the image of the Good Shepherd. He challenges us to be dedicated and loving, always ready to love our neighbor as ourselves, ever ready to lay down our lives. Few of us will never be challenged to risk our own lives for another. The image of laying down our life for another also requires of us a readiness to live for another - dedicated, caring, helping and working for others.

We, Catholics, use the word, vocation. We believe our Lord calls us, leads us, guides us, so we can make our world better than ever before. Jesus calls us in many wonderful ways to

be his dedicated disciples. This call for some is a religious vocation - to be a priest, a deacon, a religious sister. There are so many who realized that they recognized a special call from the Lord, and they find a peace and joy at becoming a priest, a deacon, a sister. And we certainly need them in our Church - to be leaders, to strengthen the life of our Catholic Church.

In addition, I believe there is a special call, a special vocation for all others who are touched by the Holy Spirit to bring new life to themselves and to bring new life to our Church. They may find their vocation as a married person through their families or as a single person - again specially called by the Lord. Truly this is a vocation. God's is preparing them to live the Lord's love and peace, to find joy and happiness by serving the Lord in his Church. So, I believe the Lord reaches out to all of us with a call - truly he calls us by name. May we be aware and listen when the Lord reaches out to us.

# Teens share fun, faith at annual Youth Rally

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Though it was a Saturday and school was not in session, Trinity Catholic in Massena was full of youthful laughter on April 20, as youth from around the diocese gathered for the annual Youth Rally.

Starting with ice breaker games and ending with Mass, the youth had a full day of faith and fun centered around this year's theme, "Walking in Faith."

"It's cool meeting other Catholic kids from other schools," said Emma Riutta, 13, from St. James Church in Gouverneur. "Everyone's really nice. I feel like it's good to be around people who share our faith. In today's world, middle school kids find ways to make jokes about faith or talk down on it, so it's nice to be in a place where everyone has that in common."

"I found out my cousin was going, and I knew it would be fun," said Eloise Schrader-Stark, 13, of St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington. "Things like this encourage me to keep going in my faith and to stay in Church."

Schrader-Stark, Riutta and Garrison White, 15, of Gouverneur, all agreed that the ice breaker games and other games were their favorite part of the rally.

"I liked the game with cards," White said. "We all had cards with questions on them, and we went around asking the questions."

Schrader-Stark said she preferred a game



(Above) Youth from around the diocese gathered at Trinity Catholic School in Massena on April 20 for the annual diocesan Youth Rally. See additional photos on Page 12. (Right) Aislynn McCarty delivers announcements at the start of Mass. Youth Rally participants served as lectors and altar servers and processed with the Offertory Gifts during the Mass following the rally.

that involved discovering similarities with other Youth Rally participants.

"We had a list with the names of everyone here, and we had to go around and ask questions and try to find something you have in common," she said. "You had to try to get something in common with everyone. It was fun."

In addition to games,



the Youth Rally included three shorter presentations instead of one, long keynote address. Speakers were Sister Jaquiline Mary Sellapan of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavonod in Cadyville, Father Leagon Carlin, parochial vicar for St. Peter's Parish in Massena, and Anita Soltero, director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

about having faith the size of a mustard seed, which can grow into a large tree if cared for and nurtured. She encouraged the youth to nurture their faith with prayer, sacraments, the Eucharist and by serving and loving others.

Father Carlin discussed faith and hope, reminding the youth that faith is a lifelong journey.

Soltero used a video from popular Catholic speaker, podcaster and YouTuber content creator Father Mike Schmitz. The video was focused on a man from China, who was imprisoned and tortured after hosting a Mass in his home, but who would not give authorities information about the celebrating priest.

Soltero used the video to demonstrate to the youth that "it only takes one person to be courageous and stand up for the faith, and that's what we ask of our young people - to stay strong in their faith, to be the courageous one."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the closing Mass at Sacred Heart Church, part of St. Peter's Parish in Massena. Teens from the youth rally served as lectors and altar servers at the Mass.

According to Soltero, Sister Jaquiline spoke

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# Sisters of St. Joseph to sell Motherhouse

By the Sisters of St. Joseph

The Sisters of St. Joseph, after much prayer and consideration of present and foreseeable needs for the care of the Sisters and the service of the 'dear neighbor,' have made the decision to sell the property at 1425 Washington Street. The current number of 18 Sisters living in the residence has led them to the decision that the property and buildings could be repurposed for a broader and better use to meet the

needs of the Watertown Community and surrounding area. At the time that the Sisters renovated 1425 Washington Street from an orphanage in 1976 to a Motherhouse, there were 136 Sisters and a larger facility was needed.

The Sisters are not leaving Watertown. They will be returning to the original vision of their Founder John Peter Medaille in LePuy, France in 1650. He stated in the founding that the Sisters would live together in small houses from which they

would be engaged in prayer and service to the 'dear neighbor.' In the spirit of all-inclusive love, they would be actively involved in the instruction of youth, direction or orphanages and the care of the sick and the poor. Since 1880, the Sisters of St. Joseph have fulfilled this commitment in Watertown and throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and they will continue to do so in the foreseeable future but just not from a residence at 1425 Washington Street.

The transition is in its early stages and the timeline and details are yet to be determined. However, as with all families, the timeline and steps will be the work of the family.

Pyramid Brokerage Company, Inc. has been retained as our exclusive representatives in marketing and selling the property. Questions should be directed to Patrick Hilary at phillery@pyramidbrokerage.com or 315-569-2146 or Christopher Clark at cclark@pyramidbrokerage.com or 315-779-1196.

## Raffle supports efforts to promote vocations

By Cathy Russell  
DOVS Member

Since its inception many years ago, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) has supported the work of vocations in this diocese. Each year, the association gives a Christmas gift to each seminarian. When the deacons and the priests have their annual assemblies, the DOVS make a donation to help cover the expenses or to provide a special treat. The DOVS send cards when priests, deacons and religious sisters are sick and to celebrate their anniversaries. When the Vocation Office plans middle

school retreats and Andrew dinners, the DOVS, volunteer either to help or make goodies. Every couple of years, a book supporting vocations is purchased and gifted to each of our Catholic schools.

Most recently, the DOVS have been traveling around the diocese to visit local shrines such as the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Peru, the St. Mary's Shrine in Clayton, Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer in Ellenburg Center. Neighboring parishes are invited to join to pray for vocations with mass and a holy hour. In June the DOVS will make a pilgrimage to the shrine of

St. Ann in Isle LaMotte, Vermont.

Each year, the DOVS have one fundraiser to support these activities and more. This year, a raffle is being held.

Tickets are available in many of the churches, through the ticket in the North Country Catholic or by reaching out to Connie Randall at 315-783-0574 or via her email at connierandall47@yahoo.com.

A ticket is also available below.

Your support for our mission provides much needed work in promoting vocations. If you would like to join the DOVS, Randall will assist you with that as well.

## KNIGHTS HELP THE HUNGRY



Each year, St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 directs part of its charitable efforts to the Peru JCEO Outreach Food Shelf by conducting a "40 Cans For Lent" program at St. Augustine's Church and making a monetary donation. As they have done for so many years, St. Augustine's parishioners responded to the Knights' call for help. During Lent's 40 days, they brought 1,010 pounds of food to the church, which the Knights took to the Town Hall Outreach Center. (Above) Then Council Grand Knight Michael Langlois delivered a \$500 check to JCEO Community Outreach Worker Breana Warren, and (below) Knights David Natishak and Bob Herforth weighed and delivered the food.



### Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society Raffle

Drawing Date: June 20, 2024



- 1st Prize - \$500
- 2nd Prize - Quilt with rocking chair
- 3rd Prize (3 winners)
- \$50 Gift Card to Stewarts
- \$25 Visa Gift Card
- \$25 Gift Card to Walmart

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society  
Cut and return this ticket with payment and mail to:  
Connie Randall, 125 Lenny Rd., Potsdam, NY 13676

# 'This has definitely motivated me'

## Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Women's Healing Retreat returns for third year

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

When Deborah Hintopoulos saw the first Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Women's Healing Retreat advertised in a bulletin for her home parish, St. Patrick's in Colton and St. Mary's in Potsdam, a couple years ago, it piqued her interest.

"I had never been to any kind of retreat at all," she said. "I didn't know what that was. I thought, it's a healing retreat. I thought it probably wasn't for me. I don't know that I need any healing."

Hintopoulos contacted the retreat organizers for more information.

"Basically, the lady I spoke with said, 'everybody needs healing,'" she said.

Hintopoulos signed up for the retreat. She enjoyed it so much, she signed up for the second one, too. She's already signed up for the next Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Women's Healing Retreat, to be held Oct. 10 to 13 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

"It's different each time," she said.

While she wasn't sure what to expect, Hintopoulos said she was made to feel comfortable from the moment she walked into her first Women's Healing Retreat.

"The people who put it on are very warm and welcoming," she said. "While I'm not like I used to be, I've always been shy. I'm not a big fan of groups like that and being close to people I

don't know. I walked in, and they made me feel comfortable right at the beginning. In terms of the people going to the retreat, I kind of recognized a few of them from the two parishes where I attend Mass. That made me feel pretty comfortable. The others were also very easy to talk to. I've never felt on guard or anything like that, and a lot of times in the world, I feel like I'm on guard."

While she has enjoyed the various speakers and discussions, Hintopoulos said she enjoys the overall retreat experience, especially the availability of chapel time.

"I like the access we have to the chapel," she said. "If you're not listening to a speaker, and a lot of times they speak in the chapel, they have chapel time. I like Wadhams Hall. The first retreat was the first time I had ever been there. We stayed in the dorm area. It's probably as close to a cell for contemplation as I'll ever get."

Hintopoulos said she's had an interest in the Desert Fathers for a long time, and the retreat helped her determine she's called to pursue more solitude.

"I had no idea this (retreat) would kind of move that interest, curiosity as it has," she said. "This definitely has motivated me to the point where I really want to do something with a little bit more solitude involved. Just before Lent, I decided to take some blocks of time during the day for solitude. I'm

### Retreat registration is open

**Date:** Oct. 10 – 13

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**For:** The retreat is open to 45 women over the age of 18.

**Presenters:** Carrie Schuchts Daunt, Danielle Noonan, Melissa Perez, and Nicole Rodriguez, affiliated with the Pope John Paul II Healing Center.

To learn more about the speakers, visit <https://jpiihealing-center.org/team>.

**Priests in residence:** Father Joseph Giroux and Father Albert Hauser.

**Cost:** \$275/person. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due at registration, and the remaining balance is due no later than Sept. 30.

**Contact:** For more information, or to register visit the diocese website at [www.rcdony.org/ourlady](http://www.rcdony.org/ourlady) or contact Kathleen Nichols at 518-651-6895.

**Consider donating:** If you would like to send a donation to help defray the cost of the retreat, please mail a check to Mr. Bill Seymour, Wadhams Hall, 6866 State Highway 37 Ogdensburg, NY 13669. The committee extends their thanks and gratitude for your prayers and support.

\* A very generous donation and fundraising efforts have enabled the organizers to make the event as affordable as possible for attendees.

Register at [www.rcdony.org/ourlady](http://www.rcdony.org/ourlady)

fortunate I'm retired and can do something like that. My husband was very accommodating. I'd let him know, 'I want a two-hour block of time here to have absolute quiet,' with the exception of maybe doing some chores. He's been really good about that. I continue to move in that direction."

Hintopoulos said she thought the Our Lady of the Rosary Women's Healing Retreat provided both time to learn from good, faithful speakers

and build community, as well as time to step away from the noise of life.

"It isn't all about solitude," she said. "But the retreat helps us recognize and participate in solitude. You have speakers and discussions, and it's broken up, but it's a good opportunity to find and experience a little solitude. When you experience solitude, then you can recognize it even while you're taking care of your family and working. But you have to start simple."

### News Briefs

#### Scholarship available for high school seniors

The Mater Dei College Foundation is pleased to offer a scholarship opportunity to Catholics who are currently in their senior year of high school and who currently reside in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and are planning to attend a Catholic college or university in the fall.

To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship chair, at [vmathews@rcdony.org](mailto:vmathews@rcdony.org). Application deadline is June 1, 2024.

#### 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 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.

#### Volunteers wanted for Heart Well Homestead

Heart Well Homestead is an established 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which will be offering homeless pregnant and parenting mothers a residential home in Plattsburgh. We will be the only maternity home in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties. We are looking for volunteers to help us in planning, networking and fundraising. Contact: [HeartWellHomestead@gmail.com](mailto:HeartWellHomestead@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Visit [HeartWellHomestead.org](http://HeartWellHomestead.org) where you can make a donation or submit questions.

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Everyday plastics

Doing good is not easy. To make changes in our thinking and our behavior requires discipline and commitment. My maternal grandmother often spoke of the need for humans to have what she called "creature comforts." I took her words to heart and live each day with my very own little and simple creature comforts. However, because this is essential to our global response to the pressing climate crisis, we can no longer remain attached to plastic objects as part of our "creature comforts!"

Our global conscience must become our personal conscience. Our planet is in dire need of our help. In order to make a positive difference, we must change our behavior – even if it means a sense of "creature discomfort."

What to do? The doable is what we can do. Start today. Start small. Use all the liquid soap you have in your home, then commit to bar soap. You can even find shampoo in bar-soap form. Buy a bamboo toothbrush, as plastic toothbrushes are not recyclable.

Most of the objects we now place in our recycle bins are not recyclable and end up in landfills. Contact the closest recycling center to your home or visit the website to find out what you can actually place in your home's recycle bin. Then rethink how to eliminate your reliance on the non-recyclables. Start small. Make one change and commit to it for three months.

Change is not easy, but persistence, allowance for failure, and a deep belief in the need for this change should keep you going.

Our planet will shed one less tear when you commit, with love in your heart, to nurture and love, not hinder and harm, our miraculous planet, our Earth.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**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

**May 2** – Noon – Bishop's Heritage Circle and Memorare Legacy Society Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a Luncheon at Bishop's Residence

**May 3** – 7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**May 4** – 5:30 p.m. – Confirmation at The Catholic Community of Alexandria in Alexandria Bay with St. Mary's Church in Clayton

**May 5** – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish in Ellenburg

**May 6-8** – Deacon Assembly at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**May 8** – 12:30 p.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

## Rest in Peace

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

**May 1** – Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

**May 2** – Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

**May 3** – Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

**May 4** – Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

**May 6** – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

**May 7** – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Sr. Mary Virginita Tarnacki

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Virginita Tarnacki, CSSF, was celebrated Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent Chapel in Cheektowaga.

A Felician Sister for 70 years who served as a teacher and school principal, Sister Mary Virginita Tarnacki died Wednesday in Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, Cheektowaga, after a period of



Sister Mary Virginita Tarnacki

declining health. She was 87.

Born Dorothy Tarnacki in Syracuse, the daughter of Charles and Gladys Siwik Tarnacki and one of five children, she entered the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Felician Sisters in Buffalo on July 16, 1953, and pro-

## 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:

**May 6** – 10 a.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur

## To Report Abuse

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

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



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# Resources to help Catholics 'finish life faithfully'

By Daniel Payne  
Catholic News Agency

As euthanasia and assisted suicide are legalized in more jurisdictions throughout the U.S. and the rest of the world, one Catholic-focused ministry is promoting end-of-life resources that the group's founder says will help Catholics finish their earthly journeys while remaining faithful.

Aging with Dignity, a nonprofit that for years has been promoting end-of-life support in line with Church teaching, announced this month the release of "Finishing Life Faithfully," a booklet that "makes complex end-of-life decisions easier." The materials address "basic questions" on how to approach end-of-life topics such as pain management, feeding tubes, and other matters surrounding death.

The document "summarizes the Catholic Church's guidance on end-of-life decision-making and the ethical considerations involved and helps patients and families better understand these teachings and follow them," the group said this month.

Jim Towey, the founder and CEO of Aging with Dignity who previously served as legal counsel to Mother Teresa, told CNA this week that he launched the nonprofit in 1996 "to give people a hopeful vision for end of life that helps them practice their faith and that doesn't treat dying like it's just a medical moment."

For years Aging With Dignity has distributed its "Five Wishes" legal document, which helps Catholics and others "express [their] wishes ahead of a serious illness." A form of what's known as an "advanced directive," Towey said it lets the faithful "address their personal, emotional, and spiritual needs" before the final weeks and days of their lives.

The Five Wishes program has been immensely popular; the group has distributed over 40 million copies of the guide in 33 languages. But, Towey said, "it needed a companion guide to help Catholics understand what the Church teaches on feeding tubes, anointing of the sick, hospice, and pain management."

Towey said he spent all of last year working with various collaborators, including priests, to develop the guide. The group says the document offers "a positive vision of care at the end of life that contrasts with the euthanasia/as-

sisted suicide movements."

The guide provides information on the ethical questions that often surround end-of-life concerns. It notes, for instance, that Catholics "can take or increase pain medication to lessen suffering" even if such medication might hasten the onset of death, so long as "death is not willed as either an end or a means."

Elsewhere it notes that Catholics are not "obliged to accept or continue every medical intervention available" and that waiving "disproportionate medical treatments" that promise "only a precarious or painful extension of life" is "not the equivalent of suicide or euthanasia."

The organization distributes the materials through more than 5,000 distributing organizations, including health care providers, churches, and employers. Individuals often request the documents for family or friends.

Both euthanasia and assisted suicide have been legalized in more and more jurisdictions throughout the U.S. and Western Europe. Assisted suicide is legal in nine U.S. states and under consideration in several more. Numerous countries, meanwhile, allow euthanasia and/or assisted suicide, including Canada, Belgium, Spain, and several others.

Towey said when he founded the organization nearly 30 years ago, there were already warning signs on the horizon regarding those deadly procedures.

"What I saw back in 1996 were the clouds gathering in favor of assisted suicide," he said. "Now the storms have begun."

"We're seeing more and more people, including Catholics, deceived by the arguments in favor of assisted suicide," he said.

Both the advanced directive and the end-of-life guide have been touted by U.S. Church leaders, including Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Cardinal Sean O'Malley of the Archdioceses of New York and Boston. O'Malley described the documents as "grounded in the primacy of protecting God's gift of life."

Of the group's end-of-life advocacy, meanwhile, Towey told CNA: "We're just getting started."

"Assisted suicide isn't the solution," he said. "Good end-of-life care and healthy family discussions are."

"The Church needs to make this easier for families. We don't make it easy for them to access some of this information," he said.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope Francis may return to the U.S. after UN invitation

Pope Francis is reportedly considering returning to the United States in September to speak before the United Nations General Assembly. The news was initially reported by the French Catholic newspaper *La Croix* and has not yet been officially confirmed by the Vatican. A source from the Vatican Secretariat of State, meanwhile, told CNA this week that "a formal invitation has arrived from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and Pope Francis seems inclined to respond positively." If the New York trip occurs, the pope would visit the United Nations during its "Summit of the Future," which the international body will convene from Sept. 22-23. The pope was last in the United States in 2015, during which he also appeared before the United Nations.

## Ethiopian bishop wants peace pact implemented

The bishop of Ethiopia's Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat, which covers the Tigray region, said he has witnessed firsthand the "unspeakable suffering" and death of the people of God in the embattled region of the Horn of Africa nation. In a statement that ACI Africa, CNA's news partner in Africa, obtained April 19, Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin pleaded for the implementation of the Nov. 2, 2022, peace agreement in Pretoria, South Africa, in which the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) pledged to "permanently silence the guns and end the two years of conflict in northern Ethiopia." "I am writing as a religious leader with deep concern and feeling for the pain of tens of millions of our population in the country, especially the children, elders, and women of Tigray," Medhin said. He painted a grim picture of the situation of the people of God in Tigray, saying: "I am a witness to unspeakable suffering, despair, disease, and death around me due to years of conflict, drought, and localized rain failure as well lack of attention to meet basic needs." Violent conflict in the Tigray region started in November 2020 when TPLF allegedly launched an attack on Ethiopia's Federal Government Army base in the region.

## Pew: Both Biden and Trump viewed unfavorably by Catholics

U.S. President Joe Biden, a Catholic, is battling a high unfavorability rating among his fellow Catholics, according to survey data released by the Pew Research Center. According to the data, neither Biden nor his Republican rival, former president Donald Trump, are viewed favorably by a majority of Catholics surveyed, but Biden is the more unpopular of the two. Included in the data provided, Pew's late February survey of 12,000 U.S. adults found that only 35% of Catholics hold a favorable view of Biden while 64% have an unfavorable view of the incumbent president. Republican presidential nominee, Trump, is viewed favorably by 42% of Catholics, while 57% hold an unfavorable view of the former president. Trump's edge over Biden among Catholics is fueled by white Catholics, a majority of whom (54%) hold a favorable view of the former president. Trump is considerably less popular, however, with Hispanic Catholics, among whom only 32% view him favorably.

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## 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

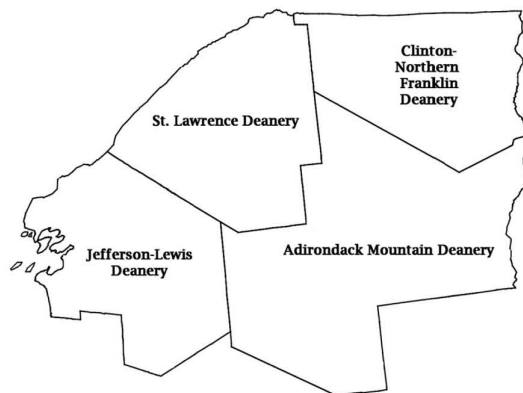
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Features:** New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's nearly 100 Friendship Volunteers 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 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 &amp; BUFFET

Lake Placid - St. Agnes and Mr. Mike's are teaming up to host a fundraiser to benefit the NEW



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.

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:** [stagnel-poutreach@gmail.com](mailto:stagnel-poutreach@gmail.com).

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Brushton - St. Mary's Church and The Roman Catholic Community of St. Augustine will be hosting a Mother's Day Breakfast.

**Date:** May 12

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11

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

**Cost:** \$12 per person

## 40TH 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, dea-

cons 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

## 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 &amp; 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

## PANKCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage - Pancake Breakfast to be held on Mother's Day in support of Augustinian Academy.

**Date:** May 12

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

**Place:** St. James Community Room

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

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

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

## RUMMAGE SALE

Evans Mills - St. Mary's Church to have a Rummage Sale.

**Date:** May 17 and 18

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

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

**Features:** Items include M & M candy collectibles, dishes, linens, furniture, spinning wheel, fabric and much more. Sale is in the Parish Center behind the church.

**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

## 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 Gonther 315-212-5166.

## 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](mailto: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:** May 4, Plattsburgh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## Looking at love

What is love? Here's one answer: "What is Love? Five feet of heaven in a ponytail. Five feet of heaven with blue eyes." The Playmates sang that song in 1959. I was a sophomore in high school. That's a long time to remember a song. Google it.

Then, in a 1967 tv special, Charlie Brown had fallen in love with the little red-haired girl. He was infatuated with her for years but too chicken to approach her. The ideal opportunity came one day when she dropped a pencil in the hallway. He picked it up for her and noticed that there were bite marks in the pencil causing him to exclaim: "She's human!" He tried many times to chat with her. Finally, one day she stuffs a note into his hand and runs to catch her bus. Charlie, afraid that it was a "get

lost note," slowly opens it and reads: "I like you, Charlie Brown. Signed, the Little Red-Haired Girl."

Fast forwarding to 1996, a group of French Trappist Monks have their monastery in the

Algerian mountains - a center of Christian prayer surrounded by Islamic communities. The monks loved the people; the people loved the monks. The monks sold vegetables and honey; they provided medical care to the people. Is this

not a type of very quiet love that we hear so often spoken in the gospels? Political turmoil, unrest, a military government, and extremist guerrillas put their lives in danger. They had to decide to stay where they loved and were loved or to return to France where they were safe. They chose to



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

May 5

Sixth Sunday in Easter

READINGS

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

stay. The end result was their death, in fact, martyrdom because, out of love, they chose to stay. The movie *Of Gods and Men* tells this story.

So, which of these love stories is true love? The ponytail, Charlie Brown, or the Trappist monks? I hope you know the answer.

We so often hear the word "love" bantered around. I love my dog; I love vanilla ice cream; I love the Red Sox; I love my car; I love the spring; and, of course, love is in the air. We hear a student shout to another: "I love you" almost as if it means: "have a nice day." Is this the love we hear about in scripture? Is this the type of love Jesus commands in to-

day's gospel? Which version of love is the true version?

Obviously, we side with Jesus. That does not mean that other forms of love are bad. It does mean that other forms are deficient.

First of all, note that Jesus makes love a commandment, not a suggestion, not a feeling, not a desire... rather, a commandment.

The love that Jesus teaches, preaches, and lives is a transformative love. Out of love, he performed miracles. Those miracles transformed people. Our of love, God created us. That love transformed the world that he had already created. Every time we love someone, that person is transformed. That expression of love is not contained in words or in a box from Kay jewelers. Rather, the love that transforms others is what we do for the other. That form of love transforms both the lov-

er and the loved.

Besides being transformative, money, knowledge, military might, or executive acumen cannot purchase the power of love. Each one of use possesses the power of love, and this power to love makes us all equal in the sight of God.

A good example of the scripturally based love can be found in the true love of a mother towards her children, as we celebrate next Sunday on Mother's Day. That love must always imitate God's love for us. That love must transform the children. That love must let the children grow up as God has let us grow up. That love must know when to back off and when to intervene, as God does with us.

Love is a challenge; love is a privilege. God's love has transformed us into his sons and daughters. May our love be able to transform our own lives and the lives of all we meet.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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.

### 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 whole bunch of 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

### WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg - Our Lady of the Rosary Healing retreat to be held for women.

**Date:** Oct. 10 - 13

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Features:** The retreat is open to 45 women over the age of 18. Presenters from the John Paul II Healing Center. Priests in residence will be Fr. Joseph Giroux and Fr. Albert Hauser.

**Contact:** For more information and registration, please visit the diocese website at [www.rcdony.org/ourlady](http://www.rcdony.org/ourlady) If you would like to send a donation to help defray the cost of the retreat, please mail a check to Mr. Bill Seymour, Wadhams Hall, 6866 State Highway 37 Ogdensburg, NY 13669. The committee extends their thanks and gratitude for your prayers and support.

# Augustine Institute to move to St. Louis

By Daniel Payne  
Catholic News Agency

The Augustine Institute, a Catholic educational and evangelization apostolate based in Denver for nearly two decades, announced on Tuesday that it will be moving its operations to a new campus in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The institute, founded in 2005 as a Catholic graduate theology school, currently has an enrollment of 550 students. It says on its website that it exists to serve “the formation of Catholics for the new evangelization” by “equip[ping] Catholics intellectually, spiritually, and pastorally to renew the Church and transform the world for Christ.”

The organization announced on Tuesday that it had purchased

the former Boeing Leadership Center in Florissant, Missouri, just outside of downtown St. Louis. The school will “begin transitioning its operations over the next few years,” it said in a press release.

The nearly 300-acre property “offers an unprecedented opportunity to expand our Graduate School of Theology and further our mission to help Catholics understand, live, and share their faith,” institute President Tim Gray said in a Tuesday press release.

The Boeing facility, a former retreat center that went on sale in March, offers “state-of-the-art facilities” for the group’s Catholic mission, Gray said.

The president told CNA this week that the Augustine Insti-

tute “wasn’t even in a search mode” when they learned of the facility.

“Some of the leadership at the Archdiocese of St. Louis told us about this property when it became available,” he said.

The property was on the market for nearly a year before the institute began exploring it. “A couple of different buyers tied it up, but those deals fell through,” he said. “We found out about it toward the end of November, and it wasn’t until December that we started looking into it.”

Gray himself visited the campus in January; within several weeks the institute had purchased the property.

“My head’s still spinning,” he said. “Just a few months ago this was not even on our radar.”

“We have a big vision

for this property’

Archbishop of Denver Samuel Aquila said in the institute’s press release this week that the discovery of the property was “providential” for the organization.

“It will allow the institute the opportunity to remain faithful to its mission while continuing to grow,” the prelate said, calling the purchase “the realization of a long-standing hope for a campus environment for students, faculty, and expanded theology programs.”

In addition to its graduate school, the Augustine Institute offers sacramental preparation resources, a Bible study app, an apologetics course for high school seniors, and other instructional and catechetical materials.

Much of that material

is in digital format. Gray said this week that the new property will allow the Augustine Institute to expand from digital into “a national center for Catholic conferences, retreats, evangelization, and fellowship.”

The institute had largely outgrown its facilities in Denver, he told CNA.

“We’ve been growing here and we’ve filled up our building,” he said. “We love Denver, it’s been great for us. But we didn’t have student housing. Housing is very expensive in Denver and it’s hard to recruit people to move out here. Those were challenges we were facing.”

The Augustine Institute is expecting to hold its 2024-2025 graduate school year at the new property starting in September.

## CALLED TO SERVE

# Sitting quietly with the Lord

Does your parish have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and adoration on a regular schedule? The *North Country Catholic* published a page of “Opportunities for Adoration” around the diocese in last week’s edition.

An increasing number of parishes in this diocese are scheduling time each week for folks to have the time to sit quietly with Jesus in a church or chapel.

It was not always so. I did some research and found King Louis VII of France asked the then Bishop of Avignon to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Chapel of the Holy Cross after the king was victorious in a war back in the 1200s. History tells us folks loved it.

In the twentieth cen-

tury, I can recall parishes scheduling 40-hour adoration once or twice a year. In my parish in Queens, it was a continuous period; we did not space the 40-hours over a couple of days. Altar Boys (only males were permitted to serve back then) were volunteered to kneel or sit “watch” in the sanctuary in one-hour shifts for the whole time.

Teams of two were scheduled for each shift which included the night and early morning hours. Altar boys were scheduled to make sure Jesus always had someone with Him.

We were in full dress. We wore a cassock, surplice, collar, tie, and

gloves. We carried processional candles. The changing of teams every hour was choreographed. It was a very impressive changing of the guard, even if there was no one else in the church.

The priest who was in charge of us altar boys back then made it clear that we were not to fool around during exposition even if there was no one else in church at 2:00 in the morning. “Jesus is present, and He is watching you too.” A little guilt goes a long way with an impressionable 10 year old.

Today the 40-hour liturgy has given way to shorter durations. Canon law even addresses the possibility in Canon 942.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

“It is recommended that an annual solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament be held for an appropriate period of time, even if not continuous, so that the local community more profoundly meditates on and adores the Eucharistic mystery.”

We had a mission last week in Watertown. The religious sisters who conducted the mission arranged for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the talk and then allowed for silent personal prayer before the closing blessing.

Jesus does not have to be exposed in a monstrance to be present to us. The website Busted Halo reminds us “Jesus is present everywhere. However, people find that it aids in their prayer to have a visible tangible

sign of that presence, so adoration is helpful to us in that regard, and we consider it a special experience, an intentional one, on our part of being with Jesus in the holy Eucharist.”

You can always visit the Lord. That candle burning next to the Tabernacle in Church is lit to remind us that Jesus is present, exposed in a monstrance or not.

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





## 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

# Celebrating 100th anniversary

*China is a very diverse nation containing many different ethnic groups. Different ethnic groups live in different regions, have different cultural traditions, languages, and writing systems. The largest ethnic group (estimated to be approximately 91% of the Chinese population) is the Han ethnic group.*

More than 500 Catholics, most of whom belong to ethnic minorities in Yunnan province (southwest China), celebrated the 100th anniversary of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lanniqing [on April 17], whose members are mainly from the Yi ethnic group. Catholics from various ethnic groups (Han, Miao, Jingpo, Yi and Tibetans) took part in the celebrations held last week. The parish's centenary also provided the opportunity to publicly express the gratitude of the entire community to the French missionary of the "Missions Etrangères de Paris" (MEP), Father Paul Vial (1855-1917).

The southwestern Chinese provinces where the missionaries of the Missions Etrangères de Paris worked are characterized by a strong presence of ethnic minorities who have their own languages and forms of writing. Father Vial, known in China by his Chinese name Deng Mingde, was one of the first MEP missionaries to serve in Yunnan and dedicated his life to preaching the Gospel in the region populated by the Yi ethnic group. After his ordination in 1879, he traveled to Yunnan and was the first foreigner to carry out studies on the Yi ethnic group. For these scientific contributions he also received academic titles in France.

The first small church in Lanniqing was built in 1893 on the initiative of Father Vial, but the church soon became inadequate to meet the pastoral needs of the local community. Finally, the church was rebuilt in 1924 at the initiative of Father Bi Jingxing, the first priest of the Atsi (a Yi subgroup).

Today, one hundred years later, the Atsi community has eight local priests. Over the past 100 years, the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lanniqing has been tested by several strokes of fate. The local Catholic community has always entrusted itself to the grace of God and the intercession of Mary Immaculate, asking that the Church continue to bear witness to the name of Christ among the local people, also through works of charity.

The community has actively participated in charitable initiatives and has also raised funds to support projects for populations affected by natural disasters.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Alexandria Bay** – Sally A. (Decker) Paddock, 78; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2024 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Rarick Cemetery, South Hammond.

**Alexandria Bay** – William J. Taylor, 90; Funeral Services April 27, 2024 at Costello Funeral Home; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

**Brushton** – Stewart A. White, 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Parish Cemetery.

**Carthage** – John J. Gaughan Jr., 88; Funeral Services April 25, 2024; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Colton** – Eldred H. "Herb" Green, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Constable** – William M. Almond, 84; Mass of Christian Burial May 2, 2024 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Westville.

**Dannemora** – Stephen M. Dubrey, 59; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Hogansburg** – Ellwyn "Al" Michael Cook, 70; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2024 at St. Regis Church.

**LaFargeville** – Catherine A. (Kilmer) Perry, 76; Graveside Services May 4, 2024 at Grove Cemetery.

**Malone** – Hugh McMahon, 84; Graveside Services April 25, 2024 at St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Malone** – Pauline King Murphy, 104; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2024 at Notre Dame Church.

**Massena** – Thomas L. Doud, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 24,

2024 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

**Norfolk** – Terry Buell Styles, 76; Funeral Services April 26, 2024 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Old Brookside Cemetery, Waddington.

**Norwood** – Patricia "Ann" McKenna, 85; Graveside Services April 27, 2024 at Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Jennifer L. Bouche, 47; Funeral Services April 29, 2024 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Carleton "Pete" LaRose, 87; Funeral Services April 23, 2024 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Clairienne H. (Audet) St. Pierre, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2024 at

St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Krysten Elyse Remy, 23; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Potsdam** – Leo H. LaPoint, 83; Funeral Services April 23, 2024 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Renald R. Martini, Sr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2024 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Irene M. O'Connor, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Julie A. (McCrea) Sprague, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2024 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



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# AT THE YOUTH RALLY

Teens from around the diocese gathered at Trinity Catholic School in Massena for the annual Youth Rally on April 20

Photos by Darcy Fargo



Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, represented the diocesan Faith & Ecology groups at the Youth Rally, distributing information, seeds, fruit and treats to the rally participants.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley was joined by Father Mark Reilly and Father Leagon Carlin in celebrating Mass at the conclusion of the Youth Rally. Deacon Thomas Proulx assisted at the Mass.



Youth Rally participants play a game in which they lean on one another to try to reach a standing position while linked.



(Left) Jacob Hughes, a Youth Rally participant, serves as lector during the closing Mass. (Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily at the closing Mass, held at Sacred Heart Church in Massena, part of St. Peter's Parish. (Above right) Jacob Fargo, Gabriel Kidder, Michael Kidder and Jayden Patnode served as altar servers for the closing Mass. (Bottom right) Youth Rally participants play a game in which each participant was assigned to either team "up" or team "down," and then had several minutes to try to get as many cups facing their way as possible.

