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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 9

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 29, 2024

Funeral Mass for Father Leo A. Wiley will be June 4

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Leo A. Wiley will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, at Holy Family Church, Watertown. Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will be the principal celebrant and Father Timothy G. Canaan will be the homilist.

Father Wiley, 93, of Watertown and formerly of Cape Vincent, died Tuesday morning, May 21, 2024, at St. Joseph's Home, Ogdensburg, where he had been a resident for three months.

STORY ON PAGE 3 & OBITUARY ON PAGE 4

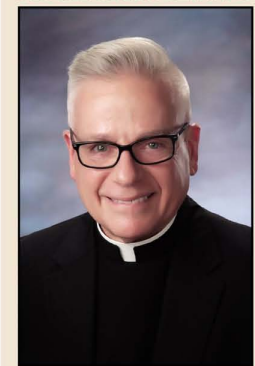
CELEBRATING JUBILEES



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

On May 14, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and priests of the diocese gathered at Wadhams Hall for the annual Jubilee Mass honoring, from left, Father Scott R. Seymour, Father Paul J. Kelly, Father Andrew J. Amyot, Father Raymond F. Diesbourg, MSC, Father Howard J. Venette and (not pictured) Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant and Father Donald F. Kramberg. Read about the jubilarians on page 10. See additional photos on Page 20.

PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS



Father Steven M. Murray, pastor of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone will retire this summer. Father Murray's change in status is one of 14 assignment changes announced by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

Pope: Humility 'is the source of peace'

By Matthew Santucci
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on May 22 closed his catechetical series on vices and virtues with a review of humility, a virtue that forms the "the base of Christian life" and is a source of peace for the Church and the world.

"Humility is everything. It is what saves us from the evil one and from the danger of becoming his accomplices. It is the source of peace in the world and in the Church. God has given us an example of this in Jesus and Mary, for our salvation and happiness," the pope said to the

faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday morning.

The pope's reflection on humility closes a series on the four cardinal and three theological virtues that began last December. While humility is not part of the seven "heavenly virtues," the pope underscored the importance of humility as forming the "base of Christian life."

Humility is the "great antagonist of the most mortal of sins, namely arrogance," the pope said, stressing that it "restores everything to its correct dimension."

Francis buttressed this point by looking to the beatitudes,

which come from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, with the pope reading aloud the first: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The pope said the first beatitude serves as a foundation for the others.

"Meekness, mercy, and purity of heart stem from that inner sense of smallness," he said. "Humility is the gateway to all the virtues."

The Holy Father further developed this point by looking to Mary as a personification of the virtue of humility.

"The chosen heroine is not a little queen who grew up cod-

dled, but an unknown girl, Mary," he said.

"Not even the most sacred truth of her life, being the Mother of God, becomes a reason for her to boast before men," he continued. "In a world marked by the pursuit of appearance, of showing oneself to be superior to others, Mary walks decisively, by the sole power of God's grace, in the opposite direction."

Observing that Mary faced "difficult moments" and "days when her faith advanced in darkness," the pope implored the faithful to emulate the Blessed Mother as her humility never wavered.

NORTH
COUNTRY
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Ogdensburg, NY 13669
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R. LaValley
President**Rev. Joseph A. Morgan**
Vice President**James D. Crowley**
Secretary-Treasurer
Darcy L. Fargo
Editor &

Communications Director

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And God will provide

"What's your craziest 'God will provide' story?"

That question was posed to the members of my favorite online group for Catholic women.

Last time I looked, the question had more than 60 responses.

There were stories about God providing money when it was desperately needed, pregnancies to women who had been told they were likely infertile, unusual resolutions to medical emergencies, career opportuni-

ties that weren't sought, the perfect home after prolonged searches and problems, spouses in unexpected places... Each story as unique as the woman who told it.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Usually, when there's a thread in one of my online groups that has more than a couple dozen responses, I read a handful or so, and then I move on.

This thread, though, was an exception.

I found it both fascinating and inspiring reading

how God was working in the lives of these other women, most of whom I've never met. I've read every response at least once, most more than once.

It was awesome to see how God works in the lives of others, even in ways I had never thought of. It was awesome to see people who were grateful to God for how he works in their lives. The whole thread was uplifting! A few people noted that reading the posts gave them hope and encouragement when they really needed it. God was providing even through people talking about God

providing.

While that thread focused on the "craziest" stories, it occurred to me that God provides for us every second of every day, but I don't often think of it that way. Every single time my heart beats is a gift from God, who wills my existence in that moment. While that's the most basic example of God providing, there are countless examples in our lives every day.

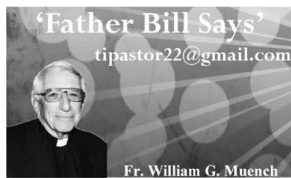
And how uplifting could it be for all of us, and for those around us, if we thought more about those "God will provide" stories and shared them?

'I still remember that day well'

Today, I would like to share with you something about ordinations to priesthood and diaconate. In our Catholic Church, ordinations are scheduled near the Feast of Pentecost, the memorial of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. We believe the Holy Spirit continues to be very active in our Church. We believe priests and deacons are ordained by the coming of the Holy Spirit through the imposition of the hands of a bishop on the candidate.

So, let me tell you about my ordination: I was ordained as a priest on May 16, 1959, but I still remember that day well. I was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg by Bishop Navagh. There were seven of us ordained that day. Sadly, five of my classmates are with the Lord. Presently, my only classmate still active in the diocese is Father Philip Allen.

I remember I drove up to Ogdensburg from my home in Syracuse. I gathered with the others at the

**Fr. William G. Muench**

cathedral to prepare ourselves for the ceremony. I remember that afterwards, my friends and I stopped at a store to buy some ice cream to share with the present seminarians who were at Wadhams Hall.

On the day of the ordination, I remember feeling confident that this is what the Lord wanted for me. The ceremony began when we were called forward from the congregation by name. Our bishop then gave an instruction of all that was expected of us as priests.

I want you to know that the promises we made then are the same as now. We promised to consecrate our lives for the ministry of the Church. We promised to fulfill the office of priest with humble charity to benefit the Christian people. We promised to

hold fast to the mystery of faith and to proclaim this faith in word and deed. We promised to embrace the state of celibate chastity as a sign of dedication to Christ the Lord. We promised to pray the liturgy of the Divine Office. We promised to respect and obey the bishop.

Then, the more dramatic part of the ordination: We are asked to prostrate ourselves on the sanctuary floor as the choir chants the Litany of the Saints. Now, I want to be honest, I cannot remember exactly what I was thinking during that time. I suspect I was listening for my favorite saints in the litany. I like to think I was also remembering the other mentors who led me to this moment - there were many priests and many people who had touched my life.

Then we approached the bishop, who imposed his hands on our head, and we were priests. This was the moment. There were other ceremonies - the one I remember well was when the bishop blessed

and anointed my hands with the Sacred Chrism, preparing me for the celebration of Mass. My hands belonged to the Lord.

We were then vested in the Mass vestments. We had each chosen a special priest - a friend, a mentor - to assist us in this vesting. I remember well that I had chosen Father George Whittaker to be with me. As a seminarian, I had spent time at his parish, helping where I could. Father Whittaker shared so many wonderful stories. He had served in the Army in World War II before entering the seminary. I can still tell you many of those stories.

We then went to the altar for the Eucharist. We were now priests. We were ready to celebrate Mass. The day after our ordination, I went back to my home parish and celebrated my first Mass with family and friends. This was one of the most important and exciting weekends in my life and became the foundation of my priesthood.

Father Wiley was 'caring and genuine'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"My oldest daughter, Chrissy, said we could never have an article about (Father Leo A. Wiley) without mentioning his smile. It was forever on his face. We called him 'smiley Wiley,'" said Marlene Dewey of Louisville.

Father Wiley died Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg, where he had been a resident for several months. A complete obituary is on page 4.

For Dewey and her husband, Walter, Father Wiley was like a member of the family, a relationship that began when Marlene Dewey was a high school freshman in Massena.

"He was my teacher," she said. "Late that summer, both of my brothers voluntarily joined the (U.S. military)," she said. "It was the '60s, when most people who went in were being drafted. I remember going to the airport. I had never seen my mother cry that hard as she did on the car ride home when my brothers left for the service. When I started school, I remember telling Father Leo that I never saw my mother cry that hard as she did when they left. The next thing I know, he was there on my parents' doorstep offering comfort."

She said the experience changed how she felt about Father Wiley, who she described as "an ok teacher."

"I thought, if a man can be that caring and genuine, I should listen to everything he says," she said. "It must be true."

As she became more familiar with Father Wiley, Dewey said she discovered truth was, in fact, something he valued.

"That was one of his

biggest qualities - his honesty," she said. "He was always about the truth. He was so honest about everything, and that was such a great lesson for me."

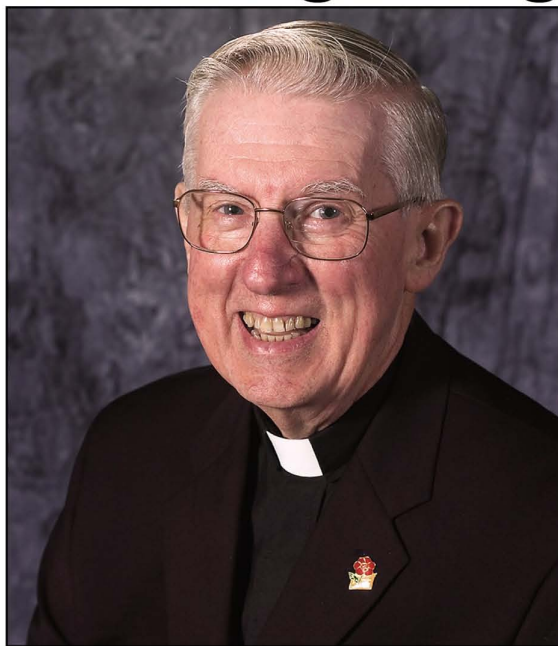
Dewey said she later became preoccupied with finishing school, meeting her husband and starting a family, it was her husband, Walter, who helped bring Father Wiley back into her family.

"One day, Walt said, 'I really need to meet this man,'" she said. "(Father Wiley) came to Massena and visited us. After a couple of times visiting, he sent us a thank you note saying, 'I liked visiting you. There's no 'a priest is coming, a priest is coming.' We were living in a farmhouse that was being renovated. The room he slept in wasn't finished. The shower wasn't hooked up yet. I didn't know how to cook. I remember thinking, 'God, I didn't know I could please someone with all that.'"

After that, the Dewey family regularly visited Father Wiley, and he regularly visited them.

"He went here and there, and everywhere he went, we would go visit," she said. "We became part of his family, and he became part of ours. "When he was in Lyon Mountain, we went to visit, and we stayed in the rectory. In the morning, we were awakened by Father Leo, who was so faithful in praying Morning Prayer. With that beautiful tenor voice he had, he started singing 'Morning Has Broken.' It was like 5:30 in the morning. We thought, yup. It has. Morning has broken."

Over the years, Father Wiley continued to be a consistent presence in the Dewey family, being



Father Leo A. Wiley

there for the celebration of sacraments for children and grandchildren, weddings, graduations and hard times, always

offering encouragement, a listening ear and "a great sense of humor and a hardy laugh."

"Walt just said, 'he was

always the same, never changing,'" Dewey relayed. "He was a rock. He was here for everything. He was our rock. There's a scripture that says, 'if you've found a friend, you've found a treasure.' We always knew we had a treasure in him."

Dewey said her husband also noted that they "never saw him exasperated; never saw him angry."


In addition to being a consistent part of her family, Dewey said Father Wiley was "very close" to his biological family, regularly traveling with his sister, Margaret, and regularly visiting siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins.

"His sister, Margaret, often came with him when he visited," she said. "She also became a good friend. He loved his family very much."

Dewey noted that Father Wiley had a strong

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Your friends from Stepping Stones youth group want to congratulate you on your *Diamond Jubilee 60*



Fr. Andrew J. Amyot

As you celebrate your Anniversary of Ordination we said a prayer for you and know that God must have heard. We felt the answer in our hearts although He spoke no word. We didn't ask for wealth or fame (we knew you wouldn't mind). We asked Him to send treasures of a far more lasting kind! We asked that he'd be near you at the start of each new day, to grant you health and blessings and friends to share your way. We asked for happiness for you in all things, great and small, But it was for His loving care we prayed for most of all.

Funeral Mass for Fr. Wiley will be June 4

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Leo A. Wiley will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, at Holy Family Church, Watertown. Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will be the principal celebrant and Father Timothy G. Canaan will be the homilist.

The reception of the body will be at 6 p.m. On June 3 at Holy Family Church. Calling hours will continue until Night Prayer at 8 p.m. Calling hours will resume at the church on Tuesday from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m.

Burial will be in the family plot in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery in Cape Vincent.

Father Wiley, 93, of Watertown and formerly of Cape Vincent, died Tuesday morning, May 21, 2024, at St. Joseph's Home, Ogdensburg, where he had been a resident for three months.

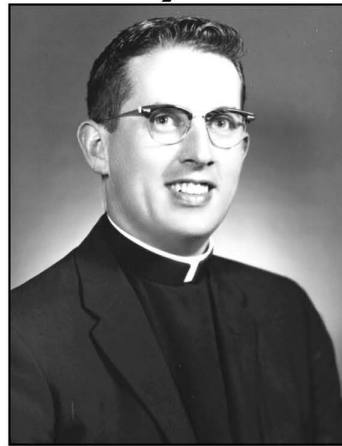
Born in Watertown on April 15, 1931, he was the son of William O. and Helen E. (O'Neill) Wiley.

He was raised in Cape Vincent and graduated from Cape Vincent High School in 1948. He then attended Wadhams Hall before completing his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Balti-

more. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg on May 19, 1956, by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg, the sixth Bishop of Ogdensburg.

After ordination, he was first assigned to St. Joseph's Church in Malone, where he served as a parochial vicar for nearly three years. He later served in that role in St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake, the Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh, Church of the Sacred Heart in Massena, and St. Mary's Church in Clayton. In 1968, he was named pastor of St. Gabriel and St. Mary's Church in Indian Lake. After that assignment, he served as administrator at Church of St. Philip and Jesus in Willsboro and St. Joseph's Church in Essex. In 1975, he became pastor of St. Mary's in Massena. He later served as pastor at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain and St. Stephen's Church in Croghan, where he served until his retirement in 2006.

After his retirement, Father Wiley assisted the pastors of Alexandria Bay and Redwood and Adams and Henderson. He also



A young Father Leo A. Wiley in an undated NCC file photo

celebrated daily Mass regularly at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In addition to his parish assignments, Father Wiley served on the Senate of Priests, as Pro-Synodal Judge, as chair of the Diocesan Liturgy Committee, as Cursillo Spiritual Director and as Dean of the Lewis Deanery and aided at Marriage Encounter at various points in his ministry. He also taught

courses in the Commissioned Lay Ministry program.

His hobbies include reading and bridge.

Father Wiley is survived by his brother priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg; four nephews, Dennis, Michael, Kevin, and Bill Wiley; three nieces, Cathy Stull, Diane Bower, and Patti Caulfield; and numerous cousins, including Sister Janet Coseo, a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Veronica Coseo, a Sister of St. Joseph, and Father Timothy Canaan, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Along with his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers and their wives, Joseph and Mary Wiley, and William and Athalie Wiley; a sister, Margaret Wiley; an uncle Father Leo O'Neill, a Redemptorist Father; and cousins Father John Wiley and Sister May Louise Wiley, a Sister of Mercy.

Arrangements are entrusted with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc., Watertown and online condolences may be made at www.cummingsfuneral.com. Donations in his name may be made to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Priest Retirement Fund, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Remembering Father Wiley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

devotion to the Blessed Mother, and he regularly prayed the rosary and shared it with others. He also enjoyed traveling to shrines and oratories.

"And he loved the Mass," she added. "Many times, he celebrated Mass in our home, in our daughter's home. He was always ready to celebrate Mass. Even after he retired, he was celebrating Mass at the Motherhouse daily. We went to the Motherhouse several times for Mass there. He was so good to the sisters, and they were so good to him."

Both Dewey and Father John M. "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, where Father Wiley resided for several years

after his retirement noted serving Mass at the Motherhouse wasn't the only work Father Wiley continued well into his retirement years.

"He was a good listener for everybody," Dewey said. "He often met with people who needed counsel or just needed someone to listen. He was a really good listener, and he helped so many people."

"When he first retired, his concern for his brother priests was displayed in his availability to help," added Father Demo. "He would cover weekend Masses for priests, so they could get away and get personal time. He was really good about making himself available. He was the chaplain for the Sisters

of St. Joseph for several years. And when he was residing at the Holy Family rectory, he was the chaplain for the Legion of Mary here. They meet every Wednesday morning at 10, and he'd faithfully go over and be their chaplain and lead them in prayer. He also continued providing spiritual direction, including spiritual direction for a couple priests. Spirituality was very important in his life as a priest, and he shared that with those he counseled."

Father Demo also noted Father Wiley was especially devoted to the Divine Office, including that Morning Prayer that awakened the Dewey family all those years ago.

"He and Msgr. (Paul)

Whitmore, when they both resided here at Holy Family rectory, they faithfully offered the Office together, even with regard to singing the opening hymns and offering spontaneous intercessions during the intercessory prayer," he said.

Dewey noted that in the days leading up to Father Wiley's death, she visited him along with Walt and their daughter, Kim.

"On the way home, my daughter, Kimberly, said, 'Grandpa Leo was really happy today,' Dewey said. "It made me think, he was really happy today. On Sunday, it was his anniversary (of his ordination). He called us that day. He was so very happy. My daughter, Kim, when she learned

he had passed, she was sad. But when she got through the crying time, she said, 'no wonder he was so happy the other day. He knew he was going to heaven.'"

Dewey said she and her family are grateful to Father Demo and Father Matthew Conger, parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish, who aided Father Wiley when they lived with him in Watertown.

"We want to tell (Father Demo), 'job well done,'" she said. "He was so good to him. He was so happy. The young priests, the pastors are so busy, but they still took care of the older priests. And they always made us feel welcome and let us stay at their rectories. They made it all ok."

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

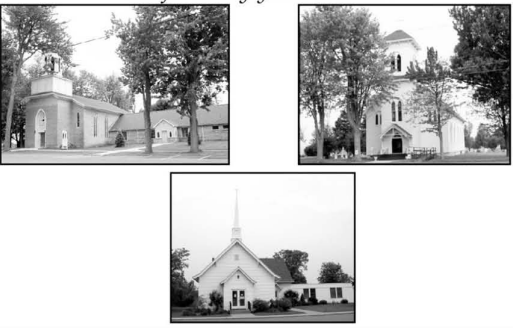
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Find us on Facebook!



The Parishioners of the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont would like to congratulate our pastor, **Fr. Raymond Diesbourg, MSC**, on his 50th Ordination Anniversary on **June 8, 2024**.

We ask for the Lord's blessing on you and your family as you celebrate this milestone. Thank you for all that you do for us and may you continue your service to God for many years to come!



THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

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

June
Sacred Heart

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY							BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY
2024							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 REV. HEROME PASTORES	2 REV. TERRENCE R. PATTERSON	3 REV. CARTER G. PIERCE	4 MSGR. LEeward J. POISSANT	5 REV. SONY G. PULICKAL	6 REV. PATRICK A. RATIGAN	7 OUR PASTOR	8
9 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	10 REV. MARK R. REILLY	11 REV. NICHOLAS J. REVILLA	12 REV. CLEMENS R. RHONDS, HGN	13 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	14 REV. STEPHEN ROCKER	15 POPE FRANCIS	16
17 REV. DOUGLAS A. SCHIRMER	18 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	19 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR	20 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	21 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	22 REV. F. JAMES SHURTEFF	DECEASED PRIESTS	23
24 REV. FERNANDO SOLOMON	25 REV. BRYAN D. STITT	26 REV. JAMES V. TETI	27 REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	28 REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HGN	29 REV. SEVERINUS A. K. TORWOE	REV. HOWARD J. VENETTE	30
31 REV. DANIE WESTOFF							

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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.myvocation.net

Bishop's Public Schedule

May 30 – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at The Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown with St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills, St. Paul's Church in Black River, Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor

May 31 – 5 p.m. – Institution of the Deacon Candidates to the Ministry of Lector at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

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

June 1 – 11 a.m. – Blessing of the 275th Anniversary of Abbe Picquet Establishing Fort de La Presentation

4:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga with Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake

June 2 – 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation and First Communion at the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks with The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville in Keeseville and St. Margaret's Church, Wilmington

2 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend Scott R. Seymour at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph

June 4 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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. Upcoming sessions:

June 6 – 2 p.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur

June 22 – 9 a.m. – Camp Guggenheim, Saranac Lake

To Report Abuse

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

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

Environmental Stewardship

An uninvited guest

Pope Francis has called us to protect and preserve our "common home." Along with the natural beauty that surrounds us here in our diocese is an intruder threatening our roadsides, wild parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*, which has stealthily become part of our landscape. It typically grows 1.5- to 4-foot tall and is characterized by its yellow-green compound leaves with toothed leaflets. The plant produces umbrella-like clusters of small, yellow flowers that bloom from late spring to early summer. It is attractive but beware, wild parsnip harbors a toxic sap capable of inflicting severe burns and skin irritation when exposed to sunlight. Anyone who experiences such a reaction must seek medical attention.

Unfortunately, mowing spreads wild parsnip seed and has allowed it to gain dominance in many areas. One good means of control is the application of herbicides which has its own perils to humans and the environment.

Residents and visitors to our diocese need to be well-informed about the risks associated with this invasive plant and take precautions to protect themselves. The best thing to do is to avoid touching wild parsnip altogether. If it is necessary to handle it, wear protective clothing.

The encroachment of wild parsnip jeopardizes the environment and human health. Let us heed our sacred calling, becoming responsible stewards who take swift action to elevate awareness, preclude exposure, and manage wild parsnip. By disseminating knowledge and promoting accurate identification, we empower individuals to safeguard themselves and surroundings.

NYS Invasive Species Awareness Week is June 3- 9. To learn more about other invasive species and events being offered, go to nyis.info.

By Jack Lucia, St. Mary's, Clayton

Rest in Peace

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

May 29 – Rev. Hervé Racette, O.M.I., 1948

May 30 – Rev. J. Heliodore Valois, 1952

May 31 – Rev. John J. Dean, 1930; Rev. Eugene T. Desnoyers, 1993

June 1 – Rev. Tobias M. Glenn, 1907; Rev. Charles B. Cotter, 2001

June 2 – Rev. Antoine Buch, O.F.M., 1927; Msgr. John L. Plunkett, 1950; Deacon Richard T. Larche, 1989

June 3 – Rev. Auriemma Veronneau, O.M.I., 1962; His Holiness, Blessed John XXIII, Pope, 1963; Rev. Franz P. Romuald Reiter, 1971; Rev. Bernard W. Desnoyers, 1987

June 4 – V. Rev. Ferdinand Richard, O.M.I., 1971

Bishop LaValley announces priest moves

After prayerful consideration and consultation with the Priests' Personnel Board, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced the following appointments:

· **Father Steven M. Murray**, pastor of St.

André Bessette Parish in Malone, retires effective July 8.

· **Father Scott R. Seymour**, currently pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville,

St. Augustine's Church in Peru and St. James Church in Cadyville, will become pastor of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone effective July 8.

· **Father Christopher**

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Father Steven M. Murray



Father Scott R. Seymour



Father Christopher J. Looby



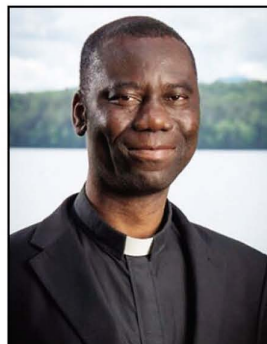
Father Medenel Angrand



Father Amruta Kumar Pasala



Father Jay de la Rosa



Father Severinus Torwoe



Father Leagon J. Carlin



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Priest assignments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

J. Looby, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake, will become pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru and St. James Church in Cadyville effective July 8.

• **Father Medenel Angrand**, pastor of St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Church in Fort Covington, The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, and the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, will become pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake effective July 8.

• **Father Amruta Kumar Pasala**, previously in residence at The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, will become pastor of St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Church in Fort Covington, The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, and the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay effective July 8.

• **Reverend Pedro Edgardo (Jay) N. Delarosa**, Pastor of St. Ann's Church - Mooers Forks and Holy Angles Church - Altona, temporarily returns to the Philippines as of June 12 pursuant to the requirements of U.S. Immigration Law.

• **Father Severinus Torwoe**, parochial vicar at the Catholic Community of St. Peter and



Father Douglas A. Schirmer



Father Michael H. Marzan

St. Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville, will become temporary administrator of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks effective June 12.

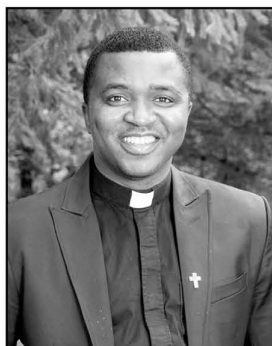
• **Father Leagon J. Carlin**, currently parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish in Massena, will reside in St. Mary's Cathedral Parish while he's assigned to study Canon Law at St. Paul University in Ottawa effective June 26.

• **Father Douglas A. Schirmer** will serve as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh effective June 26.

• **Father Carter G. Pierce** will serve as parochial vicar at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru



Father Carter G. Pierce



Father Jude Nnadibuagha

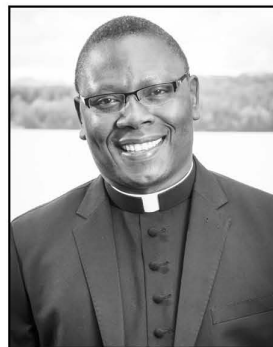
and St. James Church in Cadyville effective June 26.

• **Father John Kennedy Ojuok**, parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, will serve as parochial vicar at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru and St. James Church in Cadyville effective June 26.

• **Father Michael H. Marzan**, parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, will be parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral Parish effective June 26.

• **Father Jude Nnadibuagha**, parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, will be parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

• **Father Lukas H. Gruber**, parochial vic-



Father John Kennedy Ojuok



Father Lukas H. Gruber

ar at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru and St. James Church in Cadyville, will become parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish in Massena effective June 26.

The following are profiles of the individuals whose assignments will be changing.

Father Steven M. Murray

A native of Ogdens-

burg, Father Murray, 71, began his studies at Wadhams Hall Seminary College upon graduating high school in 1970 but left the seminary in 1972 to complete a bachelor's degree at LeMoyne College in Syracuse.

After 10 years in the field of retailing, he returned to Wadhams Hall for a period of discernment before entering Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York, where he received his master's of divinity degree.

He was ordained Sept. 24, 1988, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at Notre Dame in Malone and Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh before being named administrator of St. Patrick's in Watertown in 1995.

In 1997, Father Murray was assigned as a full-time faculty member and spiritual director at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. In July 1998, he was appointed pastor in Chaumont, continuing to teach at BHC. A year later, he was named administrator in Louisville and Madrid along with his role as diocesan director of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Priest assignments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Christian Formation. In May 2002, he became Pastor of Holy Family in Watertown, a role he held until June of 2019, when he became pastor of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone.

Father Scott R. Seymour

A native of West Chazy, Father Seymour,

53, graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

He was ordained May 29, 1999, by Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

Father Seymour's first assignment was as parochial vicar at Notre Dame in Malone. In 2002 he became parochial vicar at St. Mary's

Cathedral in Ogdensburg, a position he held until 2005, when he was appointed administrator St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro and St. Joseph's in Essex.

In April 2006, Father Seymour became pastor in Willsboro and Essex until 2009 when he was named administrator in Morrisonville and

Treadwill Mills for one year before becoming pastor of those churches. He had been named pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford. Those parishes were separated from the grouping in June 2021.

Father Seymour was named pastor in Morrisonville and Treadwells Mill in 2010 and took on additional responsibilities as pastor in Cadyville in 2017.

Father Christopher J. Looby

Father Looby, 53, grew up in Harrisville and studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, on May 12, 2001, by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, at Holy Family in Watertown and at St. Peter's in Lowville.

In June 2009, he was named administrator of St. Mary's Church in Brushton and Church of St. Augustine in North Bangor. A year later, he was named pastor of those churches, where he served until he was appointed pastor in Evans Mills, Theresa and Philadelphia. He later served as pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown.

Since 2020, he has served as pastor of St. Mary's in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake.

Father Medenel Angrand

Father Medenel Angrand, 51, a native of Haiti, received his bachelor's degree in sacred

theology in 2002 and a master's degree in moral theology in 2019. He also has associate degrees in intercultural studies and philosophy.

He was ordained Aug. 24, 2003, in the Diocese of Fort-Liberté, Haiti. In addition to serving as a pastor of two parishes, he has served as director of Caritas, director of Holy Childhood, a member of the College of Consultors and as an assistant pastor in his previous diocese.

After arriving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 2019, and serving for a year as Special Vicar at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, he was appointed parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

He was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in November 2020.

In May of 2022, he was named sacramental minister of St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington, the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay in Chateaugay and the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville, and Trout River, and became administrator of those parishes in November of 2023.

Father Amruta Kumar Pasala

Father Amruta Kumar Pasala, 47, from the Diocese of Cuddapah, India, was born in Mariapuram, part of Cuddapah City in Andhra Pradesh State, India.

He first studied philosophy and later earned a degree in theology at Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamalle. He was ordained April 18, 2007, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Mariapuram, Kadapa, India, by

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



CONGRATULATIONS FR. HOWARD J. VENETTE

on the occasion of your 40th Jubilee as a Priest

*Here us, Lord our God, and pour out upon this servant
of yours the blessing of the Holy Spirit.*

Rite of Ordination of a Priest

From the People of
St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora
Church of the Assumption, Redford
Knights of Columbus Council #2166

Priest assignments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Bishop M.D. Prakasam, bishop of Nellore.

After ordination, he served as associate pastor of St. Paul's Church in Chennareddipalle for one year. He then served as incharge pastor at Holy Cross Church, Veerapalle. He was named pastor of St. Padre Pio Church in Ramapuram in 2009, serving there until 2012, when he became secretary to the bishop.

From 2015 to 2017, he served in Malaga Diocese, Spain, and in various assignments in the diocese.

In 2017, he came to the United States, serving in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, until 2022.

After returning to India and serving a parish there for a couple years, he has been in-residence at The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor since early 2024.

Father Pedro Edgardo N. 'Jay' de la Rosa

Father de la Rosa, a priest of the Archdioceses of Caceres, Philippines, began his seminary studies in 1994 at Holy Rosary Seminary. He later attended major seminary and majored in Theology. He graduated magna cum laude in 2003 and was ordained a deacon. On June 10, 2004, Father de la Rosa was ordained a priest. He served as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Parish in the Archdiocese of Caceres for two years. After, he was a professor and formator at Holy Rosary preparatory seminary for five years.

After that assignment, Father de la Rosa was the "pioneer priest" of St. Francis Parish, also in the Archdiocese of Caceres. He oversaw the construction of the church.

When he left in 2018, the basic construction of the church, parish hall, and rectory were completed.

After his arrival in the United States, he served as parochial vicar of The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru and St. James Church in Cadyville. In the spring of 2022, he was appointed pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, a role he will resume after his year back in the Philippines.

Father Severinus Torwoe

Born in Hlefi, Ghana, Deacon Torwoe received a bachelor's degree in education at University of Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2008. He then studied philosophy and theology at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, where he obtained a master's degree in theology in 2017.

In 2018, he received a post masters certificate in theology from Holy Apostles.

He was ordained by Bishop LaValley on Aug. 1, 2020, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg.

He served as parochial vicar of St. Peter's Parish in Massena immediately after his ordination. In 2023, he was named parochial vicar at the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St.

Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville.

Father Leagon J. Carlin

Born in Plattsburgh, Father Carlin, 27, graduated from Peru Central School in 2014 before attending seminary at Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio and later Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop LaValley on May 21, 2022, in St. Mary's Cathedral.

After his ordination, he was appointed parochial vicar at St. James Church in Cadyville, The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville and St. Augustine's Church in Peru.

In May 2023, he was appointed parochial vicar of St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

Father Douglas A. Schirmer

Father Schirmer, 34, a resident of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Ogdensburg, was ordained by Bishop LaValley on May 25, 2024, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Father Schirmer completed his theology studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Father Carter G. Pierce

Father Pierce, 26, from St. Raphael's Parish in Heuvelton, was ordained by Bishop LaValley on May 25, 2024, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Father Pierce completed his theology studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Father John Kennedy Ojuok

Father Ojuok, a native of Kenya, came to the Diocese of Ogdensburg

as a seminarian in 2016. He completed his seminary studies at Christ the King Seminary in the Diocese of Buffalo.

He was ordained by Bishop LaValley on May 29, 2021, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg.

After his ordination, Father Ojuok served as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. Though he had to return to Kenya for a year due to immigration issues, he returned a year later to serve in the parish.

Father Michael H. Marzan

Father Marzan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines, attended Holy Rosary Major Seminary in Naga City, Philippines, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in philosophy and sacred theology.

He was ordained March 13, 2000.

His first assignment was at Saint Bernard Abbot Parish, a community of three churches, in Camarines Sur as parochial vicar.

He later started a parish, St. Francis Xavier, in Halawig-Gogon, Goa, Camarines Sur, overseeing the building of the church structure and the parish community.

Prior to arriving in the United States in June of 2022, he was assigned as a parish priest of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Santiago, Irga City, a parish in the Archdiocese of Caceres.

Father Jude Nnadibuagha

Father Nnadibuagha, 40, was born in Imo State, Nigeria.

From 2006 to 2007, Father Nnadibuagha joined the Discalced Carmelites. In 2013,

he finished studying philosophy, and then in 2017, he completed theology studies in Rome. At the end of his studies, he felt called to the priesthood, wanting something more active than the contemplative life of the Carmelites.

He applied to a few dioceses, including the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and he came to America for the first time in 2018 to interview with the diocese.

He was ordained by Bishop LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg on Aug. 1, 2020.

After ordination, he served for a year as parochial vicar in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville. He also served that community as a deacon after being ordained to that role in October of 2019.

In May of 2021, he was named parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral Parish.

Father Lukas H. Gruber

Originally from Queens, New York, and later Smithtown, New York (on Long Island), Father Gruber was introduced to the North Country when he attended Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where he received a bachelor's degree.

He later graduated from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

He was ordained by Bishop LaValley on May 27, 2023, and his assignment as parochial vicar at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru and St. James Church in Cadyville was his first assignment.

Seven priests honored at Jubilee Mass

On Tuesday, May 14, as part of the annual Presbyteral Assembly, priests of the diocese gathered to celebrate the 2024 jubilarians, Father Andrew J. Amyot and Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant, who celebrated 60 years of priesthood; Father Raymond F. Diesbourg, MSC, Father Paul J. Kelly and Father Donald F. Kramberg, who celebrated 50 years; Father Howard J. Venette, who marked 40 years; and Father Scott R. Seymour, who was honored for 25 years.

Father Andrew Amyot, 60 years

Father Amyot, 88, who retired in 2011, was born in Rossie. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall, St. Mary's College in Kentucky and Christ

the King Seminary in Olean. He was ordained May 23, 1964 by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan.

Early in his priesthood, Father Amyot was assigned as assistant pastor of St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake, Notre Dame in Malone and St. Hubert's in Star Lake. From 1968 to 1977 and again from 1981 to 1982, Father Amyot was part of the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate, serving the diocesan mission in Mollendo, Peru, South America.

Upon his return to the United States, he was named pastor in Willsboro and Essex, in Evans Mills, DeKalb Junction with its mission in Russell, Black River and Natural Bridge.

In 1994, Father Amyot was named pas-

tor in Norfolk with responsibilities as pastor in Raymondville added in 2007. He held these positions until his retirement.

Father Amyot served the diocese as vicar for religious from 1981 to 1986 and as dean of St. Lawrence Deanery.

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant, 60 years

Retired since 2014, Msgr. Poissant, 85, was born in Plattsburgh.

After studying at Wadhams Hall, Christ the King Seminary in Olean and the North American College in Rome, he was ordained on his 25th birthday, Dec. 18, 1963.

Msgr. Poissant also earned a licentiate in sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a doc

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the diocesan Jubilee Mass on May 14 at Wadhams Hall, honoring priests who reached milestone years of service, including Father Andrew J. Amyot, who celebrated 60 years of priesthood. Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant was also honored for 60 years of service, but was unable to attend the Mass.



60th Anniversary

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot
May 23, 1964 - May 23, 2014

Thank you,

Reverend Andrew J. Amyot

For your warm and tireless service
of our parishes and of the Church!

With our love and gratitude,
Your Parishioners and Friends at
The Parish of the Visitation &
St. Raymond's, Norfolk
St. Andrew's Church, Norwood
St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls



We also wish an early congratulations to
Deacon John Levison
on his 25th anniversary of his Diaconate Ordination.

Jubilarians honored

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

torate in philosophy from the University of Toronto.

Msgr. Poissant's first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. In 1965, he was named assistant chancellor and secretary to the bishop.

Beginning in 1968, Msgr. Poissant spent 34 years of his priesthood as part of the faculty and administration of Wadhams Hall. He served as the seminary's rector-president from 1982 to 1987. He also served as philosophy professor, vice-president and dean of students.

While continuing as a philosophy professor until the seminary's closure in 2002, Msgr. Poissant served as pastor in Dekalb Junction

and Russell from 1989 to 1994, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral from 1994 to 1997, and pastor in Morristown and Brier Hill from 1997 to 2002, and as pastor in Keeseville and Clintonville from 2002 until his retirement in 2014.

He also served the diocese as director of seminarians and dean of Clinton Deanery. In 1995, he was named a prelate of honor with the title monsignor.

Father Raymond F. Diesbourg, MSC, 50 years

Father Diesbourg, 77, was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

He attended Sacred Heart Mission Seminary in Geneva, Illinois, DeSales University in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy

from DePaul University in Chicago.

Father Diesbourg did his novitiate year with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Sacred Heart Retreat House in Youngstown, Ohio, and took first vows in 1967. He completed theology studies at the Catholic Theological Union at Chicago, Illinois, and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1974. He was ordained a priest on June 8, 1974, and then continued post-graduate studies at the Academy of St. Alphonse in Rome, Italy.

In 1978, he returned to the Catholic Theological Union and taught Moral Theology for the next 10 years, also serving as registrar and director of admissions at the school. During this time, he was also For-



Father Paul J. Kelly (left) and Father Raymond F. Diesbourg, MSC, were honored by Bishop Terry R. LaValley and priests of the diocese for 50 years of service as priests at the annual Jubilee Mass. Father Donald F. Kramberg also celebrated 50 years but was unable to attend the Jubilee Mass.

mation Director for the MSC theology students. In 1988, he was transferred to the MSC Pro-

vincial headquarters in Aurora, Illinois, where he served in various po-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Thank you for your loving service to the Church.

May God bless you abundantly in your priestly ministry.





May 27, 2023 - 1st Ann.



May 4, 1985 - 39th Ann.



October 10, 1987 - 37th Ann.



June 27, 1970 - 54th Ann.



May 22, 1965 - 59th Ann.



December 19, 1969 - 55th Ann.

From all your staff and parishioners at St. Alexander, St. Augustine, and St. James.

Thank you for your leadership, your faithfulness and your heart.

May God Bless you!

50 years of service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

sitions over the next 17 years. On weekends he provided clergy assistance to numerous parishes in the Rockford and Joliet Dioceses. He also preached a variety of retreats at the Bishop Lane Retreat House in Rockford, Illinois.

From 2005-2011, Father Diesbourg was Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Ottsville, Pennsylvania, in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, a parish staffed by the MSC for over 100 years. He has served as an advisor to various MSC Provincials from 1980-1991 and again from 1997-2009, when he was elected Provincial Superior of

the USA Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He returned to the MSC headquarters in Aurora in 2011.

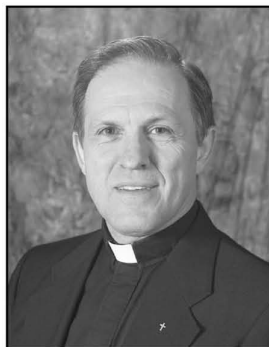
He became pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont in 2019 and continues to serve in that role.

Father Paul J. Kelly, 50 years

Father Paul J. Kelly, 80, was born in Buffalo. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall before continuing his studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore.

He was ordained on May 4, 1974, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Kelly served as assistant pastor at



Father Donald F. Kramberg St. Mary's in Potsdam, St. Joseph's, Massena, while also teaching at Holy Family High School; Notre Dame, Ogdensburg and St. Mary's, Clayton.

In 1976, he was named to the faculty of Wadhams Hall and undertook graduate stud-



Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant ies at Fordham University.

In 1981, Father Kelly was assigned as chaplain of the Raybrook Correctional Facility and associate pastor in Lake Placid.

He continued to serve as prison chaplain when he was named

pastor in Keene and Wilmington one year later.

The priest also served as administrator of St. Joseph's in Malone, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Massena, pastor in Brasher Falls, parochial vicar of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, parochial vicar and administrator in Morrisonville, Louisville, Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh and in Dannemora.

Father Kelly also served as chaplain at the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility and St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center before being named pastor in Adams in 1994.

In 1996, he was named pastor in Lake Pleasant and Wells, a position he held until his retirement in 2011.

Father Kelly continues celebrating Masses as Elderwood at Uihlein, a nursing home in Lake Placid.

Father Donald F. Kramberg, 50 years

Father Kramberg, 75, is a native of North Bangor. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall, Our Lady of the Angels in Albany and Christ the King

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant



Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!

Thank you for your many years of service.

-The People of Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh



Congratulations



Fr. Donald F. Kramberg
On celebrating your 50th Anniversary



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MAY 29, 2024

40 years and 25 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Seminary in Olean.

Father Kramberg served as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart in Massena, St. Augustine's in Peru and St. Mary's in Canton.

In 1980, he was appointed to the faculty at Wadhams Hall, a position he held for 11 years. In 1991, he served as administrator in Old Forge and then at St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake.

He also served as parochial vicar in Clayton and St. Mary's in Canton before being named pastor in AuSable Forks in 1992.

In 1998, he was named pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake with added responsibilities as pastor of Holy Name in Tupper Lake in 2002. In 2004, he was named pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora, with responsibilities as pastor of Church of the Assumption in Redford in 2006.

He retired in 2013.

Father Howard J. Venette, 40 years

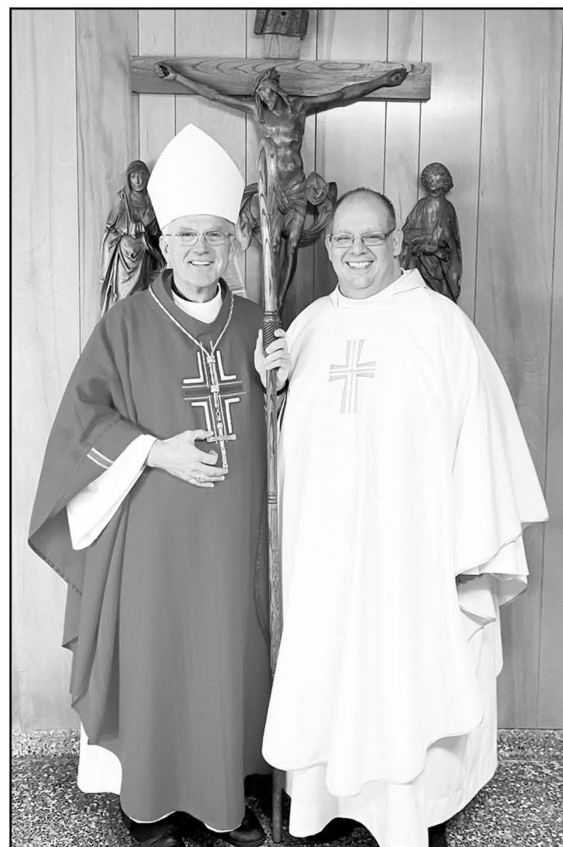
A Chateaugay native, Father Venette, 66, entered Wadhams Hall Seminary in 1976, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1980 before continuing at North American College in Rome. Additionally, he studied French in Paris and Parish Ministry in Edinburgh.

He was ordained July 21, 1984, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana at his home parish, St. Patrick's in Chateaugay.

Early in his priesthood, he served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Massena, St. Mary's in Potsdam, St. John the Baptist



(Left photo) At the annual Jubilee Mass on May 14, Bishop LaValley and priests of the diocese honored Father Howard J. Venette for 40 years of service and (right photo) Father Scott R. Seymour for 25 years of service.



in Plattsburgh, Notre Dame in Malone and Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh. In 1994, he was named pastor of St. Francis Solanus Church, Harrisville, and he began serving as associate director of the Deacon Formation program. He later served as the director of that program.

In July of 1997, he became pastor of St. Patrick's in Colton. He later served as administrator of St. Mary's in Brushton and then St. Mary's in Waddington and St. John's in Madrid. In 2012, he was named administrator of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River before being as-

signed pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton, later serving in that role at St. Elizabeth's Church in Elizabethtown, St. Philip Neri Church in Westport and The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro.

In 2021, he was named chaplain at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, a position he still holds.

Father Scott R. Seymour, 25 years

A native of West Chazy, Father Seymour, 53, graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

He was ordained May

29, 1999, by Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

Father Seymour's first assignment was as parochial vicar at Notre Dame in Malone. In 2002 he became parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, a position he held until 2005, when he was appointed administrator St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro and St. Joseph's in Essex.

In April 2006, Father Seymour became pastor in Willsboro and Essex until 2009 when he was named administrator in Morrisonville and Treadwill Mills for one year before becoming pastor of those churches. He had been named pastor of St. Joseph's

Church in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford. Those parishes were separated from the grouping in June 2021.

Father Seymour was named pastor in Morrisonville and Treadwells Mill in 2010 and took on additional responsibilities as pastor in Cadyville in 2017.

Father Seymour has been active in ministry with the Catholic Daughters of America serving as a chaplain for local courts and is a past New York State chaplain.

He has directed choirs for major diocesan events, including the INSPIRE summit in 2016.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Number of parishes in Baltimore's core to be halved

The Archdiocese of Baltimore announced this week that more than half of the parishes in Baltimore's historic city core will close or merge as part of a major pastoral planning process. The final plans, announced May 22, will see 61 parishes at 59 worship sites in Baltimore City and some nearby areas of Baltimore County reduced to 23 parishes at 30 worship sites. "These decisions, while difficult, are made with an eye toward a future goal of hope," Archbishop William Lori said in a video message, saying the plan was put together, "guided by the Holy Spirit," with an eye to helping the parishes prioritize announcing the Gospel and helping neighbors in need. The many Catholic churches in Baltimore City were built to serve "a surging population that's now lost hundreds of thousands of people," the archdiocese says on the website for the initiative. From a high of 1 million people in the 1950s, the population in the city stands at fewer than 570,000 people. According to the archdiocesan publication *Catholic Review*, the 61 current parishes serve approximately 5,000 Catholics — about 1% of the Catholics in the archdiocese, served by 44% of the archdiocese' current parishes.

Cardinal condemns Philippine chapel bombing

A Catholic cardinal condemned the grenade attack on a village chapel during a Bible service that left two wounded in the southern Philippines on Sunday. The grenade attack happened on Pentecost Sunday at Santo Niño Chapel in Cotabato City at about 10:30 a.m. Cotabato City is in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, known as "Bangsamoro," an area that has experienced religious freedom challenges in recent years. Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, the archbishop emeritus of Cotabato, denounced the grenade attack, calling it a "dastardly bombing," according to the news site of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. Of the about 20 people in attendance, the two churchgoers injured in the attack were Maribel Abis, 46, and Aniceta Tobil, a senior citizen. Initial reports revealed the attack was by two men riding a motorcycle. Quevedo called the attack a "horrendous sacrilegious act that cries out to heaven."

Possible miracle at Lourdes would be 71st documented

The Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes of Madrid, an archdiocesan pilgrim service organization, concluded its 101st pilgrimage on May 19, serving 800 participants, one of whom apparently was cured of severe visual impairment. This extraordinary event, however, will have to be studied before it can be qualified as a miracle. The most recent miracle at Lourdes, No. 70, was officially recognized in February 2018. This case could become No. 71. What happened is that "a pilgrim who suffers from several diseases and had very severe visual impairment, after making 'the water gesture' recovered her sight. This extraordinary event was immediately verified by the doctors, and the shrine was notified and has already recorded it," according to Father Guillermo Cruz, adviser to the archdiocesan association of the faithful.

Italian Carlos Acutis to be first millennial saint

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis has recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis, paving the way for him to become the first millennial saint.

The Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006 is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

The recognition of the second miracle attributed to Acutis' intercession makes it possible that Acutis could be canonized during the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year.

In a decree on May 23, Pope Francis approved the miraculous healing of a 21-year-old girl from Costa Rica named Valeria Valverde who was near death after seriously injuring her head in a bicycle accident while studying in Florence in 2022.

After the girl underwent an emergency craniotomy to reduce intracranial pressure, the family was told that her situation was very critical and that she could die at any moment, according to the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

Six days after the accident, Valeria's mother went on a pilgrimage to Assisi to pray for the healing of her daughter at the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, leaving a written note.

On that same day, Valeria began to breathe on her own and on the following day she recovered the use of her

upper limbs and partly recovered her speech.

Valeria was discharged from the intensive care unit 10 days after her mother's pilgrimage and underwent further tests that showed that the hemorrhagic right temporal cortical contusion in her brain had completely disappeared.

Contrary to medical predictions, Valeria spent only one week in physical therapy and on Sept. 2, 2022, two months after her accident, she went on a pilgrimage to Carlo Acutis' tomb in Assisi with her mother to celebrate her complete healing.

The first millennial saint

Born in 1991, Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church.

Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, Carlo told his mother: "To always be united to Jesus: This is my life plan." To accomplish this, Carlo sought to attend daily Mass as often as possible at the parish church across the street from his elementary school in Milan.

Carlo called the Eucharist "my highway to heaven," and he did all in his power to make this presence known. His witness inspired his own parents to return to practicing the Catholic faith and his Hindu au pair to convert and be baptized.

Carlo was a tech-savvy kid who loved computers, animals, and video games. His spiritual director has recalled that Carlo was

convinced that the evidence of Eucharistic miracles could be persuasive in helping people to realize that Jesus is present at every Mass.

Over the course of two and a half years, Carlo worked with his family to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that premiered in 2005 during the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul II and has since gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents.

Many of Carlo's classmates, friends, and family members have testified how he brought them closer to God. Carlo was a very open person and was not shy to speak with his classmates and anyone he met about the things that he loved: the Mass, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and heaven.

He is remembered for saying: "People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints."

Carlo died at the age of 15 in 2006 shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. Before he died, Carlo told his mother: "I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven."

Thousands of people visited Carlo's tomb in Assisi following his beatification in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 10, 2020.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'There is nothing more that I can give'

Quite a few years ago, off the coast of Ireland, some divers discovered a sunken Spanish ship. There were many treasures on board. One of the treasures, a gold wedding band, had this inscription inside: "I have given myself to you. There is nothing more that I can give." Those two sentences describe perfectly what we celebrate this weekend: Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ. Think of Jesus saying to us in the Eucharist: "I have given myself to you. There is nothing more that I can give."

Our celebration of the Eucharist has a past. Jesus instituted the Eucharist, the celebration of his body and blood, in the context of the Jewish Passover meal. Even in our first reading, Moses reads the law and then sacrifice is offered to God. We do that: we read from God's word, we offer the body and blood of Christ, and we do all of that as a community. Actually, our current manner of celebrating the Eucharist is the same as at the beginning of the church. We have a text from Justin the martyr who describes for the Roman emperor the celebration of the Eucharist. Likewise, today's Gospel describes the Last Supper, and what we do replicates that Last Supper.

But, do we approach the celebration of the Eucharist and the reception of the Eucharist with a reverence due to the immensity of what Christ has done for us? We hear his holy word; bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ; as done in ancient times, the participants receive what

was sacrificed. So, too, we receive the one, Jesus, who was sacrificed.

The reception of Holy Communion should never be a routine event, something to do because everyone else is doing it. Even though we receive the Eucharist frequently, as is proper, the reception of the Eucharist should never be commonplace. We must always approach the altar with reverence; we bow to the Eucharist before receiving; we reverently receive; then, we treasure in prayer those moments of intimacy with the Lord after having received.

Even though the reception of Holy Communion is an intense personal moment, every celebration of the Eucharist engages the whole Church. The celebration of the Eucharist is never just me and Jesus, but it is really me and Jesus in union with his divinely established Church, the community of believers.

In fact, the same Justin mentioned earlier also describes who may participate in the Eucharist: "No one may share the eucharist with us unless 1) he believes what we teach is true, 2) has been washed in the regenerating waters of baptism... and 3) lives according to the principles given us by Christ." Justin goes on to say: "We believe that Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of God's word."

In a similar way, we believe that the bread and wine become the flesh and blood of Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the eucharistic prayer.

At Communion time,

June 2

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

READINGS

Exodus 24:3-8

Hebrews 9:11-15

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

after you bow, when the eucharistic minister holds up the Eucharist

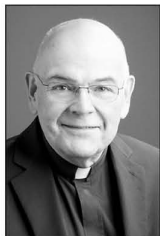
and says to you, "The Body of Christ," make a special effort to realize what you receive.

It's the living body of Jesus. It's the same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem for us. It's the same Jesus who died on the cross for us. It's the same Jesus who rose from the dead for us.

This Eucharist is so in-

credible that it's almost impossible to imagine. Our difficulty understanding the reality of the Eucharist does not detract from its reality.

Only a loving God could have given us such an incredible gift. O Sacrament most holy; O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin



The Knights of Columbus Councils:

Msgr. Francis J. Connors #11544

Msgr. Francis J. McGuire #2309

Brasher Falls #2176

and the

Altar & Rosary Societies of:

The Parish of the Visitation & St. Raymond

St. Andrew's Church

St. Patrick's Church

wish to thank you for your continued prayers and support.

We also wish an early congratulations to Deacon John Levison on his 25th anniversary of his Diaconate Ordination.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

CAR SHOW

Altona – St. Ann's to have their 6th Annual Car Show.

Date: June 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Grounds

Cost: Vehicle Pre-Register \$15 or the day of the show, \$20

Features: Craft Fair, theme baskets, Food & Kids Power Wheels Show entry fee of \$10. Hot Wheel Races for kids and adults (Kids, \$5, Adults, \$10 includes car). Awards at 3 p.m.

Contact: For more information or to pre-register call 518-236-5632 or 518-236-7200

BAZAAR

Fort Covington – St. Mary's of the Fort to have its Annual Bazaar.

Schedule: June 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and June 8, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: Gift Raffle, Yard Sale, Flea Market Vendors, 50/50 Raffle, Food Concession, Thrift Store Bargains.

Contact: For more information please contact the parish office at 518-358-2500.

CONCERT

Peru – Benefit concert to be held for the North Country Mission of Hope.

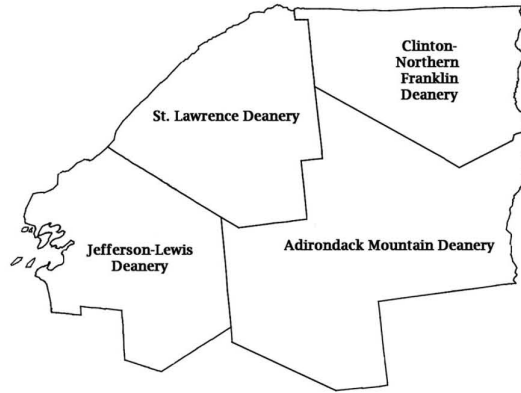
Date: June 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Cost: Donation with all proceeds used to support ongoing projects of the North Country Mission of Hope.

Features: The band, Towne Meeting will be performing. Oriented in folk, their music branches out into many other genres, from Americana to classic acoustic rock and sometimes country and bluegrass. Towne Meeting has been enthusiastically received throughout the region for several years. Come, relax and enjoy an evening of fine music while helping our neighbors here and around the globe.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru – The 36th Annual Peru Knights of Columbus Council 7273 William J. "Bill" McBride Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held.

Date: June 14

Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club

Cost: 4 Person Scramble, \$300. Includes, Green fees, cart, awards & beverage

Features: Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Prizes for the longest drive and closest to the pin. Chance to win a New vehicle with a Hole in One sponsored by Bailey Ford.

Contact: Register by June 1 by contacting Greg Lombard at 518-593-2652, email gnetlombard@charter.net or Scarlett McBride 518-572-8790 or email scar6064@charter.net

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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: June 2, July 7, Aug. 4.

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's Church to have their annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

Date: June 8

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Frank Natale will be the presiders. The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered during the Mass. Prayer teams will be available after the Mass for individual prayer needs. Refreshments will follow the Mass in the Parish Center. All are welcome.

Contact: For more information, contact the parish office at 315-686-3398 or claytonsec@rcdony.org.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake Breakfast to be held in support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage K of C Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: June 9

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

OPEN HOUSE AND PICNIC

Highmarket – The St. Patrick's Restoration Society will have an Open House and Picnic.

Date: June 9

Time: Noon Mass with Father Marullo

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Cost: Donation \$10

Features: Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Bake sale and 50/50, Basket Raffles and door prizes.

ST. LAWRENCE

MEMORIAL DAY MASS

Canton – St. Mary's Church will hold its annual Memorial Day Mass at the cemetery.

Date: May 27

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Cemetery on Riverside Drive.

Features: There will also be a Prayer Service at St. Henry's Cemetery in DeKalb Junction at 8 a.m. that same day. In case of rain, there will be Mass only in St. Mary's Church at 9 a.m.

CHICKEN BBQ

Canton – St. Mary's to have their annual Chicken BBQ.

Date: June 9

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost: Full Meal, \$15; Half a Chicken only, \$10

Menu: 1/2 BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Coleslaw, Dinner Roll, Brownies

Features: Drive-Thru at 2 Powers Street with picnic seating available on lawn.

Contact: Questions? Contact the Parish Office at 315-386-2543.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: June 1

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: June 1

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: June 1

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

BRUNCH

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

Date: June 9 (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.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. evening Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DOVS RAFFLE

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) is having a Raffle through 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,

Jim Wahlberg discusses film, conversion

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

"Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist" is a new film that takes viewers on a journey to rediscover the importance of the Eucharist. Through dialogue with notable Catholic figures who explore the biblical origins of the Eucharist and share personal stories, one of the film's producers, Jim Wahlberg, said he hopes to revive faith in the Eucharist.

In addition to Wahlberg - the brother of actor Mark Wahlberg - several well-known Catholics make an appearance in the film, including Bishop Andrew Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota; Father Donald Calloway, MIC; Father Robert Spitzer, SJ; Scott Hahn; Curtis Martin; and Chris Stefanick.

The film will be shown in theaters nationwide June 4, 5, and 6 distributed by Fathom Events.

Wahlberg spoke with CNA at the premiere of the film at Christ Cathedral in Orange County, California, about why he believes this movie is so important, and he also shared some of his own powerful testimony.

"We got a big problem in our Church," Wahlberg said. "When the report is 70% think that the Eucharist is a symbol or that they don't believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist ... that's a real problem."

A 2019 Pew Research study found that only a third of Catholics in the U.S. believed in the Church's teaching about the Eucharist. Nearly 70% of those in the study said they saw the body and blood of Christ as a symbol. This inspired the filmmakers behind "Jesus Thirsts" to do something about that.

Wahlberg shared that it was a true "journey" for everyone involved and served as a means of "reinvigorating our own faith journeys."

The Catholic filmmaker explained that when he encounters someone who sees the Eucharist as a symbol, he shares the stories of Eucharistic miracles and encourages them to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament.

"Just get in his presence as quickly, as fast, as you can, and as often as you can, and you won't need somebody else to prove to you where you are," he said.

He added: "If there is no God, if Jesus Christ is not real, I have absolutely no explanation for my life and the journey that I took in my life, the redemption that I experienced, the grace that I experienced. I have no explanation for it. It's not possible to get here from where I came from. It's not possible without a loving God."

Wahlberg has been vocal about his personal story of being incarcerated due to substance abuse and the powerful conversion he had after hearing St. Teresa of Calcutta speak when he was in prison.

Wahlberg shared that he grew up in a family that had "no real faith."

"We were Catholics by tradition," he said. "I never went to church with my parents. I never heard anybody invoke the name of Jesus Christ in my home - unless it was in a very angry way."

Despite having eight brothers and sisters, he still felt alone. Wahlberg attended a different school every year from the first to the seventh grade and was introduced to alcohol at a young age.

"When you find alcohol

In Plattsburgh, Watertown

"Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist" will play June 4 & 5 in Regal Champlain Centre, Plattsburgh, an Regal Salmon Run Mall, Watertown. Showtimes are 4 and 7 p.m. on both days in both theaters.

and drugs and you're a broken person and all of a sudden - just for that time while you're under the influence - you don't feel the shame and the guilt and the remorse and you don't feel any of that, you're numb from it, and so you chase that numbing feeling, and that's what I did," he said.

"While under the influence I was a dangerous person. I'd rob and steal from people that loved me, kind of just as a way to push them away. I felt like I didn't deserve their love."

Wahlberg ended up in the juvenile justice system, and by the time he was 17 years old he was on his way to serve a five-year sentence in state prison. After completing his sentence, he picked up a drink again on his first day out.

"It's like being dropped off on another planet," he recalled. "I didn't understand the world anymore. I understood prison."

He lasted six months on the streets before he was arrested again and received a six- to nine-year prison sentence. Knowing he would be older than 30 years old if he spent nine years in prison, Wahlberg tried "to create an illusion that I'm trying to become rehabilitated" in an effort to be released early.

"The only person going for it was the Catholic priest, Father Jim Freitas, the greatest man I've ever met in my life," Wahlberg said.

"He approached me and he said, 'Hey, I hear good things. I hear you're trying to change your

life. I have a job opening in the chapel," he shared. "Gives me a job in the chapel and within weeks tells me excitedly that Mother Teresa was coming to the prison. And I'm like, 'Fantastic! That's so great! Who's Mother Teresa?'"

Wahlberg said that he now knows, at 58, that "she was sent there for me."

"Without a doubt in my mind," he said. "I believe that there were breadcrumbs along the way in my life that I just never saw and I just kept running in the other direction away from God because I was raised with the 'God's going to get you' [mentality] - that's what I was raised on. Nobody ever told me God loved me, that Jesus died for me, nobody ever told me that. She gets up and says that God loves you. That Jesus Christ died for you. And there was a moment when she was speaking that it was just me and her."

After this profound experience, Wahlberg recalled spending the night tossing and turning thinking about her words. The next morning he ran to Freitas and told him that he wanted to know more about this God that Mother Teresa spoke of - a God who loved him.

From that moment, Freitas began to catechize Wahlberg in preparation for his confirmation.

"He started to teach me lovingly about our faith and about our Jesus," he said.

A few months later, Wahlberg received the news that he was transferring prisons. He ran to

Freitas concerned.

Wahlberg recalled: "He picked the phone and he called the priest at the other prison and he said, 'Hey Father, Father Freitas here. I got a special delivery FedEx package that's coming to you. His name is Jim Wahlberg and this is where we are in the journey.'"

"These [were] loving reflections of Jesus Christ, these men of God, one at a time, the three of them that passed me off until the day I made my confirmation in prison."

Wahlberg admitted that he still faced challenges after getting out of prison. He fell from the faith and got caught up in the things of the world. His wife and daughter encouraged him to attend a Catholic retreat, and it was there that he felt Jesus' "arms around me again."

After this experience, he began to dive back into the Mass and his faith.

"I started participating in my faith and putting effort into this relationship with Jesus, that I profess to love, and that all for me starts on my knees," he said.

Now, Wahlberg visits prisons and speaks to the inmates about his testimony and his faith. He called these experiences "one of the greatest honors of my life."

As for what he hopes people will take away from this movie?

"An intimate encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist," he said.



CALLED TO SERVE

Some grandmotherly comfort

What would we do without grandmothers?

The question occurred to me the other day as I passed a young girl, maybe she was 3 years old, riding her tricycle on the sidewalk. Grandma was walking behind the girl, who was focused on pedaling with all her might up the slight incline in the street. The pace being set by the tike did not seem to faze her walking companion. Grandma was smiling and keeping an eye on the child and every potential danger the grandchild might get into. That's what grandmothers do.

Here is a profound statement. Everyone has grandparents.

If you never met your grandparents or great-grandparents,

there are commercial lineage companies that will help you search for them. Get to know them from afar.

Not so in the days of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. All the information was "handed down" from one generation to the next. We do not know anything about Jesus' grandparents. His human mother, Mary, was the daughter of Joachim and Anna. Beyond them we do not know much.

Jesus' foster father was Joseph. We can glean a little from Joseph's lineage found in Matthew and Luke's Gospels. Some ministers affectionately refer to those Bible passages as the "begets and begets." But they do not tell us very much about Jesus' grandparents on

either side.

The closest relationship to a grandmother to Mary we can find in the Bible is her cousin Elizabeth.

Right after Mary learned from an angel that she was to be the mother of God made man, "Mary traveled in haste to a town in Judah" to visit her cousin who was pregnant with her first, John the Baptist. That occasion is called "The Visitation."

We celebrate the Visitation on May 31st.

If that relationship existed today, I suspect Mary and Elizabeth would be texting regularly. They might compare pregnancy ex-

periences. They would probably lean on each other for comfort. They might occasionally complain about Joseph and Zechariah.

But they did not live in "today." Mary dealt with her pregnancy just like any other young girl living in Nazareth then and Elizabeth was in the home she shared with Zechariah in the Town of Judah about five miles from Jerusalem.

Today our grandmothers might be regular babysitters or provide childcare, be a child's playmate, take care of daughter and grandchild, and most of all teach. In some cases, grandparents are

the primary economic and social caregivers to their grandchildren. Whether they live nearby or at some distance, the love and emotional closeness that grandparents provide makes a big, positive impact on their grandchild's healthy development.

Mary and Elizabeth were happy to see each other when they visited. They smiled at each other as they embraced. A smile not unlike the smile of that grandmother walking behind the young girl on the tricycle.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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

*Happy 25th Anniversary Father Scott Seymour
Thank you for all you do for all of us!*

*Your dedicated service
over the past 25 years
has been a source of
comfort, inspiration, and
strength for the people of God.*

*With prayers of gratitude and joy
for all your faithful work.*





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

Congratulations jubilarians

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg & the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg congratulate this year's jubilarians:

60 YEARS

Father Andrew J. Amyot
Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant

50 YEARS

Father Raymond F. Diesbourg, MSC
Father Paul J. Kelly
Father Donald F. Kramberg

40 YEARS

Father Howard J. Venette

25 YEARS

Father Scott R. Seymour

We thank them for their service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and to the missions!

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Jody Lavine, 53; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

Carthage – Sophia Pauline Helt Kennehan, 78; Memorial Mass July 12, 2024 at St. James Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Champlain – Joseph Louis Be-
dard, 97; Mass of Christian Burial May 23, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

Lake Placid – Peggy (Meredith) Murphy Malone, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2024 at St. Agnes Church.

Lyons Falls – John C. Gaylord, 78; Memorial Mass May 31, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in

Wildwood Cemetery.

Massena – Sylvia (McCann) Berbrich, 86; Funeral Services May 28, 2024 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Massena – Bonnie M. (Gagne) LaPree, 76; Funeral Services May 24, 2024 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher.

Massena – Ruth A. (Gay) Smoke, 79; Funeral Services May 23, 2024 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Peru – Hugh James "Huey" Connors, 84; Funeral Services May 30, 2024 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

contact Constance Randall, con-
nierandall47@yahoo.com (315)
783-0574.

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Saranac Lake - A healing retreat for anyone 18 and over whose parents are no longer together to be held.

Date: June 14-16

Place: Guggenheim Center

Cost: \$125, Financial Assistance is available

Features: This retreat is designed for adults whose parents are separated or divorced. Topics discussed include anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness. All presentations are given by trained speakers who are also adult children of divorced families.

Contact: To register online go to www.rcdony.org/lifegw; To learn more about Life-Giving Wounds ministries go to www.lifegivingwounds.org; For more information about the retreat contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

Cemetery.

Rosiere – Ennis L. Mason, 84; Private Services.

Tupper Lake – Donald James Sab-
bin; Memorial Mass May 24, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown – Barbara A. (Bearup) Hulbert, 77; Mass of Christian Burial May 22, 2024 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Life Church of the Nazarene.

Watertown – Vito Antonio "Tony" Izzo, 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 24, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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 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 Father Joseph Giroux and Father Albert Hauser.

Contact: For more information and registration, please visit the diocese website at 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.

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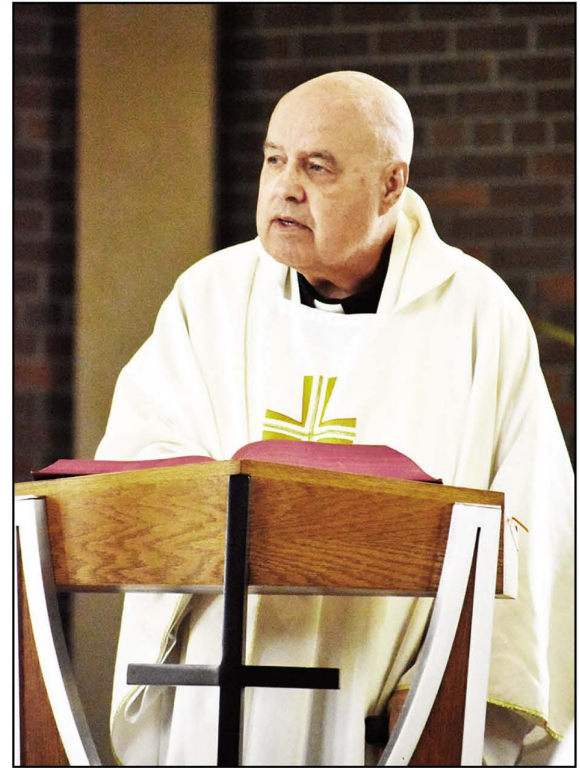


Fr. Paul J. Kelly
On celebrating your
50th Anniversary

AT THE 2024 JUBILEE MASS



Father Boniface Hicks, OSB, the guest speaker at this year's Presbyteral Assembly, joins priest of the diocese at the annual Jubilee Mass at Wadhams Hall on May 14.

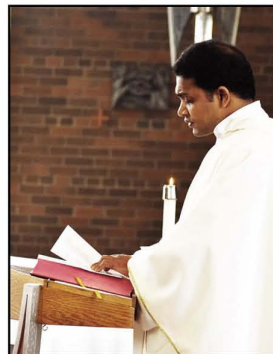


Father Garvin J. Demarais serves as lector during Evening Prayer before the annual Jubilee Mass.



PHOTOS BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Father Kris C. Lauzon and Father Christopher J. Looby and priests of the diocese joined in celebrating the jubilarians at the Jubilee Mass. (Left) Seminarians Michelet Boncouer, Tyler Fitzgerald and Kevin McCullouch were among the servers at the Jubilee Mass. (Right) Father Clement Rimonds, HGN, serves as lector during the Jubilee Mass.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily at the 2024 Jubilee Mass, held May 14 at Wadhams Hall.