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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 6

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 8, 2024

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A SAINT



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Campus ministry volunteers from Potsdam and Canton cleaned around the outside of the Kateri Tekakwitha Center, in Akwesasne, on Saturday, April 27. Here, Daniel George, a St. Lawrence University junior, cleans the case sheltering a statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in front of the center. See photos on Page 3.

PROMOTING LEARNING, LOVE



Birthright volunteers Tammy Irwin, Marsha Breaun, and Vanessa Roberts show the area where families can choose clothing for little ones at the organization's Plattsburgh location. In addition to serving pregnant mothers, Birthright maintains its relationships with mothers, their babies and their families after a birth with classes/information, referrals, supplies, clothing and other services.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope Francis: We need to pray for 'real peace'

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

On Wednesday, May 1, Pope Francis addressed an international audience in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican and reiterated the importance of faith in the Christian life as well as the need to continually pray for "real peace" for the whole world.

The Holy Father also deplored war profiteering, decrying the actions of those "making money off death" through huge investments in the production of weapons.

Speaking to thousands of people gathered inside Vatican City on an overcast morning on the feast day of St. Joseph the Work-

er, the Holy Father spoke about the three theological virtues, beginning with faith, as part of his ongoing catechesis series on vices and virtues.

"What is faith?" Pope Francis asked his listeners. "Faith is the act by which the human being freely commits himself to God."

Speaking of men and women who are role models of faith, such as Abraham, Moses, and the Virgin Mary, the pope urged his listeners to also welcome God into their daily lives — freely and completely — in spite of life's difficulties, uncertainties, and tribulations.

"Faith is the first gift to welcome in Christian life: a gift that must be welcomed and asked

for daily so that it may be renewed in us. It is seemingly a small gift, yet it is the essential one," he said.

The Holy Father also added that "the great enemy of faith" is fear and not intelligence or reason as many people believe.

Following his catechesis, Pope Francis greeted parish and religious groups from around the world packed into the crowded hall, many of whom brought flags and banners, and asked them to join him in prayer for peace in the world, particularly for those suffering due to natural disasters and conflict.

"Severe flooding has tragically taken the lives of many of our brothers and sisters, injured

others, and caused widespread destruction," he said about the severe flooding affecting the people of Kenya. "Even amid adversity we remember the joy of the risen Christ, and I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father."

The Holy Father also reminded his audience to pray for those who are "victims of wars" in Ukraine, Palestine, and Israel.

"We cannot forget to pray for peace. War is always a defeat. Always," he said. "We ask for real peace for these peoples and for the whole world. Unfortunately, today, the investments that earn the most income are weapons factories. Terrible. Making money off death. We ask for peace."

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What a relief!

I didn't realize I was doing it.

I was driving in my itty bitty SUV as I ran errands. I was preparing to make stops at both the grocery store and the pharmacy.

Sitting at a traffic light right next to the store where I planned to get groceries, I noticed it.

Maybe it was because I was thinking

about a stressful situation, maybe there was no reason for it, but I had my forehead sort of scrunched up and the area around my eyes felt tight or strained.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

If the person in the car next to me at the light had looked at me, I'm pretty they would've thought I was grumpy in that moment.

When I noticed the tight-

ness and tension, I focused on relaxing it. The relief was almost instant. I hadn't even noticed that my face was uncomfortable in that position until it was no longer in that position.

It made me think of my relationship with sin and confession.

I'm really good at sinning. When I'm sinning or after, I don't often sit and reflect on my sins' impact. In fact, I hardly notice it, if I at all. Preparing for confession and par-

taking of the sacrament gives me an opportunity to pause and look at my sins and my sinfulness, to feel the weight of my sin, and to reflect on how my sins and sinfulness hurt both me and my relationship with God.

I almost always feel lighter after acknowledging my sins and my sinfulness, giving them to the Lord, and receiving his forgiveness.

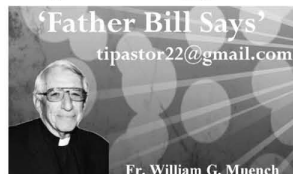
Even when I didn't realize the heaviness was there before.

The prayer guide in my pocket

"I'm saying my prayers." I could see that person staring at me. I was in Church preparing to celebrate Mass. I was kneeling in a pew looking quite attentively at my cell phone. "I really was saying my prayers."

You probably know that we, priests, like the monks in a monastery, and like the deacons, and like many lay people, promise to say the prayers of the Divine Office each day. This prayer is found in what's called the Breviary. I remember well that the first thing I had to do after I was ordained a deacon, was to purchase the four volumes of the prayers of the Divine Office. Part of accepting diaconate and later priesthood was to promise to say the Office each day. These prayers are also called the Prayer of the Hours; there is a series of prayers to be said several different times during the day. And these prayers were all in those four volumes for each day and for each feast day. I still have the four volumes on my bookshelf.

Well, now there is an



app - an program on a cell phone or tablet - with all the prayers of the four volumes of the Divine Office available. I can find each day's prayers and each hour's prayers right there in a moment. There are sometimes when I gather with other priests to pray a particular hour of the office, and I can just open that app (it is called the Divine Office) and be ready to pray the prayers of the Church together with them.

Let me share with you the outline of one hour. This morning, I prayed Morning Prayer - traditionally called Lauds. This prayer has a similar pattern each day. First there is a hymn. Then we pray two psalms and a Canticle. Today, as I write this, the psalms chosen for today's prayer are Psalm 24 and Psalm 33. The Canticle chosen for today is from the Old Testament

Book of Tobit 13:1-8.

Then follows a short reading from Sacred Scripture. Today, since it is the Easter Season this reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. As you may remember, the Acts of the Apostles describes the early days of our Church - the time following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

Today's reading - following the Pentecost - the first disciples begin to teach and preach the story of Jesus - his message and his life, his crucifixion and his Resurrection. In this reading, we are told of the beginning of St. Paul's missionary journey to the various cities as announce that Jesus, the Son of God, came to our world to brings us the message of God's great love for all people, for us all.

As the Morning Prayer continues, we now pray the Canticle of Zechariah, from the first chapter of St. Luke's Gospel. This prayer reminds us of the coming of St. John the Baptist announcing to all who listen the coming of Jesus to this world.

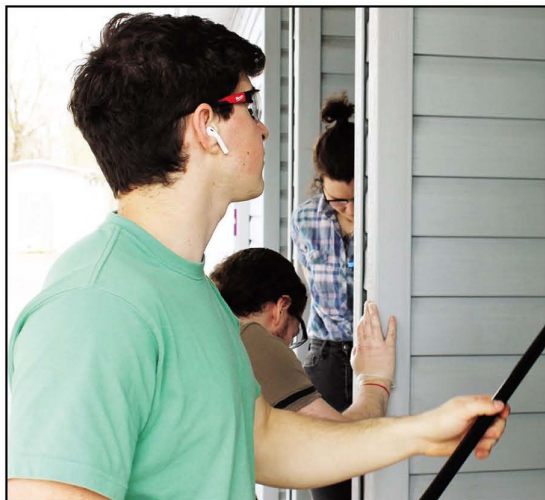
John will go "before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."

Then follows the day's intercessions - calling us to pray for our needs and the needs of our Church, praying for our hopes and dreams. This ends with the Lord's prayer and a concluding prayer, preparing us for the day's celebration of the Mass and the duties of our day.

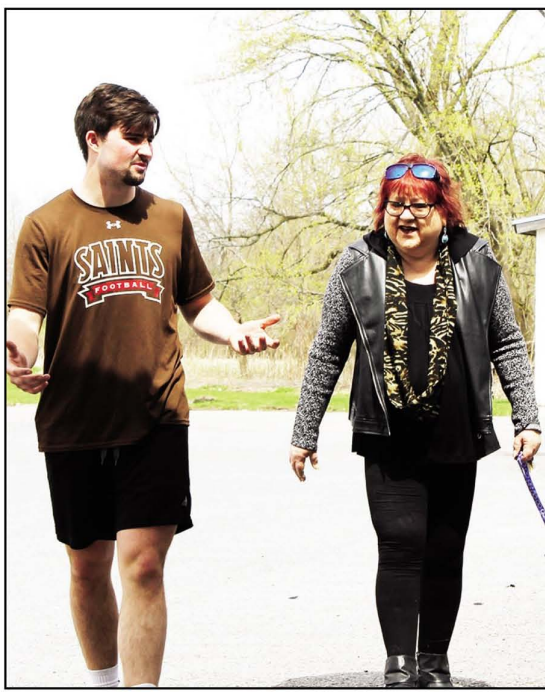
During the day, we are called at various times to the prayers of the Office - mid morning, midday, midafternoon - the evening prayer is called Vespers, the Night prayer is called Compline. And it is all on that Divine Office app on the cell phone, right there in my pocket.

I encourage you to check it out. Again, the app is "The Divine Office." You don't have to pray all the hours each day. You could start with just Lauds (the Morning Prayer). It's a wonderful way to start the day. Or possibly Vespers; this would be a wonderful way to end the day with the Lord.

SERVING TOGETHER



Photos by Keith Benman/For the North Country Catholic Campus ministry student volunteers cleaned up around the outside of the Kateri Tekakwitha Center, in Akwesasne, on Saturday, April 27. The center on State Route 37 hosts a variety of events for the St. Regis Mission Church. The campus ministry is a joint undertaking of St. Mary's, Potsdam, and St. Mary's, Canton. (Above) Nathan St. Louis, a SUNY Canton freshman, scrubs siding at the Kateri Center along with SUNY Potsdam alumnus Colin McNamara and campus minister Hattie Taylor. (Below) : Daniel George, a St. Lawrence University junior, and Dr. Rose-Alma "Dolly" McDonald, director of religious education at St. Regis Mission Church, talk about next steps in cleaning up the Kateri Center.



Guggenheim cleanup days planned for May 17-19

It's almost time to kick off another season of faith, fun and fellowship at Camp Guggenheim. To prepare "our home on the water" to welcome campers and visitors, the annual Guggenheim Cleanup Days are scheduled to run from noon on May 17 to noon on May 19.

Volunteers can stay for an hour or two or stay for the weekend.

Most work will be in the Lodge, Dorm, Dining Hall, In and Rec Building.

Volunteers will be completing tasks such as:

- General cleaning of rooms, windows and furniture, including washing, mopping, dusting and vacuuming.
- Kitchen cleanup.
- Power washing building exteriors
- Preparing canoes, kayaks and related supplies for the season

· Painting
 Cleaning supplies will be provided. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and any protective gear they may need. Lunch, snacks and beverages will also be provided.

Volunteers under age 18 are welcome if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Volunteers are asked to register ahead at <https://www.rcdony.org/guggycleanup>, by calling Deacon James Crowley, Mary Jo Rocker or Lorraine Carney at 315-393-2920 or by email at jcrowley@rcdony.org, mrocker@rcdony.org or lcarney@rcdony.org and giving your name, phone number, email address, when you plan to visit/volunteer and the number of people in your party.

The more volunteers who participate, the more that can be accomplished. Please join us and spread the word!

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Faith Formation leaders from around the diocese, including some in youth catechetical ministry and some who minister to adults, gathered April 27 in St. Peter's Parish in Massena for a LEAD workshop, "Using The Chosen as a Tool for Catechesis."

Learning to use 'The Chosen' for catechesis

By Cathy Russell

Department of Faith Formation

The diocesan Department of Faith Formation created LEAD (Leadership For Evangelization and Discipleship) a few years ago to support the work of catechists and catechetical leaders in parishes.

In recent years, it became apparent that all parish ministers could benefit from programs to support their spiritual and ministerial growth. To create three diocesan annual events

and several regional events, a LEAD Advisory group is formed each year to work with the two assistant directors, Anita Soltero and Cathy Russell.

These LEAD events are now open to anyone engaged in parish ministry.

The final diocesan LEAD event was held recently at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena. The event centered around using the popular series, "The Chosen," as a tool for catechesis with children and adults.

The session was presented by the LEAD Advisory group and was attended by 30 people from around the diocese who are tasked

with catechesis to children and adults.

Assistant Director Anita Soltero introduced the topic, which included the importance of seeing as well as hearing in teaching and retention of content. Liz Fuller-Tarbox, catechetical leader in Potsdam, and Assistant Director Cathy Russell chose an episode from "The Chosen," the Wedding Feast at Cana, to show and discuss how the episode clearly shows Jesus as truly God and truly human.

Carol Gonthier, catechetical leader in Norwood and Norfolk, presented the many resources available to assist with using the series, as well as how to use the series in a thematic approach. Specifically, Gonthier shared snippets from the series that clearly show Jesus' attitude toward women, how Jesus calls



Presenters for the LEAD workshop, "Using The Chosen as a Tool for Catechesis," were, from left, Liz Fuller-Tarbox, catechetical leader in Potsdam, Cathy Russell, Anita Soltero, both assistant directors of faith formation, and Carol Gonthier, catechetical leader in Norwood-Norfolk.

by name and Jesus' approach to miracles and healing.

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, diocesan director of Education,

closed the day expressing her gratitude to the team and those attending for their commitment and willingness to share their faith.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*



'A listening ear' to promote learning, love

Plattsburgh Birthright establishes relationships with women, families it serves

By **Mary Beth Bracy**,
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Birthright in Plattsburgh continues to attract numerous women - and families - in need.

The organization is staffed by caring volunteers who offer free, personal, and confidential assistance, including Marsha Brean, Vanessa Roberts, and Tammy Irwin. They shared about their work in the popular "Earn While You Learn" program and Blessings Boutique, along with the many other resources that they offer.

"Birthright supplies new moms who are in need; we can help direct them with services and clothing. We provide free pregnancy tests and are able to make referrals for services not provided," Brean, a Birthright volunteer for three years, explained. "Coming to Birthright is very much 'a retreat' for women in need. They are met at the door with a smile and 'What can we do for you?' We love them both - it's a support for the mom and the baby, spouses and whoever are included to help the mom. It doesn't stop after you have the baby."

Roberts, who has volunteered at Birthright for six years, revealed what makes their organization unique.

"The premise to Birthright is original - that people wanted to develop relationships with people coming in here,"

she said. "We would be a listening ear, not to judge them but to be here for them."

Brean has assisted with the "Earn While You Learn" program for about a year and a half.

"It can start from the moment the woman knows she's pregnant and can go to toddler age (three or four, in that vicinity)," Brean said. "It starts pre-partum and helps women understand what is going on with their bodies, with all the nuances. There are some references to medicine but we don't get into anything where they need a doctor. It helps with the transition to being a mom."

Brean said volunteers meet with the women for about an hour once a week.

"Each individual video program lasts about 20 minutes," she said. "There are multiple classes on one DVD. We give women choices of topics and subject matters. Anything you might need to figure out, 'How am I going to handle this?,' we're here to help." Some of the lessons include supporting breastfeeding, help with navigating tantrums, or car seat information. Women have a little bit of homework to take home and then return the following week.

"Dads are also welcome and any other support person the mom wants to be there. Classes are one on one or women can bring

their support person, they can bring babies, and have toddlers running around if they need to," Brean shared. "We are pretty accommodating."

Birthright volunteers also help with referrals to social services for other trainings and services, and the organization maintains its relationships with the women.

"We get moms asking and joining us, some stay and stay and stay," Brean said. "It is nice for moms, besides learning how to help their child and bring them up, they immediately start to get points for our Blessings Boutique. They can choose brand new items, clothes, decorations for the nursery, and odds and ends. We have a list for things they can use their points for, including diapers and wipes. At \$25 to \$30 a box, that comes in handy."

"Dads are welcome to come in too and get diapers," added Irwin, who has been volunteering for Birthright for two years. They have a rack of clothing for parents to come and choose from.

Irwin shared Birthright's motto, from their foundress Louise Summerhill: "It's the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born."

For their clients, Irwin emphasized, "It's not a come once and 'bye, bye.' You can come once a week and get diapers, formula and clothes from the racks. We want to be friends with everybody. We want you to know we will help in

every way that we can. There is no boundaries (on our willingness to give). We are interdenominational; we don't ask what the faith is."

Any new mom can sign up for a "baby shower in a bag." "It includes baby wipes, lotion, shampoo, a teddy bear, a personal greeting card, and anything to get them started with," Roberts stated. Volunteers even crochet items for babies.

"We get people that come in from all walks of life," Roberts shared, "young people who are just parents and grandparents who just get custody of their children and have nothing, foster parents who just heard about us, and we are able to help. All kinds who come in, all kinds of stories you hear, a lot of sad stories too. You realized how blessed you are when you start hearing things."

"I think it surprises people that you can have money or be poor, if you're coming in for something we'll give it to you," Roberts reflected.

Birthright is always looking for volunteers, and there are a variety of ways people can assist.

"We have some peo-

ple who are just on the board, some who are just mentors for 'Earn While You Learn,' and some who are just in the office," Roberts noted.

Birthright sends out a newsletter quarterly, Irwin noted, which includes a raffle. The organization also conducts a "Change for Life" bottle drive during Lent. Some Churches also have baby showers year round and giving trees at Christmas time for Birthright.

Monetary and material donations are always welcome, including memorial gifts when someone dies. They take gently used baby clothing up to size five, diapers, wipes, formula, and most baby items. Maternity clothing is also accepted. Birthright of Plattsburgh is located on 50 Clinton Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901. Their hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m.. They also have evening hours on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m.. Contact them for more information at 518-563-4300 or visit the Birthright of Plattsburgh's Facebook page for updates. Their 24/7 helpline is 1-800-550-4900.

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Environmental Stewardship

From grief to hope

Does not springtime, with the incredible beauties of the Earth waking up all around us after the long winter, give us a visible reminder of resurrection promised by the risen Lord? New life abounds with the greening of the lawns and fields and the blossoming of brilliant flowers. Sometimes, the creativity of the Creator can take your breath away!

However, are there not times when our hearts are heavy with grief, when we observe the damage done to this garden God entrusted to our care? Pope Benedict XVI noted in his talk on World Youth Day 2008: "Many young people today lack hope. There are great damages done to the natural environment through human greed and they struggle to find ways to live in greater harmony with nature and with one another." Young people will be impacted by the choices made today far more than we as adults will be. How can I provide hope for the future?

It may be overwhelming thinking 'I have to do it myself,' but how often do people join a group for exercise, diet, book sharing? Joining others with similar goals can provide a sense of purpose and empowerment.

Jesus gives us another source of empowerment in the image of the vine and branches. With Him as the vine and us as branches, we recognize an intimate relationship with him that doesn't end there but calls us to further Christ's mission in our world. When we join faith-filled people and keep Christ as our center, it's amazing what can happen.

On Arbor Day, Immaculate Heart School students and parents joined volunteers from Tree Watertown to plant large trees at the schools. When joined together with volunteers of all ages these efforts to care for God's Garden, grief can begin to be transformed into hope!

Confessing to my parish priest

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

Rest in Peace

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

May 8 – Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

May 9 – Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 10 – Deacon Edward L. Mazuchowski, 2019

May 11 – Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

May 13 – Rev. Ladislaus J. Stasz, 1971; Rev. Edward E. Papp, 2016

May 14 – Deacon Vincent E. Irvin Jr., 2003

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

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

May 9 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 10 – 6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. James Church in Gouverneur with St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake

May 11 – 4 p.m. – Confirmation at the Church of the Assumption in Redford with St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora

May 12 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 13-15 – Presbyteral Assembly at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

I never go to confession to my parish priest for fear that he might think less of me after hearing my confession. Is that okay?

Great question. Thanks for asking. Of course, the fear is understandable, but I can tell you that I almost never remember what I hear in the confessional. Everyone knows that a priest can not repeat what he hears in the confessional (See

Protecting God's Children

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

To Report Abuse

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



FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

Alfred Hitchcock's (I Confess for a dramatic telling of the teaching.) But even more, I don't remember what I hear during the sacrament.

If on the rare occasion something does stick in my memory, I take it as a sign that the Lord wants me to pray for that person/ situation.

Here are a few points that I hope will alleviate concern:

- I go to a doctor who knows me—all my past illnesses, struggles, and family history. I don't look for a doctor who doesn't know me at all. Should we treat spiritual doctors any differently?

- Accountability is one of the many blessings of the sacrament of confession. Knowing that the priest knows me often helps me avoid sinning.

- I remember hearing that after the first three years, a priest has "heard it all." Don't believe the lie that your sins are so great that they might scandalize the priest.

In fact, if I hear some-

one confess something that is clearly hard for that person to mention, I never think less of him. Instead, I have to acknowledge how brave he is to admit his fault.

- Make it easier on yourself – go behind the screen. It's true that many priests recognize voices, but behind a screen neither you nor he have to "react" to things beingsaid. It might make it easier for you.

- Finally, sin isn't exciting. Sin is junk. It is messy. It's poison. But it isn't exciting. All Christians know that Priests who hear confessions know it all the more. We priests don't ponder sins because they aren't fun to ponder.

Father Mike Schmitz gave a great image when he said that priests are like God's garbage men.

Garbage men don't get enamored with the trash. They just pick it up and toss it out.

Perhaps knowing that your pastor does the same will help.

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N.Y. resident arrested in St. Peter's in Rome was on 'Most Wanted' list

By Matt McDonald
Catholic News Agency

A man arrested earlier this month in St. Peter's Square while carrying three 8-inch knives is a former convict and fugitive from the law in New York state.

Moises Tejada, 54, is on the Most Wanted Fugitives list of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision because, authorities there say, he violated the terms of parole from state prison on kidnapping and robbery convictions.

Tejada twice immobilized real estate agents and stole from them while posing as a home buyer, according to New York state authorities.

More recently, he was arrested on Wednesday, April 10, the same day Pope Francis gave a general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

The man attracted the attention of authorities, who found the knives, Reuters reported.

The arrest of American Moises Tejada in the vicinity of Saint Peter's Square on Wednesday, April 10, has sparked shock and worry, given that the individual is sought by the New York authorities for his alleged participation in a series of violent crimes.

Tejada's arrest was first reported earlier

this month by La Repubblica, a daily newspaper in Italy, with the lead sentence (in Italian): "What was an American armed like a butcher doing in Rome?"

Tejada, "posing as a potential customer of a realtor who was showing him the inside of a home, pointed a gun at the realtor, handcuffed him to a pole, and robbed him of personal property including his car" in Suffolk County, Long Island, according to a judge who summed up the case against him in a 2004 appeal of a 1999 conviction.

Tejada also committed "a nearly-identical crime ... against another realtor" in Brooklyn, according to the appeals court decision upholding the Suffolk County conviction.

He was sentenced to 20 years to life.

Tejada began serving his time in state prison on the kidnapping and robbery convictions in March 2000, state corrections officials told CNA on Tuesday. He was released on parole in May 2018 but was returned to prison in January 2022 for violating the terms of release.

Tejada was subsequently released on parole from Sullivan Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in Fallsburg, New York, in March 2022. But seven months later, in October 2022, state corrections officials is-

sued a warrant for his arrest for failing to report to his parole officer.

Tejada recently arrived in Rome after spending time in Moldova, Italian authorities told La Repubblica.

Tejada told Italian authorities that he had been fighting in Ukraine for that country against the Russians since 2022, which is also around the time he failed to report to his parole officer in New York state.

The Office of Special Investigations of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is working with the U.S. Marshals Service to extradite Tejada from Italy to the United States.

A spokesman for the U.S. Marshals said the agency does not usually comment on extradition cases until after they occur.

In April 2022, one month after his second release on parole and six months before he went missing, Tejada sued the city of New York's Department of Corrections, saying he sustained "severe and permanent injuries when he slipped and fell due to water which had accumulated and remained on the floor of the bathroom" at Rikers Island, a city jail, while he was detained there in January 2021 for reasons not stated in the complaint.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Supreme Court won't block Texas age-verification law

The U.S. Supreme Court declined a request from the porn industry to block a Texas age-verification rule, allowing the law to stand and temporarily derailing the efforts of porn creators to see the new safety measure scuttled. On April 30, the court said in an unsigned order on without comment that it was denying a request from the Free Speech Coalition to issue a stay on the law. The Free Speech Coalition includes a porn trade association and several pornography creators. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has defended the law, HB 1181, since its passage last summer. The measure requires porn websites to institute "reasonable age-verification methods" to ensure minors are not accessing explicit sexual content on their sites. The attorney general has sued multiple pornography companies in order to enforce the age-verification law. He argued earlier this year that pornography sites "are on the run because Texas has a law that aims to prevent them from showing harmful, obscene material to children." The porn industry has fought efforts to ensure that minors cannot access sexually explicit videos on their websites. Age-verification laws in Mississippi, Arkansas, Virginia, Montana, Utah, and North Carolina, for instance, have led Pornhub — one of the world's most prolific porn websites — to stop streaming its graphic sexual videos in those states. The website earlier this year ceased offering its website in Texas rather than comply with its age-verification law.

Florida law allows chaplains in public high schools

Florida's bishops are welcoming a new law that allows public schools in the state to have volunteer chaplains. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, which represents bishops in the state's seven dioceses on public policy matters, did not take a position on the bill while legislators debated it earlier this year. "However, we recognize the good that chaplains can do in schools by helping students to address their spiritual and emotional needs. We are pleased that parents will determine the services their children will receive in districts that choose to establish chaplaincy programs," said Michelle Taylor, associate director of communications for the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, in an email message to CNA on Tuesday. The measure, which takes effect July 1, requires public schools and charter schools that establish such a program to publish on their websites a list of volunteer school chaplains and their religious affiliation. It also requires that parents provide written consent before their child receives services from a chaplain or participates in programs provided by a chaplain. Gov. Ron DeSantis, who signed the bill two weeks ago, said some school districts in Florida are already hosting chaplains, while school officials elsewhere were unsure whether it's legal to do so. The new statute clarifies the legal situation and explicitly enables school districts to provide a valuable aid to students, he said.



Dear Friends in Christ:

As spring returns to the North Country, we are grateful for the help Catholic Charities has received from our generous donors during the past year. Individuals and families who have never been in dire need now experience poverty for the first time. With unemployment and daily poverty reaching more deeply into our North Country communities, our charitable response needs to be greater than ever.



As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church with a mission, we have always worked together to respond to those in need and offer guidance through quality services designed to respect the dignity of each person. Inspired by the Gospel, the many programs and services that are offered by Catholic Charities throughout our diocese, focus on building a just and compassionate society that embraces the gifts given to us by Christ.

As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day 2024, we are asking for your help once again. We need our volunteers, our supporters, and our benefactors to journey with us on this continuing mission of charity and justice. It is your financial gift to Catholic Charities that provides the resources that allow Catholic Charities to respond.

Catholic Charities continues to serve the neediest and most underserved in our eight counties across northern New York. We cultivate hope through our food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless housing, migrant outreach, parenting education and financial assistance to individuals and families with the greatest of needs.

We create **Hope** when we first provide **Help**. As we honor our mothers this Mother's Day, we thank you for providing financial assistance in support of our Catholic Charities outreach.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO CHERISH AND HONOR THE MATERNAL FIGURES WHO HAVE TOUCHED OUR LIVES. AS WE CELEBRATE THEIR LOVE AND GUIDANCE, LET'S ALSO EXTEND OUR SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO MAY BE IN NEED. YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY AIDS IN THIS NOBLE CAUSE BUT ALSO ALIGNS WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL TEACHING, FOSTERING A COMMUNITY BUILT ON COMPASSION AND CARE.



2024 Mother's Day Appeal

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL: \$ 175,000



THIS YEAR'S BLESSED OFFERING WILL GO TOWARDS FINANCING NEW INITIATIVES DEDICATED TO PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES TO UPLIFT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

Scan code to
make a donation
today!



For more information: Reach out to (315) 393-2255 or cathcharities.org



May 2024

Dear Supporters of Catholic Charities,

Warm greetings to you in this season of reflection and renewal.

As we approach Mother’s Day, I am writing to you on behalf of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Ogdensburg to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of our mission. Your commitment to Catholic Charities, echoes the compassionate spirit of Matthew 25, 31-46, where we are reminded of our duty to care for the least among us:

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

At Catholic Charities, we are dedicated to embodying the principles of social teaching through our work to support and uplift mothers and families in need. Through our various programs and initiatives, we strive to provide essential resources, empower individuals, and foster community connections. Your contribution plays a vital role in enabling us to carry out this important work, making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Your generosity not only provides immediate assistance but also contributes to the long-term well-being and resilience of individuals and families in our community. Whether it’s offering shelter to homeless mothers and their children, providing counseling services to struggling families, or advocating for social justice, your support helps us fulfill our mission of love and service.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day, let us honor the mothers in our lives by extending our love and support to those who may need it most. Your continued partnership with Catholic Charities allows us to extend a hand of compassion and solidarity to mothers facing adversity, reminding them that they are valued and cherished members of our community.

I want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our cause. Your generosity truly embodies the spirit of giving and reflects the timeless values of compassion and empathy. On behalf of all those whose lives you touch through your kindness, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Mother’s Day filled with love, joy, and gratitude.

With Gratitude,



Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, LMSW, D. Min
Executive Director

Scan the code above to make your donation today or mail in the form below with donation to:
Catholic Charities, 214 Caroline Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Contact Number _____

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Countries that rank worst in religious freedom

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released a new report on Wednesday highlighting the countries with the worst religious persecution in the world.

From this report, which is released annually, USCIRF makes recommendations to the State Department on how to best advocate for religious freedom. The suggestions typically translate into sanctions from the U.S. against violating countries to pressure them to improve their religious tolerance.

This year, the countries topping USCIRF's list of the world's most egregious religious freedom violators were Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, India, Iran, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.

USCIRF recommends these nations be designated as "countries of particular concern," or "CPCs," a label that has been called America's "most powerful tool" to advocate for religious freedom.

Here are some of the countries with the most concerning religious freedom trends in the last year.

Afghanistan

Religious freedom and free expression have continued to deteriorate in Afghanistan under Taliban rule, according to the report. The country is violently enforcing an apostasy law that bans conversions from Islam. The report also said that in the last year, the Taliban implemented a series of measures to seriously restrict women's dress, movement, access to education, and employment. Despite USCIRF's recommendation, Afghanistan is not currently a CPC, although the Taliban is designated as an "entity of particular concern" (EPC).

Azerbaijan

A majority Muslim country, Azerbaijan was included in USCIRF's CPC list this year for

the first time. The country has been increasingly encroaching on the religious rights of both Azerbaijani Muslims as well as of ethnic minorities, such as the Armenian Christians. According to the report, Azerbaijani citizens are "routinely" harassed, fined, and imprisoned based on their religious activities. The report said that 183 "peaceful believers" were unjustly imprisoned in Azerbaijan in 2023 because of their religious beliefs or activities.

After a violent Azerbaijani takeover of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and a subsequent mass exodus of Armenian Christians, USCIRF reported that several historic Christian sites have been damaged and there remain serious concerns about further threats to the region's ancient religious sites. Azerbaijan also evicted Armenian Apostolic priests from the historic Dadivank Monastery in the Kalbajar region along the Armenian border.

China

The most populous country in the world, China is a mainstay of USCIRF's CPC list because of its continued "sinicization" program, which subjects all its citizens and all religions in the country to the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Under China's communist government, all religions are strictly controlled by the state and any unauthorized religious activity is dealt with severely. In 2023, the report said, Chinese authorities continued to "forcibly disappear" and convict underground Catholic priests, including two bishops. The government also continues to subject the Muslim Uyghurs to forced labor and indoctrination camps and to persecute and imprison thousands of members of the Falun Gong religious movement.

India

The second-most populous country in the world, India is increasingly emerging as a leader on the world stage. Despite this, India, run by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hin-

du Nationalist government, has witnessed deteriorating religious freedom conditions. Though the country's constitution protects the right to practice one's faith, much of the country enforces anti-conversion laws. According to the report, thousands of Christians and Muslims were subjected to attacks and intimidation in 2023 while hundreds of churches and mosques were destroyed.

Iran

Citizens in the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to suffer "extremely poor" religious freedom conditions, according to the report. In 2023, protesters against the government's mandatory hijab laws and other restrictions on religion were systematically harassed, arrested, raped, tortured, and, in some cases, executed. Religious minorities, including Sunni Muslims, were severely punished, sometimes executed, whenever caught violating the country's strict Islamic law.

Nicaragua

Nicaraguan dictators Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo intensified their persecution of the Catholic Church and other religious groups in 2023. In the last year, the dictatorship seized the assets and properties of Catholic churches, monasteries, and schools and arbitrarily imprisoned and exiled hundreds of Catholics and political dissidents. Bishop Rolando Alvarez, a longtime critic of the Ortega-Murillo regime, was sentenced to 26 years in prison, where he spent all of 2023 with little to no contact with the outside world. This January he was exiled from Nicaragua to the Vatican.

Nigeria

More than 8,000 Christians were killed across Nigeria last year, according to the report. On Christmas weekend alone, a series of attacks resulted in the deaths of 190 Christians in Nigeria's Plateau state.

Nigerian Christians, who make up 46% of the population, were the victims of widespread attacks, kidnappings,

torture, and acts of intimidation by criminal elements that were largely ignored by the Nigerian government.

Despite continued persecution and consistent recommendations from USCIRF to designate Nigeria a CPC, the State Department under the Biden administration has excluded this country from the list since 2021.

Pakistan

Terrorist attacks against religious minorities and places of worship increased significantly in Pakistan in 2023, according to the report. The government moved to further strengthen prohibitions against "blasphemy," which observers say is a method of targeting religious minorities. In August a mob attacked a Christian community in Jaranwala over an accusation of blasphemy. The mob destroyed and looted many homes in the community and damaged at least 24 churches.

Other concerning trends

Transnational persecution on the rise: USCIRF reported that in addition to carrying out persecutions within their borders, several governments "engaged in transnational repression to silence religious minorities." Chief among these were the governments of China and India, both of whom increased their international efforts to target religious minorities who had fled their borders. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan also engaged in transnational repression as well.

Europe: Some European countries were also mentioned in the report as exhibiting concerning trends regarding religious freedom. The report highlighted how U.K. citizen Isabel Vaughan-Spruce was arrested for silently praying outside an abortion clinic in Birmingham, England. Additionally, the report mentioned Finnish member of Parliament Päivi Räsänen, who has faced multiple human rights violation charges for expressing her religious views on sexuality and marriage.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

PODCAST RETREAT

Join Father Chris Looby, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga, on a spiritual journey through the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary with 'Days of Light: Reflections on the Luminous Mysteries,' a new podcast hosted by Father Chris from St. Mary's Church."

Date: Beginning May 13 for a total of 5 days.

Place: Available on Apple Podcast, Spotify and Amazon Music, go to www.route74catholics.org for the link.

Features: Discover the deep and profound insights of the Luminous Mysteries, from the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan to the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Each episode delves into one mystery, exploring its scriptural foundations, its significance in our lives today, and leading us in prayer.

PLANTING CREATION CARE TEAMS

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

Date: May 16 and 23

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

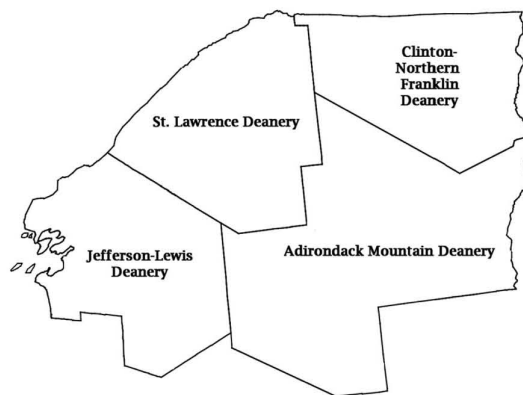
Place: Zoom (link will be sent a few days before event)

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

Contact: To register: www.rcd-ony.org/laudatosi

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

We will be blessed to have Father Leland Thorpe, OMV return to talk with us about the second half (Chapters 7 to the end) of "Discernment of Spirits in Marriage," by Father Tim Gallagher, OMV and answer your questions.



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.

Date: May 16

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: This book is beneficial for everyone regardless of your vocation. The chapters are short so you still have plenty of time to order and begin reading the book. For the past 40 years, retreat master and author Father Gallagher has been at the forefront of making St. Ignatius's Rules For Discernment understandable and applicable to hundreds of thousands of Catholics seeking greater sensitivity to the "movements of their souls." In "Discernment of Spirits in Marriage," Father Gallagher aims to free you from discouragement and assist you in finding peace in your spiritual life and in your marriage. He will help you determine what is of God and what is not and will show you how the enemy works to discourage you in your daily spousal interactions in order to undermine both your spiritual growth and your marital bond. Best of all, you'll learn what to do about it!

Contact: If you haven't signed up for the Friendship Groups, here is the link: <https://mailchi.mp/sophia institute/friendship-groups> Once you have signed up, you will receive updates, including the Zoom link and discussion questions, about a week prior to the

meeting.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

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

Date: May 15

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

Features: New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's nearly 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier.

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ticonderoga - Join for a Women's Ministry, a place of fellowship, faith and friendship.

Date: Beginning May 17 and then every third Friday of the month.

Time: Immediately following

the 9 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Light breakfast will be served. In addition to weekly fellowship, there will be a summer Book Club beginning in June. Details and book selection will be announced at the May 17 meeting. Beth Tiger is a Catholic speaker, author and facilitator. She is also the founder & Executive Director of 'Her Hands'; an anti-trafficking organization originally known as Durga Tree International. Beth's ministry has always been about assisting people in living a life of purpose. She's done this through her writing, coaching, as well as her charitable work. A new resident of Ticonderoga, she is looking forward to meeting spiritually like-minded women and creating a ministry where all can deepen their faith, form new friendships and be of service to the local community.

DINNER & BUFFET FUNDRAISER

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

Date: May 19

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

Place: Mr. Mike's Pizza

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

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

Contact: For further information **contact:** stagnespoutreach@gmail.com.

BLACK FLY 5K RUN, WALK, ROLL OR STROLL

Saranac Lake - St. Bernard's school invites you to help support their school as they gather funds with an enjoyable event of running, walking, strolling, or rolling.

Date: June 1

Place: Adirondack Park at Dewey Mountain

Time: Registration begins at 10 a.m., Race begins at 11 a.m.

Cost: Adult, \$25; Student, \$20; Families of 4 or more will receive a \$10 discount. All participants will receive a custom shirt while supplies last.

Features: Whether you prefer to team up with friends for a walk or aim to surpass your personal record, this event caters to all levels of participation, from laid-back to competitive, from earnest to lighthearted. Our goal is to engage everyone in this healthy endeavor, contributing to our school's mission of delivering quality Catholic education at an affordable cost. The event will be followed by post-race festivities and delicious food and drink. Prizes will be awarded by age category. Prizes will also be awarded to most enthusiastic, largest family in attendance, and other fun categories.

Contact: To register or to learn more- <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/SaranacLake/StBsBlackFly5K>

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION & ROSARY

Saranac Lake - Join us on Corpus Christi as we pray for our nation and Church.

Date: June 2

Time: After 10 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: The event will include Eucharistic exposition, a short talk, a Eucharistic procession with rosary recitation, silent adoration, and benediction. A rosary will be led inside the church for those who cannot walk in the procession.

Contact: For more info, contact Deacon John Fehlner: 518-312-5636 or fehlnjohn@gmail.com.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

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

Date: May 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$12 per person

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

BELATED 40TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

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

Date: May 26**Time:** 2 p.m.**Place:** St. Edmund's Church

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

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

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 & Entertainment. Kids Power Wheels Show entry fee of \$10. There will be How Wheel Races for kids and adults (Kids, \$5, Adults, \$10 and includes car). Top 40 picks and special awards at 3 p.m.

Contact: For more information or to pre-register call 518-236-5632, 518-236-7200 or 518-565-6754

JEFFERSON-LEWIS**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

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

Date: May 12**Time:** 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

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

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

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

RUMMAGE SALE

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

Date: May 17 and 18**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

Date: May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church**Contact:** 315-348-6260**ST. LAWRENCE****DOROTHY DAY CAFÉ**

Potsdam - Dorothy Day Café to be open.

Date: May 8**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Community Room

Menu: Sloppy Joes, Coleslaw, drinks and dessert

Contact: For more information to reserve email dorothydaycafe@gmail.com or call 315-265-9680

INDOOR SALE

Gouverneur - St. James School will hold a huge indoor sale.

Date: May 11**Time:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Toys, books, dolls, yarn, jewelry, puzzles, games, craft items, artwork, household items, Knick knacks, frames, CDS, DVDS, movies, linens, glassware, some furniture, new clothing, and much, much more. Please remember to bring your reusable shopping bags.

ST. JAMES RAFFLE

Gouverneur - St. James School to have summer raffle with a chance to win \$10,000. Only 350 tickets will be sold.

Cost: Donation price of \$100 each

Features: Grand Prize, \$10,000;

2nd Prize, \$5000; 3rd Prize, \$2500; 4th Prize, \$1500, 5th Prize, \$500. Plus, there will be 5 early bird drawings for \$100 each on June 30th. Grand Prize drawing will be held Sept. 8 at the chicken bar-b-que being held at the school. All tickets remain in the drum and are eligible for every prize drawing.

Contact: Tickets are available by calling the church office at 315-287-0114.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: May 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS**DOVS RAFFLE**

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

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

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

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

LEAD EVENTS

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

Schedule: May 8, Virtual, 6 p.m. to 8, "Fostering Holiness in

Children"/No Cost

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

Contact: To register go to: www.rcdony.org/certworkshops unless otherwise noted.

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD

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

Date: May 25**Time:** 11 a.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

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

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

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.

GET THE POPCORN

Oppenheimer: Should we or shouldn't we

Where to begin? "Oppenheimer" sweeps the Oscars? "Oppenheimer" explains the injustice of using nuclear weapons? "Oppenheimer" shows the complexities of life, of decision-making, of war, of peace, of conscience, of power - and probably even more?

To say that three hours of a movie passed quickly would be an understatement. From beginning to end, viewers participated in the soul-searching of Robert Oppenheimer, the struggle between science and politics, the conflict between victory and the massive destruction of human life. Even though the film focuses on nuclear war and its creator, the complexities of both come and go and keep the viewer on edge about what the real outcome will be even though we know that the U.S. used the atomic bomb to end World War II.

Throughout all of these is-



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

ses, Robert Oppenheimer is a troubled soul. Many saw him as a dilettante, unstable, neurotic, womanizer, leaning towards Communism. He transcended these characteristics but struggled constantly with the idea of moving from the theoretical to the experimental. In other words, just because we can do something, should we? He ultimately makes that transition. However, the success of the experimental pushes him to further weigh "should we" or "shouldn't we."

The conversations between Robert and Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves articulate the two views. Robert believes that he can produce the bomb, while the general keeps pushing for it to be used to end the war.

Because of his suspected leaning towards communism, a fire stoked especially by Lewis Strauss, head of the Atomic Energy Commission, Robert's

security clearance was temporarily suspended and eventually removed, thus taking him out of the Manhattan Project.

The film carries a rating of "R" from the MPAA, with the Catholic rating of AIII, adults. Explicit sexual content, vulgar language and some gruesome scenes led to this classification. We don't have classifications for other unsavory elements in films. There are some lines in the movie that Christians should find objectionable.

"We can out explode the Nazis" or words to that effect appear in the film. Even though that might be a true statement, should we consider doing that? Oppenheimer recognized the moral struggle involved in such a perspective. In fact, at one point, he says that the day will come when people will curse Los Alamos. That day came quite a while ago, but have we learned our lesson?

In some of the preliminary trials, Robert reacted by saying that he had darkened his hands, but added that the

bomb was a revelation of divine power. Obviously, his inner conflicts reveal inner turmoil, but that does not justify associating a bomb with divine power. In fact, at one point one colleague said that a bomb falls on the just and the unjust. Do we not see that in every conflict even to this day?

The movie is definitely not a Christian based film and runs contrary to our Christian view of life. Hopefully, though, the themes will make us understand the horrors and human complexities of war and always strive towards peace. Devious human behavior, jealousy, pride, envy - shall we say the seven capital sins - all find a home in this film.

Your homework for the next review is the 2006 movie "Thérèse," the story of Thérèse of Lisieux. The DVD is available or it can be rented through Prime. There may be other avenues to view the video. There are several "Thérèse" videos. Leonardo Defilippis directed this one.

Athlete trades championships for abbey life

By AC Wimmer
Catholic News Agency

At the pinnacle of his professional sports career, one French athlete announced his intention to quit volleyball to embrace monastic life at a famous French abbey.

Ludovic Duée, captain of the Saint-Nazaire volleyball team and recently crowned French champion, shared a deeply personal decision with local media: He has chosen to retire from the sport that brought him fame and success and embark on a new path at the Abbey of Sainte-Marie de Lagrasse.

Duée, 32, confirmed

his life-changing move to Ouest-France following his team's championship victory on April 28.

"This is a decision that stems from the depths of my soul," Duée said.

Coming from a practicing Catholic family, he described - according to Catholic newspaper LaCroix - his religious practice as minimal until his encounter with the canons regular of Lagrasse during the COVID-19 pandemic: The monks "were very welcoming and answered all my questions."

The profound impact of meeting and communicating with the Canons Regular of the

Mother of God led Duée to a personal revelation.

"I discovered that God loved me and that he only wanted one thing, for me to love him back," he said, according to CNA Deutsch, CNA's German-language news partner. The transformative experience has set him on a new path to reciprocating that love.

The Abbey of Sainte-Marie de Lagrasse in the south of France has its origins in the seventh century. Today the monastery, which lies about 400 miles from Paris, is renowned for its adherence to the Traditional Latin Mass.

What is more, this

monastery melds liturgical richness with a deep engagement with the local community: The canons are actively engaged in their diocese, contributing to social outreach programs, participating in sports, and providing spiritual and practical support to migrants at the village asylum center.

For now, Duée will live and learn among the canons without yet taking vows: "During the next few months, I will live and breathe the canon regular life. I will experience everything from the inside out to gain a deeper understanding of the community and determine if this is the long-term fit

for me, and for them."

Following the Rule of St. Augustine, the devout Frenchman has embarked on a spiritual journey that may ultimately lead to taking the vows of a novice: After years of personal and theological development, the end goal is to make a permanent commitment as a priest and canon regular.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

A non-negotiable command

Did you really hear that second reading? "Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us... God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." There you have it. Love is a non-negotiable command. Hmmmm.... I can already hear the "Yes, buts..."



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

I love courtroom shows, including the queen of courtrooms, Judge Judy. So, let's look again at this quote from John and pose our objections to Judge Judy acting on behalf of God. Objection: Those love quotes make it sound simple. Judge Judy: ob-

jection sustained. You're right they do sound simple. Objection: Love is not easy and doesn't feel natural sometimes. Judge Judy: I see you're catching on. Objection sustained: love is not easy, in fact, it's downright painful... but it's the law. Objection: Those words sound like you just decided to start loving, and it will happen. Judge Judy: You've been doing your homework.

Objection sustained. Those quotes do make it sound easy. Objection: So, we can pretty much ignore this passage and move on to something more enjoyable. Judge Judy: Oye; and I thought you were beginning to get some smarts. Objection overruled. Sit down!

May 12

Seventh Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

If love were not important, do you think that Jesus would have spoken so much about it? Love is essential, important, necessary, required, obligatory. How many ways can we say it? Love is very easy when we think about God, about his son, Jesus, about our love for our children. The boss, the annoying neighbor, the pesky slob-ganeer wanting to win me over to his cause, the demanding coach, the pushy teacher, and the snippy cashier at the grocery store - they are the tough nuts. Do I have to

love them? In the words of Judge Judy: You'd better believe it.

Love is sometimes quite easy, sometimes quite impossible, sometimes somewhere in between. The breathtaking reality is that God first loved us. God created us out of love. God breathed life into us. God gives us his Spirit. Does that not then mean that, since we are products of love, we must also love? Yes, the breathtaking reality, the spirit taking reality is that we are products of love. We cannot earn God's love, but we can definitely refuse to respond to that love. Love always, always means wanting what is best for the other. Any action or thought short of wanting what is best for the other is not love even though it may masquerade as love.

Love sometimes means

saying "no" to what a child wants or saying "yes" to what we do not want to do. We may love doing certain things, but love also says that some things must be done even if we do not enjoy them. Love must bring life and joy to the other. God never said that love would give us warm fuzzies.

If aliens invaded our earth and wanted to discover our concept and practice of love, what would they conclude? If they watched TV or streamed movies or went to different clubs, what would they find?

I close with another quote from that second reading: "If this is how God love us, then we should love another." I hear no objections. Case closed. Judgement in favor of those who love God and neighbor.

CALLED TO SERVE

When were you born again?

A fellow called my name after Mass recently. He is blind. He recognized my voice as I greeted another parishioner. He wanted to tell me he was celebrating his 46th anniversary that day as a Catholic.

I know the fellow, so I know he was a convert to our faith. He is well past his 46th birthday.

This day was the anniversary of his reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

He intended to go home and call his sponsor from that day 46 years ago to remind him of the event and thank him.

I congratulated David and wished him many more anniversaries.

As I moved on, it struck

me how significant that event was to this man who daily struggled with his disability. I suppose he could be bitter about the hand that was dealt him. But he is not.

Jesus' encounter with a man born blind from birth is found in John's Gospel. Jesus cured that fellow but not until he had reminded his disciples "I am the light of the world."

David has seen the light and celebrates it every day, but especially on the anniversary of the day he was welcomed to our communion, the Roman Catholic Church.

I do not remember my baptism. I had to find the date as documentation for my ordination

as a deacon. Now it is on my calendar, so I do not forget it again.

As was the custom back then, I was taken to Church by my godparents. I suspect Dad drove.

Mom would not attend the baptism if she had not been "churched." That was the custom back in the day of celebrating a mother after childbirth. The new mother knelt at the rail and a priest blessed her with prayers and Holy Water.

The custom had its roots in the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Jewish

practice of purification found in Leviticus.

If she had not been "churched," the mother usually stayed at home and prepared for the party that followed the baptism.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Coincidentally, the day of my baptism was my mother's birthday. My guess is she attended the ceremony too. I will have to clarify that fact when I see my parents again in eternal life.

We still consider baptism an important day in the life of a newborn, an older child, or someone who has come to the faith by choice.

Unfortunately, we do not ascribe the same annual importance to our baptism that we do to other anniversaries. Birth, marriage, and death come to mind.

We should celebrate the day we were baptized. The Catechism calls the sacrament the gateway to life. We are freed from original sin, made one with Christ and with his church.

Baptism sounds like a pretty significant day in our lives.

Smile and proclaim the date proudly. Happy anniversary, David.

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



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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Kenyan flood disaster

At least 188 people have died in the floods that have hit various areas of Kenya since March, according to figures presented by the government in Nairobi. Another 125 people were injured, 90 are missing, and more than 165,000 people were left homeless. The death toll continued to rise on April 29 following the collapse of the old Kijabe Dam in Mai Mahiu, killing 45 people.

The floods have submerged at least 27,000 hectares of farmland, and 4,800 farm animals have died. The Kenya Red Cross has set up 59 camps to accommodate flood victims. The disaster also hit the education system hard: over 100 schools were severely damaged or destroyed.

Vice-president of the Kenya Bishops' Conference and Archbishop of Nyeri, Anthony Muheria, expressed the Church's closeness in Kenya with the flood-affected people who are suffering the "pain of loss." "Unfortunately, lives have been lost and many people are affected. Their houses, property and crops for those who had planted them have been swept away; even cows and goats have been swept away," Archbishop Muheria said in a message in Swahili released on April 28.

The archbishop called for solidarity and help for the victims of this tremendous tragedy: "... We are the good Samaritan, who meets the afflicted man on the side of the road," said the Archbishop of Nyeri. Archbishop Muheria's call was taken up by the Kenyan Catholic Church. "Next Sunday a collection will be held in all churches in the country [Kenya] for those affected by the floods," said Msgr. Charles Ndung'u, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Nyeri, to Fides.

Help that is all the more necessary as "the rains continue and the population affected by the floods lives in fear and terror," adds the Vicar General. At his general audience on May 1, Pope Francis recalled the suffering of the Kenyan populations affected by the floods: "I also wish to express to the people of Kenya my spiritual closeness at this time as severe flooding has tragically taken the lives of many of our brothers and sisters, injured others and caused widespread destruction. I invite you to pray for all those affected by this natural disaster. Even amidst adversity, we remember the joy of the risen Christ, and I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you!"

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

A GROWING VOICE

Looking for miracles

We are surrounded by miracles. We never really think about it, but everything around us is a miracle. It's easiest to notice the big things, the things most people probably think of when I say the word "miracle." For instance, I know some people who have made remarkable recoveries from accidents or men-



Erin Savarie

tal health difficulties. Undoubtedly, God works in our lives in significant ways. However, we should also remember the little miracles that happen around us every day. Each leaf in the springtime, the intricate design of a spiderweb, and the very air we breathe are all examples of such miracles. Moreover, someone I

didn't think I would see in church again has been attending Mass every week.

In short, God's love surrounds us through the people we encounter and the beauty of creation, if only we remember to look.

Erin Savarie is a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville and a Camp Guggenheim camper. She shares her growing voice and growing faith once a month.

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – Ronald D. Randall, 89; Funeral Services May 6, 2024 at the Costello Funeral Home.

Brushton – Lillian Doreen (Lalonde) King, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 25, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Cape Vincent – Martin White, Jr., 74; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2024 at St. Vincent of Paul Church;

Clayton – Judith D. (Hall) Lawrence, 79; Funeral Services May 1, 2024 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Omar Cemetery.

Indian Lake – Barbara (Palestri) Yedlowski, 76; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Ellenburg – Donald W. Barnaby, 78; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2024 at St. Edmund's Church.

Hogansburg – Tammy T. Mitchell, 55; Funeral Services at Akwesasne Homemakers May 1, 2024.

Malone – Carol Goodrow Bashant, 85; Mass of Christian

Burial May 28, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Constance "Connie" V. (Hughes) Ashley, 90; Graveside Services May 7, 2024 at Calvary Cemetery.

North Bangor – Wm. Desmond Quenneville, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 2, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Malone.

Norwood – Dwight W. Gibson, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2024 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Virginia E. (Blackburn) Skipka, 90; Funeral Services May 1, 2024 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Peru – Tina L. (Duval) Neyer, 57; Funeral Services May 4, 2024 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Mary R. (Keenan) Provost, 95; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church.

Potsdam – Edward J. Wixted; Mass of Christian Burial May 3,

2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Redford – Marjorie M. (Cook) Waldron, 67; Mass of Christian Burial May 2, 2024 at Church of the Assumption.

Rouses Point – James F. Rochester, 97; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Christine (Jones) Martin, 71; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – June Margaret Stringer-Sherburne, 94; Graveside Services May 4, 2024 at St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Watertown – Barbara A. (Davis) Paddock, 79; Mass of Christian Burial May 3, 2024 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Nancy Vecchio, 56; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2024 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

News Briefs

Annual healing Mass to be held in Clayton

St. Mary's Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service will be Saturday, June 8, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Clayton.

Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Frank Natale, MSC, 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.

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

Scholarship opportunity for high school seniors

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

To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship chair, at vmathews@rcdony.org.

Application deadline is June 1.

Heart Well Homestead Golf Tournament planned

Join us for our first annual charity golf tournament on August 23rd, 2024, for a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. at The Barracks Golf Course in Plattsburgh, NY. Help us to establish this much needed home for mothers.

To register your team, sponsor a hole, volunteer or make a donation go to our website: www.HeartWellHomestead.org/#events.

Heart Well Homestead is an established 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which will be offering homeless pregnant and parenting mothers a residential home with programs for up to 2 years in Plattsburgh, NY. We will be the only maternity home that is in Clinton-Essex-Franklin NY's tri-county area. We are looking for volunteers to help us in our planning, networking and fundraising efforts.

Contact: HeartWellHomestead@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. View our secure website: HeartWellHomestead.org where you can make a donation towards this much needed service. You may also submit questions and ideas through our website.

Register for National Eucharistic Revival

Day Passes and Updated Schedule: The National Eucharistic Congress is now more accessible than ever for parishes, individuals, and families. Attendees have the option to book single-day or weekend passes. Plus, new family pricing means children 12 and under are now FREE.

To Register: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>

The schedule of speakers and breakout sessions is now available: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/schedule>

To support the NEW Lake Placid Food Pantry & Thrift Store Building

Buffet benefits food pantry, thrift store building

Eat So Others May Eat! St. Agnes and Mr. Mike's are teaming up to host a fundraiser to benefit the NEW Food Pantry and Thrift Store Building Fund. Join us for an Italian Dinner & Pizza Buffet on Sunday, May 19th from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Mr. Mike's Pizza - 2742 Main Street, Lake Placid, NY.

Suggested donation is \$20/adult; \$12/child. Cash or Checks (made out to Ecumenical Food Pantry) only. Sorry, no credit cards.



Adoration in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

The following is a list of Adoration hours and sites across the Diocese of Ogdensburg. If your parish offers Eucharistic Adoration or if this information is incorrect email lmast@rcdony.org

Holy Angels Church, Altona

After 8 a.m. Mass
Dedicated to Vocations and the church

St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls

Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Canton

Tues. 4:10 p.m. to 5:10

St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent

First Friday of the month

St. James Church, Carthage

Wed., 3 p.m. to 6
Thurs., 10 a.m. to 11
First Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday morning

St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay

Wed. 5 p.m. to 6, Adoration
First Friday 8:30 a.m., Communion
Service followed by Adoration for Vocations

All Saints Church, Chaumont

First Thursday of the month 3 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Chazy

At various times as needed, please
contact parish 518-846-7650 for more
information

St. Mary's Church, Clayton

First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Stephen's Church, Croghan

First Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 including
prayer for Vocations

St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora

Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown

Summer 9 a.m. to 10
Winter 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg

Monday after 5:30 p.m. Mass

St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington

Tues. 5 p.m. to 6, Sat. 9 a.m. to 10
except when it's a First Saturday

St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville

First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid

Tues 1 p.m. to 5:30,
Vocations Emphasized

St. Peter's Church, Lowville

First Friday of the month with
intention to Vocations

St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain

First Friday of the month after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Held at Sacred Heart Church
12:45 p.m. to 1:45

St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks

after 8 a.m. Mass
Dedicated to Vocations and the church

St. Augustine Church, North Bangor

Thurs. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

St. Andrew's Church, Norwood

Fri after 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg

Entryway for the Deacon Winter Chapel
Thurs. before First Friday from 7 p.m. to 8
Adoration each Wednesday 3 p.m. to 6

St. John's Church, Plattsburgh

Holy Family Basement
Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden

Rector's Chapel
Wed. Mornings after Mass for 30 minutes

St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Tues. 12:45 p.m. to 4:30
First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

Church of the Assumption, Redford

Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls

First Saturday, following 4:30 anticipated
Mass

St. Andrews Church, Sackets Harbor

Fri. 4 p.m. to 5

St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake

Monday 7 p.m. to 8

Holy Family Church, Watertown

Monday's following noon Mass

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown

1 hour prior to Mass, First Friday of the
Month

St. Anthony's Church, Watertown

First Sunday of the Month 2 p.m. to 3

St. Philip Neri Church, Westport

Half Hour every other Fri. (before Mass
Winter/after Mass Summer)

St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

Full Holy Hour on First Fridays (before
Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)