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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 22

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 1, 2025

YOUNG LEADERS



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN GRATTO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Youth from around the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at Camp Guggenheim Sept. 19-21 for the annual Leadership Weekend. The youth learned leadership skills and had opportunities to grow in faith and friendships. See additional photos on Page 12.

CALLED BY NAME

CALL BY NAME

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.*
— Isaiah 43:1

**NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO MAY BE
CALLED TO SERVE GOD
AS A PRIEST, DEACON
OR CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS**

NOMINATION CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR
CHURCH OCTOBER 11 & 12 AND OCTOBER 18 & 19
AND CAN BE FOUND ONLINE USING THE QR CODE
NOMINATED INDIVIDUALS WILL BE INVITED
TO A SPECIAL DISCERNMENT EVENT IN NOVEMBER



Nominate someone you think has qualities that would make them a good priest, deacon or consecrated religious in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Office of Vocations' "Called by Name" initiative. The program will launch Oct. 11-12.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Pray rosary for peace in October

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

At his general audience on September 24, Pope Leo XIV called on Catholics around the world to dedicate October to praying the rosary for peace.

"Dear brothers and sisters, the month of October is now approaching, and in the Church it is dedicated in a special way to the holy rosary. Therefore, I invite everyone, every day of the coming month, to pray the rosary for peace: personally, in the family, in the community," he said.

The pope asked Vatican employees to join in this prayer daily at 7 p.m. in St. Peter's Basilica. He also announced that on Sat-

urday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m., he will lead a rosary in St. Peter's Square during the vigil for the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, marking the anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

Continuing his catechesis for the Jubilee of 2025 on the theme "Jesus Christ Our Hope," the pope reflected on the mystery of Holy Saturday and Christ's descent into the realm of the dead.

"Today, again, we will look at the mystery of Holy Saturday. It is the day of the paschal mystery in which everything seems immobile and silent, while in reality an invisible action of salvation is being fulfilled: Christ descends into the realm of the dead to bring the news of the Resurrection to all those who

were in the darkness and in the shadow of death," he said.

"This event, which the liturgy and tradition have handed down to us, represents the most profound and radical gesture of God's love for humanity," the pope said. "Indeed, it is not enough to say or to believe that Jesus died for us: It is necessary to recognize that the fidelity of his love sought us out where we ourselves were lost, where only the power of a light capable of penetrating the realm of darkness can reach."

He noted that Christ's descent is not just a past event but one that touches every believer today: "The underworld is not only the condition of the dead but also of those who live death

as a result of evil and sin. It is also the daily hell of loneliness, shame, abandonment, and the struggle of life. Christ enters into all these dark realities to bear witness to the love of the Father. Not to judge, but to set free. Not to blame, but to save."

The pope concluded: "Dear brothers and sisters, to descend, for God, is not a defeat but the fulfillment of his love. It is not a failure but the way by which he shows that no place is too far away, no heart is too closed, no tomb too tightly sealed for his love. This consoles us, this sustains us. And if at times we seem to have hit rock bottom, let us remember: that is the place from which God is able to begin a new creation."

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Where's the energy?

"There was no hype."

My son, Jake, and I traveled last weekend to Foxborough, Massachusetts, where we watched our beloved Pittsburgh Steelers win an ugly football game. That was stadium 13 in our effort to visit all 30 NFL stadiums.

That was by far the most boring stadium we've been in so far. The stadium itself was nothing remarkable. It's 25 years old and showing some signs of wear, but that's not what made it boring. It was boring because there was no hype.

At most games we at-

tend, the crowd shouts predictable phrases as set times (yelling "first down" after a cue from the announcer is a common one). There's normally some song that all the fans look forward to playing ("Renegade" by the Styx is the song for the Steeler Nation, the name given to the fan base of our team).

Most stadiums have some fun entertainment during TV time outs and halftime - quiz games, baby races, dog stunt shows are all things we've seen.

There was very little of

any of that. The team's cheerleaders were the main entertainment, and even they were dancing to mostly older music, and no one seemed to get very excited by it.

Jake and I decided, "there was no hype." It took away from the fun of the game. We couldn't understand what kept fans coming back to cheer on their team in a place that offered so little fun, excitement and joy.

Thinking about it on the long ride home, it occurred to me that there's no hype in my Catholicism.

I'm not saying I think we should have rally songs and quiz games (though that could be

fun), but I don't think a visitor sitting near me at Mass would see much joy in me or see that I enjoy being there and that I am happy to worship our Lord. I don't think a visitor would see that much in a lot of our churches. I'm much more "hype" when I'm smiling at someone and or greeting them.

We have the best news that has ever existed - we have a loving God who sent His only son to die for us and rise from the dead so we can have eternal life. We should want to share that news and that happiness with everyone.

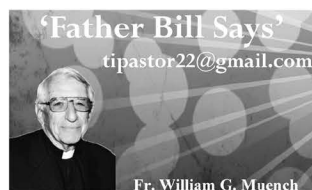
Maybe we need a little more hype.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

What's your 'why?'

Recently, I was involved in a program with other members of an organization. The day began when we were asked to answer the question "why" - why we were involved in this community? Then we were involved to discover a sound answer incorporating each one's ideas for this "why" question.

Today, I was thinking that it would be perfect to ask those coming into a Sunday Mass to begin Mass a "why" question - why are you attending Mass this Sunday? I can only imagine the various answers. I think each time you and I come to Mass, we should begin our prayer by asking ourselves, "why am I here", "why am I attending Mass today?", "why do I attend Mass any day?" I believe this would give Mass a real meaning for us. I believe that this would transform our time at Mass. I would like you

**Fr. William G. Muench**

now - as you read this - to take the time to answer the "why," - "why do you attend Mass each Sunday?"

Today, I would like to share with you my thoughts - "why" I believe each Sunday Mass is so important. These my thoughts; you must find your own. I must begin with gratitude. Each Mass is a Eucharist - a prayer of gratitude to the Lord Jesus for the many blessings I have received. I thank God for my priesthood each time I go to the altar to celebrate Mass. I thank the Lord Jesus for his presence with us at each Mass. Our Mass is our best prayer, our best thanksgiving.

In addition, the Blessed Eucharist, our Mass, is a unique time. In faith, we believe Our Lord is present with us at this Mass in a real and perfect way. This is our time to realize who God is - our God of love, and who we are - a blessed people. Each Mass is a time for us to participate, deepening our relationship with our God. We must open our hearts and our minds and allow our God is come to us. The Lord comes to support us throughout each day. Our God comes to challenge us to be his disciples, to bring the Lord's love to our world, to each person we meet this day. Our Mass prepares us to live well in the spirit of our Savior.

Each Mass brings Jesus to us in a perfect way. At Mass, we receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion - body and blood. This is a transformative moment. Each time we go to Holy

Communion, bringing the power of the Lord to us, driving away all fear, giving us a bold faith to live well, bringing Jesus to all we meet this day. Is this an impossible task? No. We have the Eucharistic Lord present with us, giving us the power we need.

In addition, each Sunday Mass unites us with our parish, with our community, with our Catholic Church. United together, we are dedicated to God and ready to transform our world - making it a better place. This our vocation as disciples of the Lord Jesus.

So, each time we attend Mass, let us take a moment as we begin prayer to realize "why" we are there. "Why" I am ready to unite myself with the Lord Jesus at this altar remembering his sacrifice and his love, so that I am prepared to unite myself in love with my Savior.

FOLLOW ME

'Called by Name' to serve God, His Church

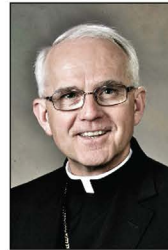
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we journey together in faith across the North Country, I am filled with hope and excitement to introduce a new diocesan initiative that speaks to the heart of our mission: **Called by Name.**

This fall, we will be inviting parish communities to prayerfully consider those among us, young and not-so-young who may be called to serve the Church as priests, deacons or consecrated religious. Through the Called by

Name initiative, we are asking you to be attentive to the quiet stirrings of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those around you. Sometimes, all it takes is a simple word of encouragement to awaken a vocation.

Each of us has a role to play in building up the Body of Christ. Whether you are a parent, teacher, catechist, or fellow parishioner, your witness and support can make a profound difference. By nominat-



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

ing someone you believe may be called to ordained ministry or religious life, you are helping them take a courageous step toward discerning God's plan for their life.

In November, we will host special discernment events for those nominated, opportunities to pray, reflect, and explore the possibility of a vocation in a supportive and joyful setting. These gatherings are not commitments, but invitations to listen more closely to the

Lord's voice.

Let us be bold in hope and generous in love. The Lord continues to call laborers into His vineyard, and He calls them through us. May we respond with open hearts and joy-filled faith. With gratitude for your prayers and your witness,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Nominate someone in your parish or online

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is asking you to prayerfully consider and nominate those who may be "Called by Name" and called by God to serve Him and His Church as priests, deacons or consecrated religious.

The weekends of October 11-12 and October 18-19, nomination cards will be available in parishes across the diocese, and parishioners will be encouraged to submit cards - anonymously or named - identifying individuals they think "may have the qualities of a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life and to submit their names for further discernment and outreach," according to a letter from diocesan Director of Vocations Father Christopher C. Carrara and Vocations Coordinator Deacon Garry Stevens.

"Through this initiative, we hope to awaken hearts to the possibility of a call to these particular vocations and to support those who may be quietly discerning," the letter states.

Those nominated will

CALLED BY NAME	
Thank you for your recommendation!	
Your thoughtful recommendation of someone who may be called to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated religious life is deeply appreciated. Each nominee will receive a personal letter from the pastor, recognizing their exemplary Christian witness and gently inviting them to consider a possible vocation. Your nomination could truly change a life—and make a lasting impact on the Church.	
Your Name	Parish
☐ Anonymous	☐ You may use my name
Nominee	
____ Adult	____ Youth (grade 10 or higher)
____ Male	____ Female
Parish (if different from above)	
Nominated as: ____ Priest ____ Deacon ____ Consecrated Religious	

be contacted by the diocesan Office of Vocations and invited to discernment events and/or given discernment resources.

The "Called by Name" program is conducted in collaboration with the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors. Several other dioceses in New York, including

Diocese of Syracuse and Archdiocese of New York, have conducted similar initiatives.

To submit a nomination, look for submission cards in your parish, submit the nomination form attached here to your parish or submit online at <https://www.rcdony.org/calledbyname>.

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A 2025 Subaru Forester*

*Or \$20,000 Cash

Drawing Sunday, October 12, 2025

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Your support of our annual car raffle helps make possible a wonderful school year for St. Agnes students! Thank you!

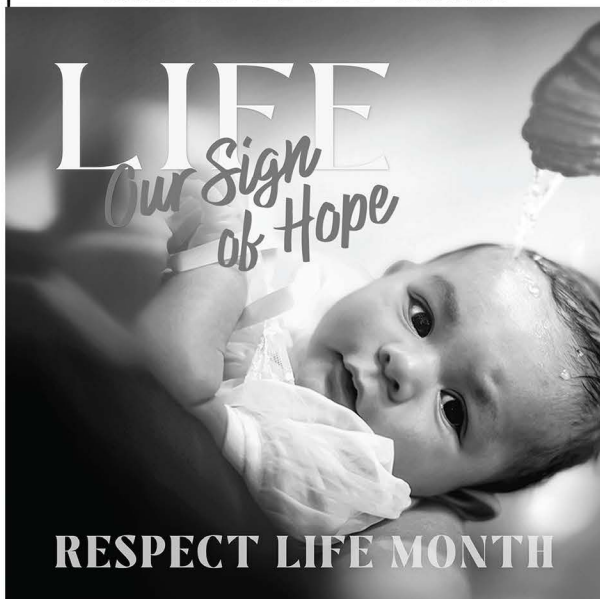
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October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider
sponsorship of an advertisement
with the USCCB theme:



to appear in our October 29th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

For \$25 your name will appear as a
supporter of human life from conception
through natural death. Your donation helps to
support the material printed in the NCC.

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Call our office at 315-608-7556 to donate with
your Credit Card or fill out the form below:

YES! I/We would like to support a Respect
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State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Name as it will appear in the ad (please print):

Mail Checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
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Protect life from abortion, physician assisted suicide

By Colleen Miner
Diocesan Respect Life Co-Director

In October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

To support these annual observances, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities provides materials to help Catholics understand and value the gift of human life and help build a culture that cherishes and protects it.

These resources may be downloaded, printed, and reproduced for use in your parish or school: <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>

This year's theme: **"Life: Our Sign of Hope"** reflects the ongoing Jubilee Year of Hope. The poster features an image of an infant receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.



Through the gift of our Baptism, Our Lord calls us to be a member of his body, thereby demonstrating the invaluable dignity of the human person. This mystery invites us to be witnesses to the hope of the resurrection by promoting and defending the precious gift of life.

Each year, on Respect Life Sunday, Life Chains form in cities nationwide and across Canada to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life.

Sunday, October 5, there are six Life Chain locations in our diocese: Massena 2:30-3:30 p.m., Potsdam 1-2 p.m., Gouverneur Noon-1 p.m., Plattsburgh 1-2 p.m., Saranac Lake 2:30-3:30

p.m. and Watertown 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (on October 4).

Signs are provided. All faiths are welcome. We stand for life rain or shine. For more locations please visit: www.lifechain.org.

Many have asked about information regarding physician assisted suicide.

While the legislation has passed the New York State House and Senate, it has not been delivered to Governor Hochul's desk.

Once, it is, she has 10 days to sign it into law, veto it or do nothing.

The deadline is the end of this year.

Now is the time to make your voice heard in opposition to this harmful legislation! The New York State Catholic Conference has issued an action alert (along with a flyer) to direct folks to contact Governor Hochul's office. The flyer can be used as a bulletin insert, posted on your parish website, Facebook or however you see fit to get the word out.

Now is the time to act.

More information can be found at www.nycatholic.org where you can join The Catholic Action Network (CAN), an arm of the New York State Catholic Conference. You will then receive emails and social media alerts, to provide educational updates on important issues being debated and provide you with the tools to simplify the process of contacting your elected officials.

Please feel free to contact the Respect Life office cminer@rcdony.org. Thank you for all that you do throughout the year to help build a culture of life.



Stand up for LIFE at this year's LIFECHAIN
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. Signs will be provided.

LOCATIONS

Gouverneur - St. James Church front lawn, Noon to 1 p.m.

Massena - Main Street & Rt. 37, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30

Plattsburgh - Smithfield Blvd., 1 p.m. to 2

Potsdam - Main Street across from Roxy Theater, 1 p.m. to 2

Saranac Lake - Bandshell Park on River St., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30

Watertown - Public Square, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
(please note this location will be held on Oct. 4)

For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area:
www.lifechain.org



New principal is familiar presence at school

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

A parishioner of St. James in Gouverneur with career experience giving children and families individual attention is now heading up the parish's school.

Samantha Campanaro is now principal at St. James School, succeeding Laurel Bartholomew as in the role. Campanaro worked at St. James as school counselor from 2021 to 2024 and currently has two children attending there.

In her new leadership role, Campanaro wants to continue the school's long-time commitment to developing students' character and nourishing their relationship with God.

"We can make them feel loved here," she said. "We can make them feel seen. We can make them feel heard and valued. And I have always always felt that here at St. James – for myself, and my kids, and all the other students who go here."

Campanaro is a Gouverneur native, whose husband, James, is chief financial officer at Gouverneur Savings & Loan. They have three children, ranging in age from one to five years old.

Campanaro has a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology from Alfred University and has experience working with children in foster care as well as their families. That includes conducting classes on becoming a foster parent and facilitating a support group for children who have experienced loss in their lives.

St. James teacher April Sochia said she feels the new principal's counseling background will be of help to teachers in developing strategies for students to succeed.

"She's very supportive of helping teachers find what works for each student," she said.

The new principal also likes to have some fun, Sochia said. Campanaro buzzed around in a bumblebee costume for last year's school Spelling Bee and pretended to be a big-time talent scout at last year's school talent show.

"Her willingness to do things like that really helps her connect with students," Sochia said.

Campanaro credits former principal Bartholomew for showing her the ropes at St. James. She said the principal would involve her in talks with students and families to devise ways for students to be more successful or to resolve any issues in the classroom.

"I really enjoyed doing that," Campanaro said. "I didn't do a lot of the administrative stuff when I was a counselor, but I did get to work with the students and their families and that really, really helped build a good relationship with them."

And Bartholomew is not far away. She is now director of Gouverneur Public Library. Teachers are already planning field trips there.

Under her leadership, Campanaro said traditions like the sponsorship of a student in Nicaragua and the Angel Tree at Christmas will continue. One change will be the annual fund-raising Gala has been shifted to April.

Among Campanaro's chief goals is retention of students from pre-school to 6th grade. Enrollment

in pre-school, pre-K, and kindergarten have increased at St. James, but enrollment in the upper grades has declined. She and the school's staff will be looking at ways to help families to keep their children in the school through sixth grade.

"I know there are so many different reasons why a family might leave," she said. "But I want to get a grasp on that. Why are you choosing to not stay here? How can we fix that? How can we keep families here long term?"

The school does a good job of involving families in school activities but there will be even stronger emphasis on that going forward, Campanaro said.

"We very much value families, and family time, and doing things together as a family – and parent involvement," she said.

Campanaro said she never imagined herself as a school principal when graduating from college eight years ago. But when the principal's job at St. James became open, someone suggested she put in for it. So, she did a lot of praying. It was while at a Mass at St. James for Catholic School Week that she heard the answer to those prayers.

"I prayed about it so much... It was honestly



Photo provided

New St. James School principal Samantha Campanaro puts the "bee" in Spelling Bee at last year's event at the school. Looking on is student Sutton Nikirk. Campanaro took over as St. James principal this fall after previously serving as a counselor at the school.

the clearest message I've ever had from God. It was like, 'Yup, this is exactly where I'm supposed to be. I guess I'm going to do this.'"



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Environmental Stewardship

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, Oct 4, is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, an individual who recognized the spiritual value of nature. Francis was able to sense the intense light and love radiated by Our Lord from every object, creature and person he encountered. He also realized God's light and love connect all things into one magnificent work of creation of which we are all an integral part.

St. Francis reasoned that because we are so intrinsically connected and have the same Heavenly Father, we must be all brothers and sisters in creation. This is why he referred to water, the moon and stars as sister, the earth as mother/sister and the sun as brother.

Francis also came to understand that all creatures must be made aware of their spiritual heritage and true essence. Even though they are non-human, they should be taught to give gratitude to their maker.

This saint discovered his greatest joy when he helped others, especially those in need. Francis became keenly aware that when he poured light and love he received from God into others, the remaining light and love left within him expanded and left him with more inner joy than he could ever imagine.

There are many ways to celebrate his feast but the most appropriate are the ones that give something to others. It may be as simple as a smile to a stranger you pass in a store or a friendly remark to a neighbor. It could also be volunteering at an animal shelter, spreading compost over a garden or picking up pieces of plastic from a stream. You can also just sit quietly on a porch and recognize the incredible beauty that engulfs your surroundings and feel that sense of wonder and joy that comes from knowing that you are a key part of that magnificent scene.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Parish, Saranac Lake

As the deacon at a funeral Mass recently, I was struck by the lack of response to the spoken word from the congregation. It also sounded like no one joined the music ministers or the other

ministers in some very familiar hymns either.

There have been quiet funerals in this church before. Usually, the congregation is the immediate family and a few friends of the departed. They might not be "church goers" or non-Catholic so we ex-

pect little or no participation.

In this case, the church was filled. I recognized most of the people in the Church. They were baptized. The scripture reader was excellent. The communion lines were long, that was telling. The niece who offered a remembrance from the family was inspiring. The remembrance was beautifully written and equally well delivered.

Still, there was something missing.

I could not help but notice how quiet the Church was during most of the Mass. The concelebrating priest, the adult altar server and I sensed the lack of participation and increased our collective volume as we responded to the celebrant's dialogue.

It just did not seem right.

I was an altar server in 1963 when the Council of Bishops in Vatican II gave us the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium. The goal was to have the people become

full, conscious, and active participants in the liturgy of the Church.

It was on this premise that we now have Mass in the vernacular of the community so the people can answer the prayers of the celebrant and understand what they are saying.

It is why we all sing hymns during Mass on weekends and other liturgical events, like funerals.

We are not all good singers.

So what? A prayer in the Divine Office speaks about that issue. "It is your victory we celebrate as we sing with all the skill at our command." Give it your best. Praise God.

Phil Lawyer, writing for Catholic Culture, said it well. "Yes, we are coming together as a community; but what binds us together is our shared status as pilgrims on that path. Yes, we sing and we pray aloud together; but we do so to praise our Savior and ask his mercy. The Mass will be celebrated whether we are there or not, whether we are distracted or not. Christ's saving Sacrifice will be consummated, with or without us. We only choose whether or not we want to be united to that Sacrifice."

Consider that the next time you go to Mass.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 4 – 11 a.m. – Memorial Mass for the Catholic Daughters of America Past Regents at St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish in Ellenburg (at St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain)

Oct. 5 – 12:30 p.m. – Adirondack Mountain Deanery Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at Colby Outlook. For all those planning on attending, you can meet at St. Agnes Church at 11 a.m. and follow each other to Colby Outlook or meet at Colby Outlook at 11:30 a.m. The one mile hike to the clearing for Mass will begin at 11:30am. Mass is at 12:30pm. Chairs will not be provided. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be held at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid at 10 a.m. Please check the following website for any changes in the Mass location www.stagneslakeplacid.com/home

Oct. 7 – 11 a.m. – Meeting of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

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

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 1 – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954

Oct. 2 – Msgr. Joseph D. Creed-en, 1944; Rev. Ambrose Raphael Hyland, 1954; Most Rev. James J. Navagh, 1965

Oct. 4 – Rev. George Drummond, 1839; Rev. Daniel F. O'Reilly, 1946; Rev. Thomas P. Fogarty, O.S.A., 1950

Oct. 5 – Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Euren Beauce, O.M.I., 1984

Oct. 7 – Rev. Jean N. Laverloch-er, O.M.I., 1884

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; 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



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Bishops launch Cabrini Pledge witnessing to the dignity of every person

By Madalaine Elhabbal
Catholic News Agency

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) launched the "Cabrini Pledge" intended to help Catholics in "witnessing to the God-given dignity of every person, including the migrants and refugees in our midst," as the Catholic Church in the U.S. observed National Migration Week from Sept. 22 to 28.

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, Texas, introduced the pledge in a video message, imploring U.S. Catholics to join the effort.

"With one voice, we proclaim every person, regardless of where they are born, is created in the image of God and has an inherent dignity that deserves respect," Seitz said, noting this sentiment guided the ministry of Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants.

"By signing this pledge, you make an intentional commitment to living out the Gospel, not an abstraction, but through acts of solidarity that affirm the inherent dignity of every person," he continued. "Through prayer, encounter, and civic engagement, we can transform fear into compassion and create a world where no one feels less than human because of their immigration status."

"The history of the U.S. Catholic Church

like the history of the United States itself, is very much intertwined with the phenomenon of migration," the USCCB also stated.

In the "Cabrini Pledge: An Invitation to be Keepers of Hope," the bishops invite America's Catholics to follow the example of Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who "accompanied her fellow immigrants and others living on the margins of society with a great missionary zeal."

The pledge includes seven parts, including a promise to affirm the human dignity of every person regardless of immigration status or country of origin, to encourage civic dialogue about policymaking grounded in the Church's understanding of human dignity, and to join Pope Leo XIV in praying for all migrants and refugees.

"As Catholics, we are called to recognize the face of Christ in each person we encounter,

especially the poor and vulnerable," the bishops said. "The Gospel and the social teaching of the Church continually affirm the equal dignity of every person, irrespective of race, nationality, or immigration status."

"The Cabrini Pledge is both a reminder of our immigrant heritage and a call to deeper engagement with our faith in response to current events," the USCCB added.

While "political divisions and reasonable disagreements about immigration policy" pervade across the country, the bishops continued, "by witnessing to the God-given dignity of every person, including the migrants and refugees in our midst, we pave the way for an approach rooted in mercy, justice, and the common good."

The pledge can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/cabrini-pledge>.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Italy may make Feast of St. Francis of Assisi national holiday

The Italian Parliament this week took a major step toward making the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi a national holiday. The Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Italy's Parliament, voted to pass the bill on Sept. 23, with 247 votes in favor of the proposal and two against. Eight people abstained. The bill is highly expected to pass into law but must first be put to vote in the other house of Italy's Parliament, the Senate. No date has been set for the Senate vote on the bipartisan initiative introduced by the center-right party "Noi Moderati" ("Us Moderates"). St. Francis is considered Italy's patron saint, and his feast was celebrated as a national holiday by the country until 1977. The year 2026 will be a significant year of celebration as it will mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis in 1226. The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Lorenzo Fontana, said: "I am delighted that the chamber has given the initial green light to this proposal: Rediscovering St. Francis also means reviving his message of peace, which is more relevant than ever."

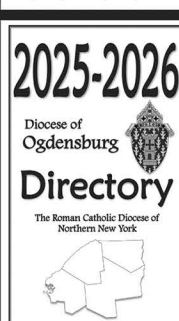
Pope sends message to exorcists gathered in Rome

Pope Leo XIV addressed a message to the approximately 300 exorcist priests who came together Sept. 15–20 for the 15th International Gathering of the International Association of Exorcists (IAE) at the Fraterna Domus House of Spirituality in Sacrofano, near Rome. The Holy Father expressed his appreciation for the priests who dedicate themselves to the "delicate and necessary ministry of the exorcist." The pontiff urged them to carry it out "both as a ministry of liberation and as a ministry of consolation." In a message signed by Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the pope also exhorted pastors to provide spiritual support to the faithful who are suffering. Pope Leo emphasized the need to "support the faithful truly possessed by the evil one with prayer and the invocation of Christ's effective presence, so that through the sacramental of exorcism the Lord may grant victory over Satan."

Bishops back Supreme Court bid to protect women's sports

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has joined legislatures, scientists, female athletes, the U.S. Department of Justice, and dozens of advocacy groups to support the protection of women's sports. The bishops submitted an amicus brief on Sept. 18 urging the Supreme Court to uphold state bans on biological men participating in women's sports. The submission was added to the more than 50 friend-of-the-court briefs put forward ahead of the upcoming State of West Virginia v. B.P.J. and Little v. Hecox cases. The brief is in support of the petitioners in the two court cases, which both arose from lawsuits by young men who identify as females and sued against the states' bans on boys competing in girls' sports. In the brief, the USCCB reported it submitted it to address "the legal errors in the lower courts' decisions and the disastrous practical effects those decisions could have on Catholic institutions."

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ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

CAR RAFFLE

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School is having their annual Car Raffle. Win a new Subaru or \$20,000.

Features: Tickets are \$20 apiece or \$100 for six. Tickets are available at the school (week-days), after Mass (weekends), or by phone (518-523-3771). Winner need not be present to win. Drawing will take place Oct. 12 after the 10 a.m. Mass. Winner can choose a new Subaru Forester of \$20,000 cash - and 100% of raffle proceeds benefit scholarships and programs.

Contact: For more information got to www.stagneslp.org or development@stagneslp.org or (518) 523-3771

ITALIAN BUFFET

Lake Pleasant – St. James Church will be sponsoring an Italian Buffet.

Date: Oct. 4

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: Adirondack Veterans Center

Cost: Donation

Features: There will be a variety of pasta dishes with gluten free and vegetarian options. There will also be a 50/50.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FIRST FRIDAY

Champlain – St. Mary's to have Mass, Exposition and Benediction every first Friday of the month.

Date: Oct. 3

Schedule: 9 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 11 a.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Plattsburgh - Soaking prayer Sessions to be held the first Monday of each month.

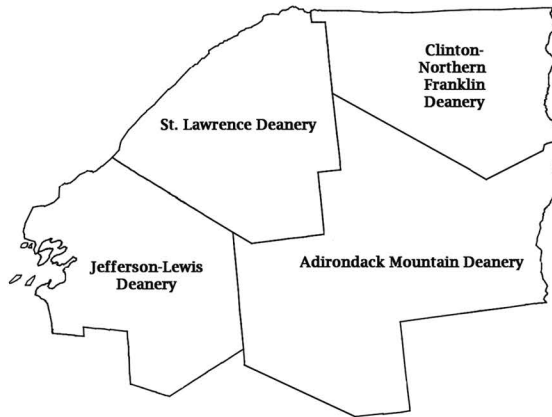
Date: Oct. 6

Time: 1 p.m. to 3 or 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Newman Center

Features: Praise and worship followed by soaking prayer. Led by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. All are welcome.

Contact: evemcgill@charter.net



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.

net 518-645-2648

SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS

Ellenburg Center – Soaking Prayers Sessions to be held every third Thursday of the month.

Date: Oct. 16

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

Features: Sessions are offered by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. Includes praise and worship, soaking prayer, witness/group sharing, lunch (bring your own bagged lunch), and recitation of the Rosary.

Contact: evemcgill16@charter.net or call 518-645-2648

CRAFT SHOW

Mooers – The Ladies St. Ann Craft Annual Show to be held.

Date: Oct. 18

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

Place: Mooers Fire Station

Features: There will be craft and non-craft vendors, michigans and baked goods for sale, and a raffle to benefit the local food pantry. Nonperishable items and monetary donations for the Mooers Food Pantry are welcomed.

HARVEST DINNER

Au Sable Forks – The Au Sable Forks Knights to have their annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 19

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Holy Name Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 12, \$10

Menu: Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, candied yams, vegetable, corn bread and pumpkin pie. Eat in or take-out.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

100 YEARS OLD

Lowville - St. Peter's Church's St. Therese's Guild will turn 100 years old in October.

Date: Oct. 5

Time: 9 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: The St. Therese's Guild was founded in 1925 as a ministry devoted to deepening our faith, serving the Church, and growing in fellowship. For 100 years, we have met monthly to nurture our spiritual lives and to support the special needs of St. Peter's Church through prayer and charitable works. We joyfully invite you to celebrate this milestone with us. A reception will follow in the church hall as we give thanks to God for a century of blessings and faithful service.

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: Oct. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ROSARY RALLY

Turin – Lewis Country Annual Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 11

Time: Noon

Place: Fatima Garden at Spirit Walk, West Main Street

Features: Program lasts an hour. Let's raise our voices in prayer to heal a wounded world. Chapel of Peace will be open as well as Stations of the Cross walkway. Held rain or shine. Bring a chair. Light refreshments.

Contact: For more information call Michelle at (315) 272-6168

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Watertown – Liferight to have special guest Speaker, Dr. Haywood Robinson.

Date: Oct. 11

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Jefferson Community College

Features: no cost to attend.

HARVEST DINNER

Constableville – St. Mary's to have their annual Harvest Dinner sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society.

Date: Oct. 12

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's, take-out/drive thru only

Cost: \$15

Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing and dessert.

ST. LAWRENCE

INDOOR SALE

Gouverneur – Huge indoor sale to be held.

Date: Oct. 4

Place: St. James School

Features: House-ware, dishes, glasses, jewelry, puzzles, linens, CD's, DVD's, some new clothing, fall items, frames, yarn, toys, books, crafts, Halloween décor and costumes, Thanksgiving and Christ-

mas items, knick knacks and much more. Before sure to bring your reusable shopping bags.

BRUNCH

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

Date: Oct. 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.

ALPHA

Massena – Join us for ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting Sept. 30

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: There is no cost and includes a free meal and great fellowship.

Contact: For more information call the parish office at 315-769-2469 or visit www.massencatholicolics.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

LIFECHAIN

Join one of six Lifechains in our diocese on Respect Life Sunday.

Date: Oct. 5

Schedule: Gouverneur – St. James Church front lawn, Noon to 1 p.m.; Massena – Main Street & Rt. 37, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30; Plattsburgh – Smithfield Blvd., 1 p.m. to 2; Potsdam – Main Street across from Roxy Theater, 1 p.m. to 2; Saranac Lake – Bandshell Park on River St., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30; Watertown – Public Square, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (please note this location will be held on Oct. 4)

Features: Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. Signs will be provided.

Contact: For more information about LIFECHAIN in your area visit www.lifechain.org.

'Deepfake' images of pope spread online

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Did you hear what Pope Leo XIV said about Charlie Kirk or President Donald Trump? What about his thoughts on the Rapture or whether it's OK to be cremated?

These are just a few of the topics the pontiff has appeared to speak about at length in videos popping up every day on social media. The problem is the videos are not real, and the Vatican is struggling to fight their spread.

The Vatican's communications team said it has reported hundreds of accounts, mostly on YouTube, posting fake, AI-created videos — called deepfakes — of Pope Leo since the start of his pontificate. But it's an uphill battle with new accounts, videos, and images appearing as quickly as others are removed.

"We are witnessing the exponential proliferation of a series of YouTube channels with fake videos, all similar to one another, some speaking in the voice of

Leo XIV, others in that of his translators, still others in the third person. All use artificial intelligence to make the pope say things he never said," the Dicastery for Communication said in a statement to CNA.

A search for "Pope Leo" on YouTube turned up dozens of fake videos of the Holy Father purportedly making statements that range from the plausible, such as reflections on the Eucharist, to the unlikely, such as the announcement of his resignation.

Most of the videos have received no more than a few hundred views, but some of the deepfakes have started to go viral. A 25-minute video claiming the pope has broken his silence on Charlie Kirk's murder garnered over 445,000 views in the first seven days after it was posted.

One of the first fake videos to go viral after Leo's election appeared to show the pope reading a statement denouncing colonialism and praising Burkina Faso's interim president,

Captain Ibrahim Traoré, a military leader who came to power in a 2022 coup. CNA and the official Vatican News outlet ran fact-checking articles to warn readers about the false information. The 36-minute video, posted shortly after the pope's election in May, received at least a million views before YouTube terminated the account that posted it.

The term "deepfake," coined less than a decade ago, refers to videos, photos, or audio recordings altered to show people doing or saying things they have never said or done.

Leo, of course, is not the first pope to have his likeness altered in videos. In 2015, the TV host Ellen Degeneres shared a video on her show of Pope Francis pulling a white cloth out from under the candles on an altar. A still image of Francis sporting a longline white puffer coat went viral in 2023.

With technology quickly advancing to produce ever more realistic images, innocent viewers can be forgiven

for mistaking fiction for fact.

Pope Leo himself recently noted an example of such confusion. In an interview with journalist Elise Ann Allen, the pope recalled his surprise when an acquaintance asked him with concern if he was all right. AI-generated photographs of the pope appearing to fall down a flight of stairs outside St. Peter's Basilica had circulated on the internet in June. The images, which caught the attention of the fact-checking website Snopes, were "so good that they thought it was me," Leo said.

The Vatican's communications team warned about the proliferation of deepfakes in its monthly email newsletter in August and invited readers to report suspicious posts and videos to the dicastery.

"Unfortunately, our dicastery receives dozens of reports every day about fake accounts that use the pope's im-

age and voice in a very realistic way, increasingly using artificial intelligence to make the pope say words he never uttered, to portray him in situations he never actually found himself in," the newsletter said.

"Much of our time is spent reporting, silencing, and requesting the removal of these accounts," the message continued. "Given the sheer volume of fake material, it is impossible to publicly refute each and every one of them."

The dicastery's statement to CNA said that the Vatican is not only reporting fake accounts to their platforms but also is "working to raise our audience's awareness of this new phenomenon. We believe it is essential to invest in media literacy."

The Vatican also reminded readers to rely on official sources, such as the Vatican's own websites, to check quotes: "If it is not there, it is most probably a fake."

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg — The Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat Committee is offering a Women's Healing Retreat with the theme "From Eve to Mary, A Journey of Hope and Healing."

Date: Oct. 9 – 12

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 includes accommodations and meals

Features: Presenters will be Father Michael Jablonski and Father Douglas Schirmer

Contact: to register and for

more information go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>

CLM DINNER

Norfolk — The St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack Commissioned Lay Ministers Association present the CLM Annual Dinner.

Date: Oct. 15

Time: 5 p.m. Mass at Church of the Visitation followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: \$15

Features: You are invited to join commissioned lay ministers

for mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley, a catered dinner and talks by Bishop and Patrick Looby diocesan youth director and his wife, Shannon.

Contact: Register at <https://www.rcdony.org/clm-event>



JOB OPENING

Secretary for Youth Ministry and Safe Environment

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Secretary for Youth Ministry and Safe Environment. The secretary performs general clerical duties, using higher level computer skills, maintaining records, assisting in developing special projects, preparing mailings and doing general daily tasks for the two offices. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office including Word and Excel is required. The candidate must have excellent organizational and prioritizing skills, ability to work collaboratively as well as independently, and have strong proof-reading skills. Pay rate is \$17.73/hr. - \$18.35/hr.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:
Human Resources Office,
Diocese of Ogdensburg,
P.O. Box 369,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

or e-mail to: ksnover@rcdony.org.
Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

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Christine Ward
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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

200 years of change

October 5

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10

and could not find God. I prayed to God and God did not answer. I wept at night for the loss of God. Then one day, God was there again. I had a parent and God knew me. I had never understood till this moment the meaning of the words 'gift of faith.'"

Our time machine journey showed that humanity has made remarkable progress in about 200 years. As a matter of fact, we do not have 200 years at our disposal to make lots of spiritual progress. In fact, we only have one day at a time.

Most of the changes of the past 200 years have been for the good, the improvement of humanity. Many have hurt humanity. For example, abortion, armed conflict, world war, euthanasia are all evils for which we must use the next years to eradicate.

Hopefully, our faith will be strong enough to influence the removal of those evils.

When he beatified John Henry Cardinal Newman, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the moments of darkness in life and the spiritual decay in our lives or the lives of others. The Holy Father cited Newman's words which could find a home on our lips: "Lead kindly, Light. ... Lead Thou me on! The night is dark, and I am far from home; ... I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step is enough for me."

Let's jump in our time machine and head back to 1776. For our trip, we have taken a newspaper, if we can find one. How much of today's news would those people understand? Would they understand these words: internet, stock market, air conditioning, abortion, baseball bat, surfboard, radio, television, moonwalk, long-range nuclear missile, Facebook, X, tweet, eBay, Netflix, cell phone, blackberry... and the list could go on and on.

Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

After listening to some of our explanations of these words, our new friends would probably laugh at us and think we were just stupid and, if they even had them then, that we were on some kind of drugs.

Look what has happened. The people of one century could never imagine as possible what the people of another century take for granted. With that in mind, let us review the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Jesus seems to be saying that the impossibilities of life become possible with a life of faith. Through faith, the power of God becomes available to us. What a tremendous power that is!

Faith does not mean that we can suddenly invent the machine that has been our longed-for dream. Nor does it mean that we can pass exams and write papers in coherent English merely

through an act of faith or even artificial intelligence. That type of thinking demonstrates false faith rooted in the frailty of our human nature. The faith that Jesus is talking about means that we take our God-given talents and use them well, use them for ourselves, use them for others, use them or lose them.

But we all know that our faith can weaken at times. Moments of despair replace faith and the world seems hopeless. So, how do we keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts?

Sometimes our lack of faith comes from mere human moods. Yes, faith can fall victim to human nature. We have mood swings with highs and lows. Some days all things are beautiful; on others, ugly seems to be the word of the day.

On other occasions, our lack of faith may come from our neglecting our faith. The greatest sign of our lack of faith is sin. Every sin weakens our faith. Also, too, we neglect to nourish our faith. Our bodies grow weak without proper nourishment and exercise. So, too, our spiritual lives grow weak without spiritual nourishment.

Sometimes, God lets events happen that may challenge our faith. These moments can be occasions for us to mature in our faith just as God helped Abraham and Job mature in their faith journey.

In the novel *The Devil's Advocate*, one of Morris West's characters says: "I groped for God



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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Humanitarian aid in Pakistan

Since the end of June, when very intense monsoon rains began in Pakistan, more than six million people have been affected by the resulting floods, killing nearly 1,000 people, including 250 children. Some 2.5 million people have been displaced; many have found refuge in government-run camps or with host families. The internally displaced have not yet returned to their homes, and when the water levels recede, they will find their homes and livelihoods destroyed. The floods have inundated large parts of Punjab province, the "breadbasket of Pakistan," and experts fear a significant impact on the food security of more than 5 million people.

"The extent of the destruction is indescribable. In some areas, the water level is gradually receding, but thousands of people are stranded and do not know where to go. Their crops have been destroyed, their homes and livestock swept away. Their hardship is enormous, and this is just the beginning. We must think about the future. We must help millions of people get back on their feet after they have lost everything," Michelle Chaudhry, President of the Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation, told Fides.

The foundation launched an assistance program for displaced people after Pakistan was hit by heavy rains and floods in the past three months.

"We want to contribute to helping the suffering people," Chaudhry continued. "Millions of people have been affected by the torrential monsoon rains and floods. Villages and towns have been swept away, and millions of citizens have lost all their belongings. The floods have destroyed crops, homes, roads, the electricity grid and the water supply. As Christians, we feel called to roll up our sleeves and show our solidarity."

"We have reached out to approximately 75 affected families in the villages around Kartarpur in the Narowal district of Punjab. These families live in extremely difficult conditions and are destitute. We have provided them with packages containing dry food, basic medicines, drinking water, clothing and hygiene items. This is just a drop in the ocean, but it is something," she emphasized. "We thank all donors who are making it possible for us to reach the most affected families and show them that we care. At this time, humanitarian aid is a source of comfort for them and a way to demonstrate our care," concluded Chaudhry.

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when writing or changing your will.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Henry A. Barnaby Jr., 71; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2025 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Dorothy A. (Collins) Kay, 102; Services to be held at a later date.

Clayton – Loretta (Rizzo) Lanzione, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Edwards – Martha C. Lennox, 81; Private Services.

Essex – Stephen Goddard Phillips, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church.

Hogansburg – Linda M. Printup, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2025 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Shirley Ann (Blaise) Stanford, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2025 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Louisville – Lloyd M. Seguin, 75;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2025 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Michael C. Patterson, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2025 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – John E. Corcoran; Memorial Mass Oct. 11, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church.

Mooers – Rudolph Henry Miller Jr., 73; Funeral Services Sept. 27, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

North Bangor – Dale F. King, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Bruce M. Daley, 69; Funeral Services Sept. 28, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Jessica Lynn (Ormsby) Depo, 30; Funeral Services Sept. 25, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Gary Richard Lindsay, 77; Funeral Services Oct. 4, 2025 at the

Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Carl E. Phyfer, 62; Funeral Services Sept. 25, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh – Dr. Robert Buran, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

Watertown – Mariano "Jasper" Grant, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Justin M. Parody, 48; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 29, 2025 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Rejean H. Roux, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church.

Watertown – Nancie S. Williams, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Leyden – Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2025 at St. Mary's Nativity Church.

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.



You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!"

Roy Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:

(518)359-7688

EMAIL:

mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Teens from around the diocese gathered Sept. 19-21 at Camp Guggenheim for the annual diocesan teen Leadership Weekend

Photos by Christian Gratto

