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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Missionaries of Hope Among the People

Bishop Terry R. LaValley reflects on World Mission Sunday, to be marked Oct. 19.

This year's theme, Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples, invites us to rediscover our role as bearers of hope rooted in Christ. It is especially meaningful that this World Mission Sunday will be the first under the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, who spent most of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru, serving communities in the Andean highlands and rural villages, always with humility, joy and personal closeness.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

HOPE ELEVATED



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Adirondack Mountain Deanery Mass Jubilee Mass on Oct. 5 on Cobble Outlook near Whiteface Mountain. Nearly 150 people from around the deanery participated in this Jubilee pilgrimage to celebrate Mass in the midst of God's creation. "How great thou art, how great thou art" echoed through the valley as the Liturgy ended

STUCK IN THE PROCESS



This is an image of some of the voluminous paperwork that religious from other countries must fill out to get a visa to serve in the United States. The religious worker visa is the most common visa initially used by priests and other religious when they come to serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Snags in the visa process have resulted in priests being unable to return to the country.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Joy isn't always 'free from suffering'

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday warned against the claim that true joy "must be without wounds" or "trials," saying pain is not the denial of God's promise of love for his people.

During his Oct. 8 general audience at the Vatican, the Holy Father said "there is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognizing Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering."

Despite having heard that the tomb is empty, the pope said the two disciples were "unable to smile" because they were unable

to recognize God's close presence.

"But Jesus walks alongside them and patiently helps them understand that pain is not the denial of the promise, but the way through which God has manifested the measure of his love," Leo said in his Wednesday catechesis.

"Brothers and sisters, Christ's resurrection teaches us that no history is so marked by disappointment or sin that it cannot be visited by hope," he added. "No fall is definitive, no night is eternal, no wound is destined to remain open forever."

"However distant, lost, or unworthy we may feel, there is no distance that can extinguish the

unfailing power of God's love," he continued.

In times of disappointment, Leo XIV invited people to not give into despair but "to discover that beneath the ashes of disenchantment and weariness there is always a living ember, waiting only to be rekindled."

"Instead, the Risen One is close to us precisely in the darkest places: in our failures, in our frayed relationships, in the daily struggles that weigh on our shoulders, in the doubts that discourage us. Nothing that we are, no fragment of our existence, is foreign to him," he said.

"Today, the risen Lord walks alongside each of us as we travel our paths — those of work and

commitment, but also those of suffering and loneliness — and with infinite delicacy asks us to let him warm our hearts," he added.

Toward the conclusion of his address, the Holy Father asked people to pray for the grace to recognize Christ "as our companion on the road" in daily life.

"And so, like the disciples of Emmaus, we too return to our homes with hearts burning with joy," the Holy Father said. "A simple joy that does not erase wounds but illuminates them," he said. "A joy that comes from the certainty that the Lord is alive, walks with us, and gives us the possibility to start again at every moment."

NORTH
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Signs of the times

I don't normally drive by this church. I detoured off my normal route so I could pick up items at a local business that were ordered by a friend I'd be seeing later in the day.

It was 7:20 in the morning, and I hate mornings. I was running late, and I had an extra stop to make. I was anxious about a medical appointment later in the day. It's fair to say I wasn't in the best mood.

The church had one of those signs with permanent text at the top and

bottom and a large blank spot in the middle where letters could be changed to modify the sign's message. I couldn't tell you what the permanent text said, though I assume it was the name of the church and its denomination, but the simple sentence in the section that could be modified hit me like a ton of

bricks: "Take a second to think about how blessed you are."

I was not feeling blessed.

While I'm not usually one to follow instruc-

tions, I took a second to think about how blessed I am.

Was I having a bad morning? Yup. I sure was. But a bad morning doesn't mean a bad life. It doesn't even mean a bad day.

It was a bad morning that's part of a good life full of blessings from an awesome God.

I was on my way to a job God led me to, a job I love more than any I've ever had, a true blessing. God has blessed me with wonderful friends and has put me in a position to occasionally make their lives easier because of my travels all over the North Country. God has

blessed me with access to medical care I need.

And that was just considering the blessings that were related to my bad morning.

Suddenly, my morning didn't seem so bad.

I'm really good at focusing on the negatives in the world and in myself. When I'm focusing on those negatives, I let negativity consume me, and it blinds me to the many blessings evident in my life and in the world around me. So, sometimes God blesses me with a little reminder to sit with those blessings.

That's a good detour off my normal route.

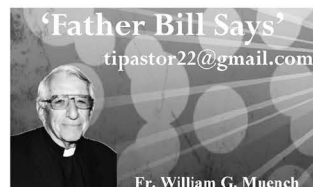
**Darcy L. Fargo**

Blessed are the peacemakers

Last Friday, I celebrated Mass with and for the children of our school and their parents. The Gospel reading for that Mass was the Beatitudes of Jesus, Matthew 5. I was thinking that we should all memorize the Beatitudes, so that they will always be with us. Jesus began his teachings with the Beatitudes.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches us his way to happiness. We will be happy when we are poor in spirit, when we are meek, when we understand the time for sadness, when merciful and clean of heart, when we are peacemakers. At that Mass last week, I decided to emphasize the children being peacemakers.

Recently, I learned something from Harvard Professor Arthur Brooks. His talks are often on YouTube. He mentions his Catholic faith often, and he often urges his listeners to be missionaries. He



wants his students to be enthusiastic missionaries to make the world a better place. So, I decided I would encourage the children at Mass and their parents to be missionaries for peace - Christ's peace.

I knew that the children knew about missionaries. They knew of priests and religious sisters who in faith have gone off to a foreign country to bring Jesus and his message to those people. I wanted them to also realize that there are other Catholic missionaries - lay men and lay women - who dedicate their lives - to being a missionary for maybe year or two to be disciples of the Lord Jesus. They find opportunities to work

with the Catholic Church in another place.

I always like to tell the stories about lay people who I have known that became missionaries - some are college graduates who dedicate a year to a missionary opportunity. I always remember four recent college graduates from Notre Dame University I met in South America. It was a while ago, but I remember what great kids they were. They spent a year working in a Catholic School in Bolivia.

So, I challenged the children and their parents to become missionaries of peace - right now - to live well and do something now right here in their school and neighborhood dedicated to peace like a missionary. I asked them to live right now with the love of Jesus, with the Lord's concern for others, with a true love of their neighbor - to live in peace, love and forgiveness. They

can change the world right now - and transform this world into a place of peace.

It all starts with a recognition of God's love for us, for all of us. God loves us into being. We are important to our God. And, like Jesus, we must treat others with peace and Christian love. At each Mass, after the consecration of the Blessed Eucharist and just before Holy Communion, the priest prays, "Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will."

Then we are told to share a Sign of Peace with each other. This Sign of Peace at each Mass is our recognition that we are a people of peace. We are dedicated to making our world a peaceful place.

Lowville priest stuck overseas in visa snag

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

Diocesan officials are warning foreign-born priests and other religious here on visas not to travel outside the United States after a priest serving in the diocese was barred from re-entering the country.

Father John K. Ojuok, parochial vicar at St. Peter, St. Mary, St. Hedwig in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville was denied a re-entry visa stamp in late September after traveling to Kenya to renew it upon expiration, according to Father Christopher Carrara, diocesan vicar for clergy. The denial came after he had completed all required paperwork and a visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

The only reason Father Ojuok was given for denial of the visa stamp was that he had failed the interview, Father Carrara said. The immigration officials would not tell him why.

"You certainly want them doing their due diligence," Father Carrara said. "But this is a guy (Father Ojuok) who has been here in the country working full time ... and he's not new to this."

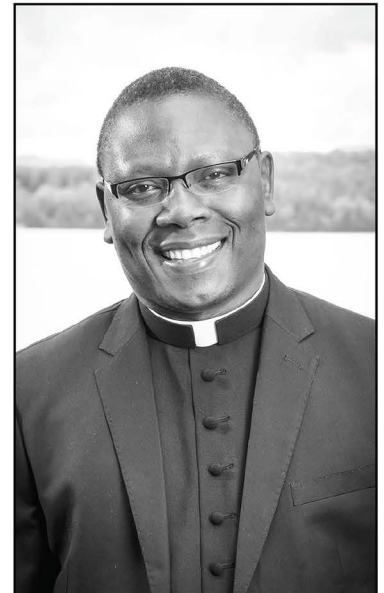
Father Ojuok seems to have got caught up in the increased scrutiny of visa applications ordered in September by the Trump administration, which includes in-person interviews at U.S. embassies or consulates abroad. The visa stamp goes on a visa holder's passport and is needed to enter the United States at a port of entry.

Nonetheless, Father Carrara doesn't think Father Ojuok is lost to the diocese forever. The R-1 religious worker visa he holds, giving him legal status to stay in the United States, still appears to be valid.

But without the visa stamp, he would be denied entry by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers if he attempted to enter the United States. Diocesan officials have asked U.S. House Representative

Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker		USCIS Form I-129 OMB No. 1615-0009 Expires 12/31/2027	
Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services			
For USCIS Use Only	Receipt	Partial Approval (explain)	Action Block
	Class: _____ No. of Workers: _____ Job Code: _____ Validity Dates: _____ From: _____ To: _____		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Classification Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Consulate/POE/PFI Notified At: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Granted <input type="checkbox"/> COS/Extension Granted	
▶ START HERE - Type or print in black ink.			
Part 1. Petitioner Information			
If you are an individual filing this petition, complete Item Number 1. If you are a company or an organization filing this petition, complete Item Number 2.			
1. Legal Name of Individual Petitioner			
Family Name (Last Name)		Given Name (First Name)	Middle Name
_____		_____	_____
2. Company or Organization Name			

3. Mailing Address of Individual, Company or Organization			
_____ (USPS ZIP Code Lookup)			



(Left) This is an image of the the start of some of the voluminous paperwork religious from other countries must fill out if they wish to get a religious worker visa to serve in the United States. The religious worker visa is the most common visa initially used by priests and other religious when they come to serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. (Right) Father John K. Ojuok, parochial vicar at St. Peter's in Lowville, St. Mary's in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's in Houseville is currently unable to return to the U.S. due to immigration issues.

Elise Stefanik, R-21, to investigate and help get Father Ojuok back to work in the diocese.

"He (Father Ojuok) is already here legally," Father Carrara said. "It's not as if he doesn't have a home or legal status. It's just that they won't let him back in the country."

For Father Ojuok, the situation now is different from the one he faced in 2021, when he had to go back to Kenya for a one-year waiting period in order to renew his visa. Then, he knew he'd be able to come back to the United States.

Other changes undertaken this year by the Trump administration also have diocesan officials worried, adding to their concerns about priests and religious traveling back to their home countries or even Canada. And some of the changes will make it impossible for priests and religious from some countries to get visas in the first place.

That includes a ban implemented over the summer on issuance of visas for citizens of Haiti and 12 other nations.

"There are not any positive changes," Father Carrara said.

"There's only negative ones, unfortunately. Things are as difficult as they were before and probably more so."

More broadly, the diocese is concerned because many of the priests and other religious here on visas are in an almost constant process of preparing for renewal of visas, actually undergoing renewal, or applying for a visa other than the one they already hold. With delays currently happening, applicants' current visas can expire through no fault of their own. An applicant can fill out all the paperwork, pay required fees, and plan for travel back to their home country and find it was all for nought for want of an opening for a visa interview.

And immigration changes enacted late in the Biden administration also continue to cause concern.

Last year, a backlog in religious worker visas was created when those seeking new ones or renewals were put into a much larger application pool including other types of visas. That greatly extended the visa wait line for everyone

involved. Because of a delay in his application, Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" de la Rosa, pastor at Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, was forced to return to the Philippines for a year before he could get his visa renewed. He completed the wait period, obtained a new visa, and returned to the diocese.

As a workaround for the delays in religious worker visas, the diocese was planning to have overseas religious wanting to serve in the diocese apply for H-1B visas, Father Carrara said. Those are typically associated with tech workers but are actually available to other workers in fields requiring specialized knowledge. The thought was that applying for the H-1B visas could cut down on delays and offer surety once issued. But in late September, the application fee for such visas was upped to \$100,000.

"There is need for these workers," Father Carrara said. "They're not taking anyone's job. ... They are coming here to give, not to take."

STANDING FOR LIFE



LifeChain, a prayerful stand for life, was held in several areas around the diocese Oct. 4 and 5. Pictured are scenes from LifeChain in Saranac Lake.

Workshop to teach tech to older adults

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will host a Technology Assistance Workshop on November 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at BOCES Adirondack Educational Center, 711 State Rt. 3 in Saranac Lake.

The workshop is open to all older adults in Tri-Lakes communities and will focus on Accessing Healthcare Systems and Benefits Online.

There are changes in the social care and health care environments, which encourage digital access to participate

most efficiently. Krissy Leerkes, director of the Essex County Office for Aging, will present on applying for benefits and assistance programs such as HEAP, SNAP, Social Security and health insurance online.

Jodi Gibbs, quality and community benefits coordinator at Elizabethtown Community Hospital, will offer instruction and support on setting up and navigating an online healthcare portal.

There will be an opportunity for one-on-one assistance with cell phones

and tablets.

Mercy Care offers an iPad permanent loan program. This initiative empowers older adults to stay connected with their community, family and friends, and participate in art, travel and cultural experiences digitally.

Participating Elders receive an iPad and one-on-one face-to-face instruction from trained Friendship Volunteers. This program is open to all older adults in the community on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Technology Work-

shop and iPad Permanent Loan Programs are offered free of charge, but registration is required.

To register, or for more information, please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, director of programs and mission integration at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or at 518-523-5446.

Mercy Care's mission is to enhance in every dimension the fullness of life of Elders living in our community. Mercy Care hosts social engagement events to strengthen friendships and relationships in the Tri-Lakes area among Mercy Care Volunteers, Parish Nurses, Elder Friends, and Mercy Care's Mission Extension Partners' Volunteers and their Elder Friends.

Mercy Care is experiencing many new requests from elders in our community who need friends and informal supports to help them

age in place more successfully.

Mercy Care serves any older adult in need within our capacity.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mercy Care receives requests for a Friendship Volunteer from elders themselves, their families, or friends, to help them with informal supports and ease their isolation and loneliness.

Mercy Care's next Friendship Volunteer Training will be held in January 2026 in Tupper Lake. Mercy Care invites anyone in the Tri-Lakes region and surrounding communities who is interested in becoming a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer to take the training. To register, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

Save the Date

The Ave Maria Circle is thrilled to bring back the Augustinian Academy Craft Fair.

Please join us on October 25th, 2025, for a day full of creativity and fun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will have over 35 crafters and artisans for you to shop from, for yourself or to find gifts for others. Remember, the holidays are right around the corner. The entrance fee is just \$1.00, which enters you into giveaway drawings held throughout the day. Lunch will be available for purchase. Come spend the day with us! All proceeds support Augustinian Academy School.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Bishop's fund: Bringing hope to ministry

By Catherine Russell

Program Coordinator,
Formation for Ministry

As we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, this year's Bishop's Fund appeal, United In Hope, reminds us that together we do walk with faith and hope into the future. Who knows what tomorrow will bring? We all know the challenges for our church but each of us can do something.

One of the diocesan programs supported by generous donations to the annual Bishop's Fund is the Formation for Ministry program. Back in 1986, pastors recognized the need for well-trained laity to assist in various parish ministries. A planning committee was formed, and the first director, Sister Mary El-

len Brett, SSJ, was named.

The first class of 54 candidates was welcomed in 1990. Since its inception, the bishops of our diocese have commissioned more than 1,500 graduates of the program into parish ministry.

Today, the program continues to provide an excellent academic, pastoral and personal spiritual foundation for those desiring to share their love of Jesus Christ with others in their parishes, UNITED IN HOPE.

The two-year program has evolved to meet the changing needs of parishes and those who seek to serve. Yet the commitment of the program to provide an excellent foundation for lay ministry has not changed.

The success of the program hinges on working closely with pastors to meet the needs of

both parishes and the candidates. Through a partnership with Boston College's Crossroads program, candidates take classes in an online format. The classes include Old and New Testament, Creed, Sacraments, Spirituality, Morality, Catholic Social Teaching, Church History and Eucharist.

During year one, candidates participate in two workshops: Vision of Lay Ministry, Prayer and Recognizing Gifts. There is a day of reflection at the end of the first year. This day is an opportunity to take the time to integrate what they have learned into their own spiritual lives.

During the second year, candidates, after discussion with their pastor, choose a ministry area from liturgical, youth, faith formation, sick and elderly and par-

ish outreach. They attend four all-day workshops to sharpen skills in their area of choice. The second year ends with a weekend retreat and the commissioning by the bishop.

A new class of 21 candidates from all over the diocese just started their first year and will be commissioned by Bishop LaValley in June 2027. The Formation For Ministry program is usually a first step in preparing men to discern the diaconate program. More information can be found on the diocesan website under Office of Formation for Ministry or by contacting the Director, Cathy Russell, crussell@rcdony.org.

Your generous contributions to the Bishop's Fund allows the program to continue to meet the ministry needs of parishes.



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 news@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
Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ending with
Divine Mercy Chaplet

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. Francis of Assisi, Constable

Second Fri. of the Month, 5 p.m. to 6

St. Mary's Church, Constableville

First Fridays 6 p.m.

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. James Church, Gouverneur

9:45 a.m. to 10:45 every second
Sunday

St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville

First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

Immaculate Conception,

Keeseville

Sun, 1 p.m. to 4

St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid

Tues 10 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.
Vocations and Divine Renovation
our of our parish are emphasized

St. James Major, Lake Pleasant

7:30 a.m. before 8 a.m. Mass on the
First Sunday.

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
Thursday 12:45 p.m. to 1:45
First Friday 2 p.m. to 6

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 Wed. 3 p.m. to 6

and Fri. 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

St. Augustine's Church, Peru

Every Friday following 8 a.m. Mass
to 7 p.m.

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 Sat, after 4:30 Ant. Mass

St. Andrews Church,

Sackets Harbor

Fri. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30

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 Sun. of the Month 2 p.m. to 3

St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

Every Thurs. after Noon Mass until
7 p.m.

St. Ann's Church, Wells

Half an hour after Sunday Mass
every Third Sunday of the month.

St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

First Friday after 9 a.m. Mass until
11 a.m.

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)



Diocese of Ogdensburg Mission Office 2024 Annual Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we approach World Mission Sunday on October 19, 2025, I write to you with deep gratitude for your dedication to the mission of the Church to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

This year's theme, *Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples*, invites us to rediscover our role as bearers of hope rooted in Christ. It is especially meaningful that this World Mission Sunday will be the first under the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, who spent most of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru, serving communities in the Andean highlands and rural villages, always with humility, joy, and pastoral closeness.

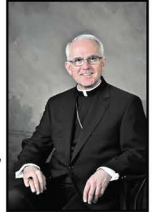
Pope Leo XIV has called The Pontifical Mission Societies "the primary means for awakening missionary responsibility among all the baptized [and for] supporting ecclesial communities in areas where the Church is young." His words encourage us to recognize our vital role in sustaining the life and growth of the Church in mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and parts of Europe and the Middle East.

It is a moment for every parish, in every country, to focus on the missionary nature of our faith and to support the 1,124 mission territories that depend on the Pope for spiritual and material aid. Last year alone, The Pontifical Mission Societies helped build nearly 1,000 churches, provided formation to 2,948 seminarians, supported more than 258,540 religious sisters, and equipped 843,785 catechists to evangelize in communities without a regular priestly presence.

The United States was once a mission territory, built through the sacrifices of missionary priests and the support of Catholics around the world. Let us now return the favor and help those that struggle in our world today.

The collection we take up on World Mission Sunday is not just financial—it is a living sign of our communion with the global Church. It supports the formation of seminarians, religious sisters, and catechists; the building of chapels, schools, and clinics; and the ongoing evangelization of peoples who may be hearing the Gospel for the first time.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will renew in us the fire of the early Church, that we might become true Missionaries of Hope, and that our faithful may grow in missionary awareness and solidarity.



Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Pray and give generously October 19, 2025



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

...a Pontifical Mission Society

Dear Director: I'd like to share my blessings with the poor for the sake of the Gospel, so I'm enclosing a sacrifice for the missions. Please pray for my intentions:

Enclosed is my sacrifice in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith • Diocese of Ogdensburg

622 Washington St • PO Box 369 • Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Tel: (315)-393-2920 • Fax 1-866-314-7296

website: www.rcdony.org/mission

Email: amichael@rcdony.org

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

Alexis Michael, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.

Join us in praying World Mission Sunday Rosary

Join The Pontifical Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, INC. this month and year-round in saying the World Mission Sunday Rosary in support of the pope's missions around the world!

The World Mission Sunday Rosary is a special rosary created by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1951. Each decade represents a different part of the world, and praying this Rosary allows you to pray for the entire world at once.

The GREEN decade symbolizes the forests and grasslands of AFRICA

The BLUE decade is for the ocean surrounding the ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC

The WHITE decade symbolizes EUROPE, home of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world

The RED decade shows the fire of faith that brought the first missionaries to the AMERICAS

The YELLOW decade is for the morning light of the East, symbolizing ASIA.

World Mission Sunday takes place on Sunday, October 19. If you feel called to donate, please use the QR code above or use the link on our website at www.rdcny.com/mission under "Society for the Propagation of the Faith."



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

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

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
info@rdony.org

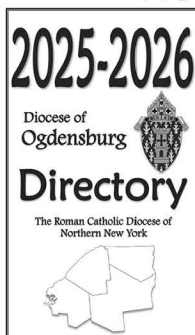
Your prayers and support are what keep the pope's missions going and provide physical and spiritual support to struggling Catholics worldwide!



Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC.

when writing or changing your will.

Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2025-2026 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

2025-2026 Directories now available!
Online at www.northcountrycatholic.org for faster delivery or fill out form below (Please cut out and send entire ad)



Make checks payable to
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

\$15.00
each

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in form)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

Name _____

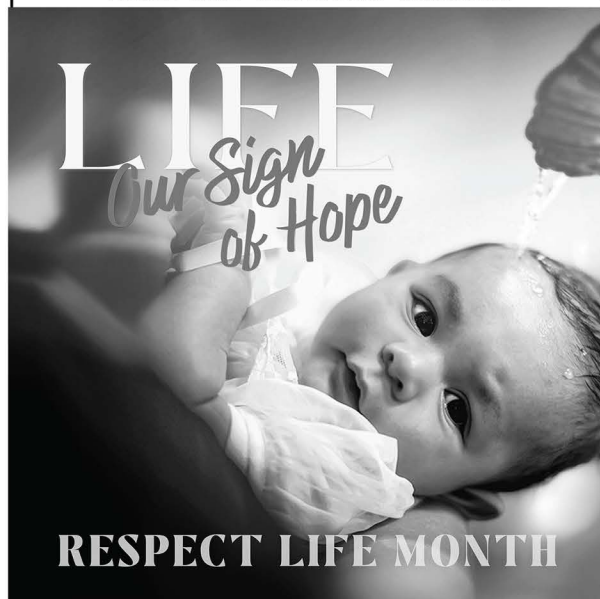
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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.

Must be returned to the NCC by
Oct. 20, 2025

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 Life Page in the *North Country Catholic*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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

Mail Checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317



The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., thanks our generous donors who participate in collections, appeals and bestow unsolicited gifts to the Missions. God bless you!

Mission Support

Mission Sunday	\$ 53,722
Legacies	\$ 0
Perpetual Memberships	\$ 300
Unrestricted Gifts (Monthly Donations)	\$ 570
Lenten Appeal	\$ 6,353
Christmas Appeal	\$ 5,040

The Special Funds

Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg	\$ 24,483
Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$ 52,450
Mass Offerings	\$ 12,538

Each year, about one half of the parishes take up the **Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)** Collection, while the other half takes up the **Missionary Cooperation Appeal**, in the following year the collections are reversed.

St. Peter Apostle Appeal

\$5,110 was given by our people to the Society of St. Peter the Apostle to educate native priests and novices for mission areas.

2024 Financial Statement

Total Revenue:	\$ 153,029
Total Operating Expenses:	\$ 71,332

Notice

This report covers the fiscal year of Jan. 1, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2024; with the exception of the Missionary Childhood, which covers September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 and MPDO which is September 2024 - August 2025



"Children Helping Children"

All funds raised are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2024– August 31, 2025 (School Year)

<i>GOUVERNEUR-St. James School</i>	\$237.03
<i>SARANAC LAKE- Saint Bernard's School</i>	\$148.31
* TOTALS	\$385.34

** Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2025 or donations forwarded directly to the National Office.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM AND INDIVIDUAL DONATION GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025 (School Year)

Parish	Totals
Saint Andrew Church- Sackets Harbor	\$40.74
Saint Mary's Church- Ticonderoga	\$320.00
The Church of the Immaculate Conception-Brownville	\$60.60
St. Stephen's Church- Croghan	\$160.70
Saint James Church- Gouverneur	\$331.91
Saint Bernard's and Saint Edmund's Parish- Ellenburg	\$263.20
Saints Philip and James Church- Lisbon	\$17.86
Saint Ann's Church- Mooers Forks	\$32.52
Holy Angels Church- Altona	\$148.29
Saint Peter's Parish- Massena	\$56.00
Saint Cecilia's Church- Adams	\$77.30
Individual Donations	\$3118.00
TOTAL:	\$4627.12

** These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.*

Missionary Childhood Association Funds for School Year 2024-2025

School Totals	\$ 385.34
Religious Education and Individual Totals	\$ 4,627.12
MCA TOTALS	\$ 5,012.46



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

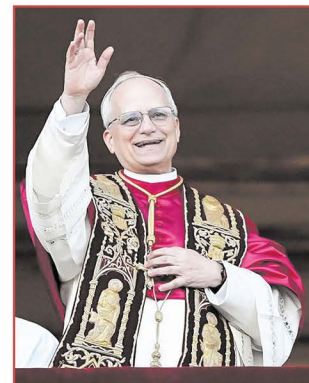
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Director

Alexis Michael,
Secretary/Bookkeeper

PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, New York
13669

Visit Our Updated Mission Office Website:

www.rcdony.org/mission



CNS photo / Lola Gomez

2024 Annual Report of Donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Parish	Mission Sunday (Jan. – Dec. 2024)	Missionary Cooperation Plan (COOP) (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)
Adams	\$650	\$609	
Alexandria Bay	\$817.25	\$447	
Altona	\$244		
Au Sable Forks			
Black River	\$360	\$503	
Blue Mountain Lake			
Brownville	\$1567	\$1744	
Brasher Falls		\$919	
Brushton	\$108.7		\$1236.60
Cadyville	\$713		
Canton	\$813	\$785	
Cape Vincent		\$1691	
Carthage	\$1272	\$1257	
Champlain	\$506		
Chasm Falls			
Chateaugay	\$654		\$618.58
Chaumont			
Chazy	\$865		
Clayton	\$1355	\$1907.28	
Colton		\$2699	
Constable	\$387	\$323	
Constableville	\$502		
Copenhagen	\$360.50	\$200.50	
Croghan	\$1317	\$1022	
Crown Point	\$430		\$535
Dannemora			
Edwards			
Ellenburg	\$731		
Elizabethtown	\$179		\$193
Essex			
Evans Mills	\$567	\$468	\$20
Fort Covington	\$584		
Gabriels			
Glenfield			
Gouverneur	\$888	\$2146	
Hammond			
Harrisville	\$175	\$148	
Henderson	\$401	\$786.75	
Heuvelton	\$407	\$568.35	
Hopkinton	\$82		\$20
Houseville			
Indian Lake	\$1346		
Inlet			
Keene			
Keeseville	\$367		\$380
Lake Placid			\$1560
Lake Pleasant			
Lisbon	\$234	\$290	
Long Lake	\$361		\$491
Louisville			
Lowville	\$2400.60	\$2499.30	
Lyons Falls	\$280	\$327	

Parish	Mission Sunday (Jan. – Dec. 2024)	Missionary Cooperation Plan (COOP) (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)
Lyon Mountain			
Madrid	\$95	\$355	
Malone			
Massena	\$2976	\$4344	
Mineville			
Mooers Forks			
Morrissonville			
Morristown	\$1106	\$2426	
Newcomb	\$245		\$141
Norfolk	\$727	\$512	
North Bangor	\$16		\$1122
Norwood		\$627	
Ogdensburg	\$5822	\$3371	
Old Forge			
Olmstedville	\$381		
Peru	\$678		
Plattsburgh	\$4036		
Port Henry	\$1331	\$25	\$552
Port Leyden	\$361	\$251	
Potsdam		\$2078.38	
Redford	\$296		
Redwood			
Rosiere			
Rossie			
Rouses Point	\$858		
Sackets Harbor	\$734	\$1600	
Saranac Lake	\$2306		\$2023
Schroon Lake	\$693		
Star Lake	\$1052.6	\$1509	
St. Regis Falls	\$320		\$349
Ticonderoga			
Tupper Lake	\$1075.72		\$2116.47
Waddington	\$454	\$956	
Watertown	\$2632.22	\$3454.83	
Watertown, OLSH		\$1746	
Wells	\$476		
Westport	\$192		\$160
West Chazy	\$409		
West Leyden	\$163	\$249	
Willsboro	\$467		\$522
Wilmington			
Individual Donations	\$1895	\$3666.66	\$1448.34
TOTALS	\$53721.59	\$48511.05	\$13487.99

Thank You

Mission Sunday and Mission Coop Appeal 2024 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. – Dec. 2024)
Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal 2024 is calculated using the dates of July 2024- June 2025. These totals do not reflect any 2024 late payments that were received in the Mission Office. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.

Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples



Witness to Africa...
...Where 19,000 young men are preparing for the priesthood.



Witness to Asia...
...Where six million children receive an education from Religious Sisters in more than 15,000 Church-run elementary schools.



Witness to Latin America ...
...Where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God's great love to families.



Witness to the Pacific Islands...
...Where 3,500 religious bring the Lord's mercy and peace to those in need.



Witness to Europe....
...Where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities, renewed after years of persecution.

Environmental Stewardship

No escaping microplastics

Last week, in the local newspaper of Saranac Lake, there was a story regarding microplastics that took center stage. A researcher sampling water from Lake Tear of the Clouds near the summit of Mt. Marcy found the water in this remote waterway contained microplastics.

If these microscopic pieces of trash are present in this pristine wilderness, they must be everywhere across northern New York. Surveys over the past decade have found microplastics in the air, soil and oceans, in fruits, vegetables, meats – in virtually everything we eat and drink.

Avoiding microplastics may be more of a challenge than anyone thought. Because of their size, these fragments of ordinary plastic bottles, containers, wrappers, toys, tools and most of today's consumer goods simply act like particles of dust when they break down. They easily get picked up by wind and carried hundreds to thousands of miles away from where they originated.

Because of their size, microplastics are not easy to filter out using most air and water filters. Some air conditioner filters can collect the bulk of these fragments, however the filters need to be regularly and thoroughly cleaned or they will become clogged with plastic debris and fail to prevent them from entering a home.

The amount of plastic a person takes in through their lungs and digestive system is not well known. Studies indicate it can be as high as that contained in one credit card per week, however this is probably an extreme. Medical professionals are unsure of the impact of plastics once they enter our body.

This layer of plastic residue that engulfs our planet will probably only thicken as time passes, however, we can help mitigate that rate by reducing our use of plastics of all types and trying to prevent them from deteriorating out in the environment.

The shepherd of Winona-Rochester, Bishop Robert Barron, called it “exciting news.”

Ascension Press went a step beyond that. Their headline was “an historic day for the Catholic Church.” The latter may have been overstating things a bit.

The occasion was the selection of Word on Fire, which Bishop Barron founded, and Ascension Press, the Pennsylvania media company, as the

official USCCB publishers of the Second Edition of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Your guess is as good as mine when that will be.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sent their translation of the latest Divine Office to the Vatican for final approval last May.

It could be sent back anytime by the appropriate Vatican committee with its approval or a couple of “fixes.”

Anytime could mean tomorrow. It might mean in weeks, months or years.

The inside betting is sooner rather than later but don't hold your breath.

Protecting God's Children

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

Oct. 15 – 3:30 p.m. – Augustinian Academy, Carthage

Oct. 18 – 1 p.m. – Sacred Heart Church, Massena

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@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

CALLED TO SERVE

A step closer to a new Office

I was ordained a deacon in 2003. My classmates and I already had our LOH sets. Most of us, in those days, purchased the four-volume set at \$100 per volume.

That's \$400 US for the set. We were cautioned then, around the year 2000, that a revision would be published anytime soon so purchase the set at your own risk.

I recall telling Bishop LaValley that story and he laughed. He had been told the same thing in seminary quite a few years earlier.

The Second Vatican Council is credited with revamping the Breviarium Romanum which had been around since 1568 in various editions. In 1975 the bishops of this country gave their blessing to the English version of the Liturgy of the Hours we use today.

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 15 – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

Oct. 16 – Rev. Joseph W. Elliott, 2023; Rev. Gerald Cerank, 2024

Oct. 17 – Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanasie Marion, O.M.I., 1935

Oct. 18 – Edwin A. Kennedy, 1990; Deacon Chester Lloyd Price, 1991

Oct. 20 – Rev. Walter Plaisance, O.M.I., 1918; Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski, 1978

Oct. 21 – Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939; Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979

Word on Fire and Ascension Press have display volumes of the new edition online for users to gawk at. They look like the set I bought. You can be sure they will be available at more than \$100 per volume, but neither company is talking price yet.

Initially, only the four-volume set will be printed. The one volume Christian Prayer and Shorter Christian Prayer will not be published until the USCCB says so.

Both companies provided nice online pieces about their publications. Ascension also posted some questions and answers that were useful.

One question they asked was “how is Liturgy of the Hours different from devotional booklets?” They responded: “Many monthly booklets that include morning prayers, daily readings, and evening prayers are devotional aids. The Liturgy of the Hours, however, is the Church's official prayer, prayed around the world each day.”

Still confused about Liturgy of the Hours? Father Mike Schmitz has a wonderful explanation about the Hours on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tY-wVeGeTrao>.

I am anxious to see what changes were made in the prayer. I suspect the translations will be different, but the format will be unchanged.

And I am not throwing my current set on the trash heap just yet.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Report to UN calls for global ban on surrogacy

By Madalaine Elhabbal
Catholic News Agency

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls with ADF International voiced opposition to the practice of surrogacy at an Oct. 9 U.N. event hosted by the Italian government.

Surrogacy is responsible for inflicting large-scale violence, abuse, and exploitation on women and children, said Reem Alsalem at the event, according to an ADF International press release. Alsalem is set to present her report on surrogacy before the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 10.

"Surrogacy should not be prohibited only domestically, but it should also be addressed internationally," said Eugenia Rocella, Italian minister for Family, Natality, and Equal Opportunities, adding: "The Italian government is convinced that ... existing international treaties on the protection of women and children's rights should be updated to explicitly include surrogacy as a practice of undermining dignity and entailing exploitation."

Italy recently became the first country to ban surrogacy both within and outside its borders, ADF noted in its release, adding that Slovakia also adopted a constitutional amendment banning the practice last month.

"Surrogacy rests on a system of violence that dehumanizes women and children alike. States need to develop a coordinated international response to end the grave human rights violations inherent in this practice," said Giorgio Mazzoli, director of U.N. Advocacy at ADF International, at the event. "We commend the special rapporteur for exposing the harms of this exploitative industry and urge governments around the world to unite in ending surrogacy in all its forms at all levels, including through the adoption of a U.N. treaty banning the practice globally."

The report was based on about 120 submissions in addition to video consultations with 78 people including commissioning parents, surrogacy agencies, and surrogate mothers. Alsalem called for member states to establish a universal ban on surrogacy, criminalizing the practice in all its

forms.

Through her consultative process, the U.N. expert found surrogate mothers, who are most often from low-income and vulnerable backgrounds, and their children increasingly endure physical, emotional, and financial exploitation as well as violence and human trafficking.

Though the global surrogacy market reached \$14.96 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach \$99.75 billion in 2033, the report said, surrogate mothers frequently receive "only a small fraction of the overall compensation, with the majority of the payment going to intermediaries."

"Globally, most surrogate mothers come from lower-income backgrounds and have less social status compared with the commissioning parents," the report said, noting that "migrant women are either specifically targeted for surrogacy or transferred to other countries for the purpose of impregnation and childbirth, often to circumvent legal frameworks."

Alternatively, commissioning mothers often come from higher socioeconomic backgrounds, the report said, but often experience heightened anxiety surrounding the arrangement, especially in cross-border arrangements, where they are likely to experience fraud through surrogacy agencies, resulting in major financial losses.

The report further highlighted the experience of surrogate mothers being pressured into abortions by commissioning parents, including beyond 12 weeks of gestation, "through coercive tactics such as financial incentives, threats of legal action, or the withdrawal of support to both the mother and baby." This often occurs when the child is found to have a disability, the report said. In cases where the surrogate becomes pregnant with multiple children at once, commissioning parents may "also enforce a selective reduction."

"ADF International remains committed to protecting the dignity of human life and safeguarding women and children from exploitation," the organization said, describing the practice as "the commodification of human life."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Leo Commends Catholic Charities' ministry to migrants

Pope Leo XIV sent a letter this week commending Catholic Charities USA for being "agents of hope" to vulnerable people, especially migrants and refugees. As migrants and refugees "are not able to rely on their own resources and have to depend on God and the goodness of others, in many ways your ministry makes the Lord's providence concrete for them," the pontiff wrote, addressing the 115th annual meeting of the Catholic Charities USA Network in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 6–9. "Through providing food, shelter, medical care, legal assistance, and many other gestures of kindness, Catholic Charities affiliates across the United States show what Pope Francis often referred to as God's 'style' of closeness, compassion, and tenderness," he added. Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), founded in 1910, is a network of 168 independent Catholic Charities agencies across all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

Would-be Red Mass attacker targeted Catholics, police say

Police say the man arrested outside of a Washington, D.C., cathedral Oct. 5 had hundreds of explosives and papers suggesting he planned to target Catholics and Supreme Court justices. Louis Geri was arrested outside of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle before the annual "Red Mass" that welcomes Supreme Court justices and lawmakers. Police reported Geri had potential explosives on his person and in his tent set up near the church's entrance. Geri was charged with unlawful entry; manufacture, transfer, use, possession, or transportation of molotov cocktails or other explosives for unlawful purposes; threats to kidnap or injure a person; assault on police officer; possession of destructive device; manufacture or possession of weapon of mass destruction (hate crime); and resisting arrest. He is being held in jail without bond.

Bishops criticize FDA approval of generic abortion drug

The U.S. Catholic bishops sharply criticized the Trump administration's recent approval of the generic abortion drug mifepristone, saying that women and children deserve better care. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the drug even as the administration is currently investigating the abortion drug for safety concerns. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has acknowledged concerns over the safety of the drug and said in a hearing last month that the investigation is ongoing. The FDA's approval of the generic version will make the drug even more accessible. In a statement, Thomas called the decision "jarring" and "contradictory." "At the same time that the Food and Drug Administration is conducting a much-needed review of the supposed safety of the abortion pill for women, it is nonetheless approving a new generic for this deadly drug," Thomas said. More than 1 in 10 women who take the abortion pill mifepristone to complete a chemical abortion will suffer a serious health complication within 45 days of taking the drug, a study by the Ethics and Public Policy Center found.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting, If you want PEACE in this life!

Date: Oct. 30

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: A common enemy in the spiritual life is discouragement, and Venerable Bruno Lanteri assisted his directees in overcoming it through his straightforward, practical counsels. Reflecting on these gems — which Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. connects to the writings of other saints in his book "If You Want Peace in This Life" — you may gain confidence in God and a greater patience with yourself. At this meeting, Father Gallagher will lead us in discussing the second half of this book.

Contact: To order "If You Want Peace in This Life," please visit sophiainstitute.com and enter Friendship25 at the checkout to receive a 25% off discount. For more information or to sign up please contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiainstitute.com

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS

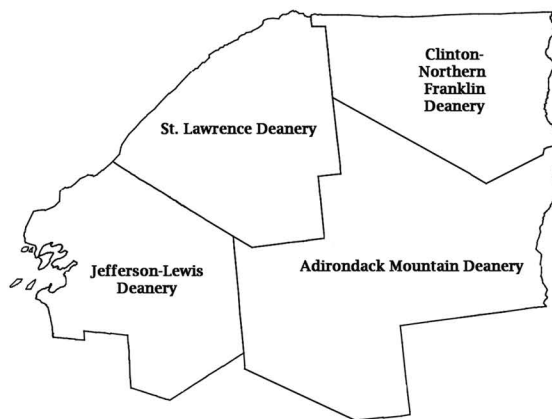
Ellenburg Center — Soaking Prayers Sessions to be held every third Thursday of the month.

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. Soaking Prayer is surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit in a relaxed atmosphere and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A short introduction is given about the flow of the session followed by a 30-minute praise and worship segment to invoke the Holy Spirit. The remainder of the time is spent listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit through Scripture readings and being open to receive healing at any level: emotional, psychological, physical, spiritual, and generational. Includes praise and



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

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

Altona — Holy Angels and St. Ann's Parish to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner with all the trimmings.

Date: Oct. 19

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$16; Childre 6 to 12, \$9; under 5, Free

Features: There will be a Bake Sale, 50/50 Raffle and Themed Basket Raffle.

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.

HOLIDAY FAIR

Brushton — St. Mary's & St. Augustine's Altar Rosary Society to hold their fourth annual Holiday Craft Fair.

Date: Nov. 1

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Over 20 vendors will be offering jewelry, pottery/ceramics, crafts, floral arrangements, 3D printed items, maple products, baked goods, holiday items and more! Adirondack BBQ food truck will be offering food for purchase. There is no cost to attend.

CRAFT FAIR

Rouses Point — St. Patrick's Church to have their Christmas Craft Show & Bake Sale.

Schedule: Nov. 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Patrick's Parish Hall

Features: There will be craft and non-craft vendors and bake sale (to benefit St. Patrick's Church).

HARVEST DINNER

Plattsburgh — Holy Cross Parish to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner with all the trimmings.

Date: Nov. 2

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center, Dine in or take out

Cost: \$Adults, \$16, Children 6 to 12, \$8; under 5, Free

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: Nov. 7

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville — St. Hedwig's Society will have their Annual Themed Basket Raffle.

Date: Drawing will be held Oct. 26 at 1 p.m.

Features: Tickets will be sold starting Oct. 12 and every Sunday until the drawing after the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets will be sold during Mass. Themed Baskets will be on display and raffle tickets may be purchased in the church hall. A bake sale and limited kielbasa luncheon will also be featured on the day of the drawing. Proceeds from the event will support church restoration and community outreach. Monetary donations and donations of themed baskets and baked goods are needed and appreciated.

Contact: Elaine 315-486-5532, Lydia 315-286-8462 or Mary Ann 315-348-6260 for information and donations.

CRAFT FAIR

Carthage — Augustinian Academy to have their Fall Craft Fair Sponsored by the Ave Maria Circle.

Date: Oct. 25

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Augustinian Academy Gym

Features: Bake sale, Basket Raffles, home decor, watercolor

painting, knitted and crocheted items, quilts wood and metal works, and more! Lunch will be available for purchase. Entry fee \$1 for a chance to win giveaways!

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: Nov. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

RAFFLE

Constableville — Raffle to be held for youth and Faith Formation activities.

Date: Drawing Dec. 21

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's after Mass

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

Features: First-place winner will receive a Virtual Reality Headset, the second-place winner will receive a 50" smart television and the third-place winner will receive a ten-inch tablet.

Contact: They can be purchased after the 10am Mass, from various St. Mary's parents, by calling the Parish office at 315-348-6104 or by going online to <https://catholicparishesofslc.weebly.com/church-offering--raffles.html>

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Star Lake — St. Hubert's Church to have their Holiday Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 1

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

Place: St. Hubert's Parish Hall

Features: Bake sale - Silent auction, Wine Tasting Booth with Thousand Island Winery Wines, Raffles - Gift Baskets - Gingerbread Decorating, Accessible to people with disabilities, Lunch served by the Knights of Columbus Council 5718 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FALL BAZAAR

Massena — St. Peter's Parish to

App promotes 'the hope of Catholic dating'

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

When Emily Wilson-Hussem began sharing "matchmaking" posts on Instagram, inviting Catholic singles to share their names and locations to connect with others, she wasn't expecting that her lighthearted experiment would lead to 12 marriages, 20 engagements, hundreds of dating couples, and even a baby.

The Catholic speaker and digital content creator realized that young Catholics are in search of holy marriages but need help finding one another.

This led her and her husband, Daniël Hussem, to create a new Catholic dating app — SacredSpark.

The new matchmaking app blends technology and tradition to foster meaningful online connections with the goal of creating lasting offline relationships.

"Over these years I have seen the difficulty singles [have] to connect with one another, especially of the same age, and a lot of the young single Catholics I met were having a really hard time, and so I felt like a nudge from the Lord," Wilson-Hussem told CNA.

After seeing the immense response from young people on her matchmaking posts,

yet realizing the downfalls of trying to help connect people on Instagram, the Hussems decided to create an app that was intentional and focused on the fact that each user was made in the image and likeness of God.

One of the main features of SacredSpark is its commitment to more meaningful connections between people. To foster that, all profile pictures are blurred. Photos become unblurred once both individuals match with one another. So instead of simply swiping through images of a person, users can record audio messages introducing themselves and other users can listen and determine if they believe there could be a connection.

Hussem explained that this feature was created "because we want to start meaningful connections beyond just the appearance."

The couple also pointed out that unlike other dating apps that allow users to place filters on things like physical traits, including eye color, hair color, or even height, SacredSpark does not allow for any filters to be placed on physical qualities.

"For us, we want it to be extremely intentional about the person as a whole, not just their physical appearance," Hussem shared. "If you're

looking at the general scope of a sacramental marriage, are those things — someone's color of their eyes or the color of their hair or their height — I think those are more superficial things that people can get sidetracked by versus just these intentional things."

"Our focus is on the image and likeness of God in each person you will connect with on the app. That's a huge part of the core of what we're doing," Wilson-Hussem added.

The app also includes a matchmaking feature, which allows the user to invite a friend or family member to act as a matchmaker on their behalf on the app. Wilson-Hussem explained that this feature was added into the app because of the great success matchmakers had on her Instagram posts.

"A huge part of the success was a girl saying, 'I have a brother, Jeff. He's 31 and he lives in Wisconsin. If there are any great guys out there, I would love to connect you,'" she shared. "I would say at least half of the marriages have been from one person who put one person out there and was linking two other people and we thought, 'Wow. A, that's amazing because a lot of people know single Catholics, they have fun with it, but B, our singles need support.

They need to feel like people are in their corner.'"

She added: "You can hire a matchmaker for thousands of dollars — a person who has to get to know you, a person who has to look at who you are on paper. The people who have known you your whole life know you best. They know what you're looking for. So, why don't we find a way to activate those people and support our singles?"

SacredSpark will be launched and open to the public in mid-October, but interested singles can already sign up to join the waitlist.

The Hussems said they hope the new app will "relight the hope of Catholic dating."

"The overall mission is actually to help build up the Church one relationship at a time," Daniël Hussem said.

"I think a big part of the cultural breakdown is the breakdown of the family, and we want SacredSpark to really be a place, down the road, where we can connect people who will build up the Church because they've entered into a sacramental marriage and will build up the family," Wilson-Hussem added. "The restoration of the family is going to be a huge part of the next many years and we think SacredSpark, hopefully, will play a part in that."

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

have its Annual Fall Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 8

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Free admission, cost for food, raffles and fun.

Contact: For more information call 315-769-2469

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Ogdensburg — To commemorate Veterans Day, the Legion of Mary will be praying the Patriotic Rosary.

Date: Nov. 9

Time: Noon

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: We cordially invite all our parishioners AND fellow Catholics throughout the diocese to join us in praying for all our Veterans — active, retired, and deceased — as well as for the needs of our country.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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>

org/leadimplementation For more contact Anita Soltero 518-310-3669

FALL LEAD EVENT

Norfolk — All catechists and catechetical leaders are invited to attend an event on how to implement parish family catechesis.

Date: Oct. 18

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

Place: Parish of the Visitation, Norfolk

Features: Please bring your own lunch.

Contact: Register at: [rcdony.org/leadimplementation](https://www.rcdony.org/leadimplementation)



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Prayer: 'Keep getting up and trying again'

"Mom, could I please have just one cookie?" How many mothers have given in to that plea just so that they could get something else done. Well, even a mere cursory reading of today's scripture reveals the main theme of prayer: persistence, sticking to it relentlessly beating down God's door to gain access to him and to his power.

We hear so often about the need to pray. After all, isn't that what we are supposed to do when we come to church... pray? But, in the realm of prayer we may feel so inadequate. After all, we read about the great saints who were, so-to-speak, experts in prayer. We may get discouraged believing that we could never be like them. Well probably most of us aren't going to be like them. But that is a frustrating type of comparison. It would be like comparing my golf skills to Tiger Woods. There is no comparison.

When we read about prayer or if we have

tried to learn how to pray, we may have read many different books. In them, we are urged to climb seven-storey mountain, to wander through interior castle rooms. We have been led through the dark night of the soul, to fight our psychic demons. We may have felt lost in intricate mazes that are supposed to lead us to God's center.

We have knelt, stood, sat, lain, inhaled, exhaled and lotused. I am sure that's enough.

Then, we have the excuses why we don't pray. Some say they are too sick, but isn't God interested in sick people? Some are bored with God and look for something more exciting. Then, there is the excuse: "I'm too busy to pray." That excuse works only when we are too busy to eat, sleep, work, shop, play or watch tv. Then, there is the basic excuse: I just don't feel like praying. That's a strange excuse. Prayer is not about us. Prayer is about God.

In prayer, our current

October 19

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 17:8-13

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Luke 18:1-8

obsessions can hinder us: technique, communication and the exotic. If there are techniques for success, we sometimes believe that there is a magic technique for prayer. In communication, we believe that talking cures everything. Then, in life, especially in movies, we can easily be so enthralled by the exotic, that we can be mesmerized by the rituals that surround us in church.

An awareness of God constitutes the core of prayer. We need to spend less time analyzing prayer and more time to engage in prayer. Prayer is not performance. In prayer we relate with God and place ourselves in God's presence. Prayer happens when we are not absorbed by the world, but rather absorbed by the God who created the world.

We pray when we take

seriously the words of Jesus: "Take up my cross and follow me." The cross is not just at special moments. We take up the cross each day knowing that the time God gives us will bring us to eternity.

A young girl had broken her leg badly and was in traction. She asked the doctor how long she had to be in traction. The doctor's response was simple and illustrates our approach to prayer and life. His wise answer: "one day at a time."

In prayer and in taking up the cross, we do make mistakes and we do fall and fail. A young boy was asked: "How did you learn to ice-skate so well?" The boy replied: "I just kept getting up when I fell and tried again."

So, too, in prayer, in living the cross, in living life, we keep getting up and trying again.

Prayer is powerful; life is powerful. Get up every day, persevere every day. We live relentlessly. So, too, we should pray relentlessly.



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

DEACON EMERITUS RON POMINVILLE
Ordained 9-9-99

DEACON EMERITUS KEN SEYMOUR
Ordained 9-9-99

DEACON EMERITUS TOM YOUSEY
Ordained 10/7/2017

PERMANENT DEACON RON GINGERICH
Ordained 10/7/2017

PERMANENT DEACON ROB UTTENDORFSKY
Ordained 10/3/2021

*With heartfelt gratitude and love,
The Catholic community of St. Peter's,
St. Mary's, and St. Hedwig's
joyfully expresses our deep appreciation and
admiration for the extraordinary men who serve
as deacons in our parish.
These upstanding and devoted individuals not
only minister to our parish families but also
extend their service throughout our wider
community and across the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

*We are truly blessed by their presence, leadership,
and unwavering commitment to faith and service.*

*We also extend our sincere thanks to the spouses
of these deacons, whose support and sacrifices over
the years have been a vital part of the diaconate
ministry. Their love and encouragement have
helped sustain and strengthen the
mission of our Church.*

*May God continue to bless our
deacons and their families abundantly.*

Thank you



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OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — Mary Annie Sorrell, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2025 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Cape Vincent — Susan M. (Jewett) Thompson, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2025 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in New Cedar Grove Cemetery, Chaumont.

Carthage — Byron "Pete" Cyril Kempney, 83; Graveside Services Oct. 9, 2025 at St. James Cemetery.

Chasm Falls — Margaret S. Westcott, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2025 at St. Helen's Church; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

Chazy — Patricia Giandomenico, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church.

Chazy — Gregory P. Vassar, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in West Chazy Rural Cemetery.

Constableville — Mary Elizabeth (Conway) Mathis, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Theresa A. (Constance) Desormeaus, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in the "old" St. James Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Patricia L. (Towne) Hogue, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Abram J. Gray, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2025 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Wanda M. (Rabideau) Bogacz, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2025 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Mooers — Shirley Anne (Manor) O'Hara, 92; Graveside Services Oct. 4, 2025 at Mooers Riverside Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Mary Shea Herzon, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg — John H. Neumann, 86; Graveside services to be held at a later date.

Sackets Harbor — Lawrence C. Barone, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2025 at St. Andrew's Church.

Saranac Lake — Al Pozzi, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Clairette B. Desabrais, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — John Hache, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown — Paul L. Cook, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Mary Ann (Pepe) Larney, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Shirley Ann Haverstock Eagles-Salmon, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Myths & Facts about the rosary

By Edie Heipel
Catholic News Agency

October is designated by the Catholic Church as the Month of the Rosary, and Oct. 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Here are several common myths and facts about this devotion to Our Lady:

1. Only Catholics can pray the rosary.

False. While rosaries are typically associated with Catholics, non-Catholics can certainly pray the rosary — and in fact, many credit it to their conversion. Even some Protestants recognize the rosary as a valid form of prayer.

2. Praying the rosary is idolatry.

False. Some have objections to the rosary, claiming it idolizes Mary and is overly repetitive.

Just like any practice, the rosary can be abused — just as someone might idolize a particular pastor or priest, a form of worship, or fasting. But the rosary itself is not a form of idolatry.

The rosary is not a prayer to Mary — it is a meditation on the life of Christ revealed in five mysteries "with the purposes of drawing the person praying deeper into reflecting on Christ's joys, sacrifices, sufferings, and the glorious miracles of his life."

When we pray the Hail Mary, we are not adoring Mary, we are asking for her intercession — just as we might ask a friend or family member to pray for us.

Second, any prayer can lose its meaning if we do not intentionally meditate on it. Focusing on the mysteries with purpose and intention is key to the rosary's transforming power. As one author encourages: "The rosary itself stays the same, but we do not."

3. You can wear a rosary as a necklace.

It depends. It is typically considered disrespectful and irreverent to wear a rosary around one's neck as jewelry, even though the Church does not have an explicit dec-

laration against doing so.

However, Canon 1171 of the Code of Canon Law says that "sacred objects, set aside for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated with reverence. They are not to be made over to secular or inappropriate use, even though they may belong to private persons."

It is important to treat the rosary with respect and intention. If you intend to wear the rosary as a piece of jewelry, this would not be respectful and should be avoided. It goes without saying that wearing the rosary as a mockery or gang symbol would be a sin.

But if it is your intention to use the rosary and be mindful of prayer, then it could be permissible. It is not uncommon in some cultures, like in Honduras and El Salvador, to see the rosary respectfully worn around the neck as a sign of devotion.

Rosary rings or bracelets might be a better option if you want to keep

your rosary close at hand as a reminder to pray, as they are kept more out of sight and would not be as easily misconstrued to be a piece of jewelry.

4. The rosary is an extremist symbol.

False. A widely-shared 2022 Atlantic article went viral for accusing the rosary of being an "extremist symbol."

"Just as the AR-15 rifle has become a sacred object for Christian nationalists in general, the rosary has acquired a militaristic meaning for radical-traditional (or 'rad trad') Catholics," the article read.

The author also cited the Church's stance on traditional marriage and the sanctity of life as evidence of "extremism" and claimed that Catholics' tendency to call the rosary a "weapon in the fight against evil" as dangerous.

As CNA reported in 2022, popes have urged Catholics to pray the rosary since 1571 — often referring to the rosary as a prayer "weapon" and

most powerful spiritual tool.

5. The rosary is not biblical.

Untrue! Most of its words come directly from Scripture.

First, the Our Father is prayed. The words of the Our Father are those Christ taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13.

The Hail Mary also comes straight from the Bible. The first part, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee," comes from Luke 1:28, and the second, "Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb," is found in Luke 1:42.

Finally, each of the decades prayed on the rosary symbolizes an event in the lives of Jesus and Mary. The decades are divided into four sets of mysteries: joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious, the majority of which are found in Scripture.

This story was first published on Oct. 1, 2022, and has been updated.

Pope Leo XIV says the poor evangelize us

Dilexi Te ("I Have Loved You")

is first major document of papacy

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

In the first major document of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV writes that the poor are not only objects of charity but also evangelists who can prompt us to conversion through their example of weakness and reliance on God.

"The poor can act as silent teachers for us, making us conscious of our presumption and instilling within us a rightful spirit of humility," Leo writes in *Dilexi Te* ("I Have Loved You"), released by the Vatican on Thursday. "The elderly, for example, by their physical frailty, remind us of our own fragility, even as we attempt to conceal it behind our apparent prosperity and outward appearance. The poor ... remind us how uncertain and empty our seemingly safe and secure lives may be."

The pontiff quotes his predecessor throughout the document, which was first drafted during the previous pontificate and draws heavily on Pope

Francis' first apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, on the joy of the Gospel.

An apostolic exhortation is one of the most authoritative genres of papal teaching, typically focused on the pastoral application of doctrine.

Christ's whole life is an example of poverty, Leo writes, and the Church, if it wants to belong to Christ, must give the poor a privileged place.

"For Christians, the poor are not a sociological category but the very 'flesh' of Christ," he writes. "The Lord took on a flesh that hungers and thirsts, and experiences infirmity and imprisonment."

Leo signed the exhortation on Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who is traditionally known as "Il Poverello" ("the Little Poor Man").

The pontiff explains at the beginning of the document that he received it as an inheritance from Pope Francis, who was working on it during the final months of his life.

"How much of this [document] is Francis, and how much of this is Leo? It's both," Cardinal Michael Czerny, head of the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development, said at an Oct. 9 presentation of the document, emphasizing that the document is now part of papal magisterium.

Czerny pushed back on repeated attempts by reporters to draw political connections between the document and the United States and elsewhere.

The world is "in big trouble and part of the troubles are referred to in [*Dilexi Te*]," he continued. "That doesn't mean that I can go to so-and-so and say that '*Dilexi Te* went after you.'"

The document traces the Church's perennial teaching on the poor, drawing on the Old and New Testaments, the practice of the early Christian community, the writings of Church Fathers and doctors, the lives of the saints, the documents of the Second Vatican Council, and the magisterium of the popes since St. John XXIII.

Leo also commends the example of contemplative and active religious orders throughout history that have helped the poor with health care, food, shelter, and education.

"Every movement of renewal within the Church has always been a preferential concern for the poor. In this sense, her work with the poor differs in its inspiration and method from the work carried out by any oth-

er humanitarian organization," he writes.

Technological progress has not eradicated poverty, which only continues to appear in diverse forms, the pope writes. He defines the poor to include the incarcerated, victims of sexual exploitation, those affected by the degradation of the environment, and immigrants.

"The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges," he says. "And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community."

Leo denounces prejudices that he says can lead Christians to neglect their duty to the poor.

"There are those who say: 'Our task is to pray and teach sound doctrine' [and argue] that it is the government's job to care for [the poor], or that it would be better not to lift them out of their poverty but simply to teach them to work," he writes.

Sometimes "pseudo-scientific data are invoked to support the claim that a free-market economy will automatically solve the problem of poverty" or that the rich can enact more effective solutions, the pope writes.

Leo condemns such views as worldly and superficial, and "devoid of any supernatural light."

Dilexi Te also emphasizes the spiritual needs of the poor, ar-

guing that those are more important than the material, yet often ignored by the Church.

It is not a question of "providing for welfare assistance and working to ensure social justice. Christians should also be aware of another form of inconsistency in the way they treat the poor. In reality, 'the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care,'" the pope writes, quoting Pope Francis.

Leo ends his exhortation by emphasizing the duty of almsgiving, which he claims has fallen out of fashion, even among believers.

"Almsgiving, however modest, brings a touch of 'pietas' ['piety'] into a society otherwise marked by the frenetic pursuit of personal gain," he says, adding that, though it will not be the solution to poverty in the world, it will touch our hearts.

"Our love and our deepest convictions need to be continually cultivated, and we do so through our concrete actions," he continues. "Remaining in the realm of ideas and theories, while failing to give them expression through frequent and practical acts of charity, will eventually cause even our most cherished hopes and aspirations to weaken and fade away. For this very reason, we Christians must not abandon almsgiving. It can be done in different ways, and surely more effectively, but it must continue to be done. It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing."

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