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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 20

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Couples from around the diocese gathered as Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Celebration of Love and Marriage Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 7. Participating couples who pre-registered are listed on page 3. Additional photos can be found on pages 8 & 9.

BRINGING FAITHS TOGETHER



Representatives of several Christian churches, including local Catholics, gathered for a brunch prior to the Up North Worship Festival, a music festival held at a Wesleyan camp in Mooers.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope defends crying in general audience

By Almudena Martínez-Bordiú
Catholic News Agency

In his general audience on Wednesday, Pope Leo XIV explained that cries of pain, like those of Jesus in his final moments on the cross, instead of a sign of weakness, can express desire, surrender, and prayer.

A rainy morning in Rome prevented the Holy Father from spending much time greeting the faithful in St. Peter's Square. Aboard the popemobile, he toured the square amid applause and cheers, stopping to give his blessing, especially to children.

The pope dedicated his catechesis at the weekly audience, which began just over five minutes late, to reflecting on the value

of crying.

"At times, what we are unable to say in words, we express with the voice," Leo said. "When the heart is full, it cries. And this is not always a sign of weakness; it can be a profound act of humanity."

Although we are accustomed to thinking of crying as something disorderly to be repressed, the Gospel gives our cry a value, reminding us it can be "an invocation, a protest, a desire, a surrender," the pope said.

"It can even be the extreme form of prayer, when there are no words left," he continued.

"One cries not out of desperation, but out of desire. Jesus did not cry out against the Father, but to him. Even in silence, he

was convinced that the Father was there," the pontiff said. "And, in this way, he showed us that our hope can cry out, even when all seems lost."

Addressing pilgrims huddled under umbrellas in protection against sporadic rain showers, Pope Leo meditated on the "culmination of Jesus' life in this world: his death on the cross."

Specifically, he highlighted an important detail worthy of faithful contemplation: That "on the cross, Jesus does not die in silence."

The pontiff explained that after fulfilling his mission on earth, from the cross, "Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last." For the Holy Father, "that cry contains everything: pain,

abandonment, faith, offering. It is not only the voice of a body giving way, but the final sign of a life being surrendered."

He also recalled that the cry was preceded by a question, "one of the most heartrending that could be uttered: 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'"

Pope Leo XIV emphasized that, in that final moment, Jesus experiences silence, absence, and the abyss. However, according to the pontiff, "it is not a crisis of faith but the final stage of a love that is given up to the very end."

"Jesus' cry is not desperation, but sincerity, truth taken to the limit, trust that endures even when all is silent," he emphasized.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICPO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry****R. LaValley**
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Communications Director



Publish

45 issues

per year:

Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-ginning July through August
and skipping one week in

December by the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and additional mailing

offices as

Periodical Postage.

Subscription:**For one year:**

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be addressed to

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Wednesday prior to

publication. Paper is

printed each Friday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic

Press Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

It makes everything better

"I like a protein shake a lot more if I turn it into ice cream."

I told a friend that as we were discussing my love of a kitchen appliance that turns frozen containers of food into ice cream, frozen yogurt, smoothies or sorbet.

While some protein shakes are better than others, I have yet to find one that tastes so good I'd be happy to incorporate it into my standard drink rotation even if it weren't helping me meet my nutrition goals. I never look forward to a protein shake.

Do you know what I look forward to and love to incorporate into my daily routine? Ice cream.

With my beloved kitchen gadget, I add a few ingredients to my favorite protein powder, I freeze it, and I turn it into ice cream.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Suddenly, I find it easy to hit my protein goals, and I look forward to my protein shakes. I even make a protein shake ice cream that doubles as overnight oats, and I eat cinnamon-sugar-oatmeal ice cream for breakfast almost every morning.

Turning a protein shake into ice cream makes it more palatable to me. It takes away or reduces the impact of some of the aspects of protein shakes I don't like - texture, for example (many protein powders are chalky and/or

the powders don't dissolve well).

As I stood waiting for my post-workout ice cream (chocolate protein powder with peanut butter powder, cocoa powder and sweetener), I was thinking about that part of human nature that makes us want to make everything exactly the way we want it. We want everything palatable to us.

It struck me that I do it in my faith life, too.

There are teachings of our Catholic faith that I struggle to accept. While I sometimes dive in and pray about those teachings, read books about those teachings, try to wrap my head around those teachings, there are as many times, honestly probably more times, in which I just completely

ignore those teachings, and I construct a version of Catholicism for myself that doesn't include those teachings, a version I find more palatable.

There are times when I'm struggling with a particular sin, a sin I know God wants to help me overcome, and I convince myself instead to accept and continue with the sin because, "it's not as bad as what others are doing, and I'm a good person in the big picture." I even make sin more palatable.

Christian living is not easy. It's not supposed to be easy. I want to make it easy, though.

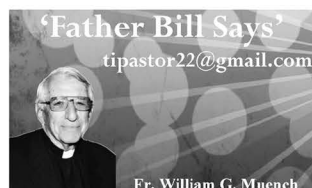
I think God is calling me to sit with Him and consider that tendency.

Getting ice cream would be way easier, but following God's call has an even bigger reward.

'Making room for the love of Jesus'

This morning at Mass, the Gospel reading was from Luke 6. We are told that Jesus departed after teaching the people to the mountain to pray. The reading goes on to tell us that Jesus spent the whole night in prayer to God. I wonder what Jesus did or said while praying. Maybe he just hung out with God the Father. Today let's talk about prayer in our lives.

I know that there are many ways to pray. I have learned many different ways myself, and for me there are certain times for prayer that are most important. Let me share with you one important time when I truly like to pray. That time is when I am preparing to celebrate Mass. I believe it is important for me to take some time for prayer before I put on the vestments for Mass. I like to kneel for a time near the sanctuary to silently focus my atten-



tion on the Lord's love for all of us in the Blessed Eucharist. I pray that at this Mass I will be open to the Lord's love and that those praying with me at Mass will be open and aware of Jesus' love for them - the Jesus who is ever present with us at the altar.

I learned as a young priest that I should put myself into the hands of the Lord Jesus as I prepare for Mass so that Jesus will guide me and show me the proper way to make his presence real through the Eucharist for all those celebrating Mass with me. I offer my gratitude to God that as a priest I will be united with our Eucharistic Lord.

Let me take a moment to tell you how I learned to pray. As a young priest I was taught by a saint, Catherine Doherty, the foundress of the community of Madonna House. I was fortunate to spend time at Madonna House and get to know her well. Catherine had a simple, yet profound approach to prayer, deeply rooted in everyday spirituality. She realized that God likes simple prayers. All we have to say to God is, "My friend is sick. Please do something for him." Catherine believed that prayer never stops. It is a beautiful thing to hold God's hand and to pray always. She thought of prayer as a time of love - love expressed in speech, love expressed in silence.

Another saint who showed me how to pray was Thomas Merton, the Trappist Monk author. He had a profound influence

on my life and my choice of a religious vocation. Merton showed me that prayer arises from the stillness and self-emptying of silence. Prayer deepens my experience of my world; it brings God's light upon all that I am. In prayer, I can discover who I am and how I should live well with my Lord. Merton writes, "The sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayers, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is all in all."

Merton taught me the importance of silence.

"When I am liberated by silence - my whole life becomes a prayer - let me seek, then, the gift of silence, when everything I touch is turned into prayer," he wrote.

So, join me turning in love and finding peace in prayer to our God, looking on the cross of Jesus, spending time in silence, making room for the love of Jesus to fill our hearts.

Celebrating love and marriage

The following couples were honored at "The Celebration of Love and Marriage Mass" celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Sept. 7. Photos from the Mass are on Pages 8&9.

73 YEARS

Edward "Ned" & Helen Hackett,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

69 YEARS

Richard & Marilyn Lane,
St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls
Richard & Theresa Sabin,
St. Alphonsus/Holy Name of Jesus
Church, Tupper Lake

68 YEARS

Norman J. & Kathryn A. Votraw,
St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville
William & Veronica LaBombard,
St. Mary's Church, Champlain

67 YEARS

Neil & Jeanne LaBrake,
St. Philip & James Church, Lisbon

66 YEARS

Hector & Joanne Foisy,
St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls
Stan & Pat Luce,
St. Patrick's Church, Colton

65 YEARS

Francis & Sandra Veivia,
St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills
Deacon Norman & Janet Hunneyman,
St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor

63 YEARS

Elbridge E. & Joan P. Randall,
St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

60 YEARS

William & Mary Ann Ransom,
St. Bartholomew's Church, Old Forge
Fred & Carolyn Trimbach,
St. Bartholomew's Church, Old Forge
Michael & Donna Marek,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg
Eileen Wendell Pierce,
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown
Frederick Neil & Judy Keib,
St. Stephen's Church, Croghan

59 YEARS

Patrick & Judith "Judy" Pearson,
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown

58 YEARS

Barbara & John O'Keefe,
St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton

57 YEARS

Bruce & Patricia "Tina" Lynch,
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown

56 YEARS

George & Jill Snediker,
St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood

55 YEARS

William & Janet Leary,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

Deacon Joseph & Beryl Szwed,
St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake
Deacon Kevin & Kathy Mastellon,
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown

Richard & Susanne Arens,
St. Mary's Church, Brushton

53 YEARS

Maria & Richard Schueler,
St. Mary's Church, Clayton

50 YEARS

Jack & Lora Stopper,
St. Mary's Church, Clayton
Deacon Ronny & Michele Gingerich,
Catholic Community of St. Peter,
St. Mary & St. Hedwig, Lowville
Deacon Larry & Vickie Ambeau,
St. Cecilia's Church &
Queen of Heaven Church, Adams

49 YEARS

Robert & Marilyn Rosen,
Holy Name of Jesus Church,
AuSable Forks
Theresa & Larry Crowe,
St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton

48 YEARS

Daniel & Judy Carpenter,
St. James Church, Cadyville

45 YEARS

Robert & Catherine Crary,
St. Mary's Church, Potsdam
Kevin & Lorie Keeler,
St. Alphonsus/Holy Name of
Jesus Church, Tupper Lake

44 YEARS

Gerald & Cynthia Boice,
St. Peter's Parish, Massena
Randy & May Clark,
Church of the Visitation
& St. Raymond, Norfolk

40 YEARS

Roger & Frances Mahler,
Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
Schroon Lake

36 YEARS

Deacon Robert & Melissa Uttendorfsky,
Catholic Community of St. Peter, St.
Mary & St. Hedwig, Lowville

34 YEARS

Randolph & Jane Myers,
St. Mary's Church, Constableville

33 YEARS

David & Coby Hunt,
St. André Bessette Parish, Malone

31 YEARS

Lynn & Lisa Furnace,
St. Peter's Parish, Massena

28 YEARS

Patrick & Shannon Looby,
St. Francis Solanus Church, Harrisville

27 YEARS

Roger & Polly Michael,
St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton

Mike & Karen Denoncourt,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg
25 YEARS

Eric & Maeana Cragg,
St. Mary's Church, Potsdam
William & Carol O'Horo,
St. Mary's Church, Canton
Eric & Marylene Duah,
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown
Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller,
St. Mary's Church, Clayton
23 YEARS

Ryan & Beverly Santamour,
St. James Church, Carthage
Steve & Christina Tartaglia,
St. Mary's Church, Canton

20 Years

John & Lorna Delles,
St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills
Michael & Debra Durham,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg
Matthew & Sarah Bosley,
St. Philip Neri Church, Westport

18 Years

Gregory & Tina LaFrance,
St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville
Anthony & Hope Giroux,
St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

16 Years

Matt & Andrea Mordarski,
St. Mary's Church, Canton

15 Years

Thomas & Kimberly Nowak,
St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills
Deacon Mike & Jean Lieber,
St. Mary's Church, Constableville
Deacon Jimmy & Robin Law,
St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake

13 Years

Michael & Krista Iannetta,
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown
5 YEARS

Jeffrey & Jasmin Alfaro,
St. Michael's Parish, Fort Drum

3 YEARS

Troy Christian & Kerry Sennhauser,
St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

2 YEARS

Scott & Melanie Wormwood,
St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

1 YEAR

Keith & Erin Parnapy,
St. Cecilia's Church, Adams

9 MONTHS

Kelley and Laura Bracey,
St. Patrick's Church, Colton

3 MONTHS

Christopher and Nicole Latham,
St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga
Colin and Mackenzie Cragg,
St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Music festival brought faiths together

Forging friendships to 'open hearts and minds'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Inspired by Jesus' prayer in John 17, a Christian entertainment event in Mooers became an opportunity for "relational reconciliation" between Christian denominations, including representatives of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Up North Worship was held July 12 at Mooers Camp Meeting, a camp owned by the Wesleyan Church in that community. The event featured Catholic musician Matt Maher as the headline performer.

Maher's participation in the event resulted from a series of friendships rooted in a love of Christ.

"Fifteen months ago, I met Trevor (Finley), the associate pastor, at the Wesleyan church," said Pastor Don Curry of New Testament Church. "I asked him, 'what keeps you going?' He said, 'Up North Worship is a really big thing.' I hadn't heard of it before, so I asked, 'what's Up North Worship?' He told me it's a day of entertainment - Christian entertainment - for families that's held at the campground in Mooers."

Pastor Curry said he then asked Finley if he was familiar with the music of Matt Maher, a Catholic musician.

"I told him I know a guy," he said. "I told him Matt might come if (John 17 movement founder) Joe (Tosini) asks him. Joe asked. Matt agreed."

The John 17 movement, founded by Tosini in 2013, works to create friendships and unity between individuals of different Christian denominations.

"This is a unity not based on uniformity of doctrine and practice, but rather a reconciliation of relationships calling us back to Jesus' prayer in the

17th chapter of John's Gospel - that His followers would be one," says the organization's website. "That prayer, we believe, expresses the clear purpose of salvation. Sin's goal is division, ending with each of us being alone, separated from our Creator and each other. Salvation's goal is to bring us individually and collectively back into harmony with our Creator and each other. Displaying that harmony is a major part of the church's call."

Toward the goal of Christian unity, a gathering was planned the night before the July 12 music festival.

"I've developed friendships first with (Father) Mark (Reilly) and then with Bishop Terry (R. LaValley)," said Pastor Curry. "I talked to Bishop Terry (LaValley), and he was in. Letters were sent to every single parish in the diocese. (Bishop LaValley) assigned someone, Father Garry Giroux, to help. We had about 50 Protestants and 50 Catholics represented at the meal. We had 23 priests, some diocesan staff, and a number of deacons and lay people."

"I think when we first made the pitch, it was a bit of a hard sell," said Father Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena. "It's a solid drive to get to Mooers for a Friday evening dinner or a festival on Saturday. People were wondering, 'what's the agenda? What are we doing?' My response? 'Making friends. There isn't an agenda except gathering around a table and hopefully sitting with someone you don't know, maybe develop friendships across denominational lines.'"

In addition to sharing a meal, the event included brief talks from Bishop LaValley, Tosini, Maher and Father Reilly.

ly.

"It was just a meeting pleasing to God," said Tosini. "It was the shepherds of God's people loving each other, all as brothers. That will affect the sheep and bring people to Christ. Jesus was very clear to the 12 apostles. He wanted them to know 'I call you friends. Not servants, but friends. I shared everything with you. Share with each other.' He realized they needed to be friends. It's a basic foundational principle. It's not a transactional relationship like going to Costco. It's friendship. The only agenda is, 'how are you doing? I'd like to know you.' That's really hard in a corporate world. In that context, a relationship doesn't make sense unless there's a reason for it - what's the cost/benefit analysis? But Christ calls us to relationships. It's becoming friends. It's family. Everything springs from that. Once you understand that, once it gets inside you and you realize it's what's pleasing to God, what pleases God pleases me. What pleases God is me loving this guy Mark Reilly who happens to be a priest. It's loving regardless of who the person is or their denomination."

"(The John 17 movement) uses the phrase 'relational reconciliation,'" added Father Reilly. "There have been centuries worth of theological ecumenical initiatives. That's more doctrinal and theological reconciliation - working out the issues of theology where the different denominations differ. The way I understand (Tosini's) vision, this is more in the practical realm - on the streets and to people in the pews and in worship spaces. It's about relationships."

Arriving at the Mooers camp on the day of the festival, event organizers saw a sign - literally a sign - that suggested they were on the right path with promoting relation-

ships across denominational lines at the Up North Worship event.

"One of Pope Paul VI's favorite verses - or a verse he found significant - was from First John Chapter 4 - 'God is love,'" said Tosini. "The goal of all of this is love - that all the people who are connected to Jesus will have God's love permeating with and through them. At our meeting, Matt Maher said Jesus' prayer in John 17 is hidden in plain sight. At this camp, this 100-year-old Wesleyan camp, there's a sign that's been there for possibly 100 years. On that sign, there's a verse. The verse? John 17. The event organizer, (Pastor Finley) said he's been here is whole life and never noticed that verse on that sign."

Father Reilly, Tosini and Pastor Curry said they hope the gathering and festival bears fruit through ongoing relationships.

"I hope the follow-up would be for priests and pastors to reach out to the pastor from the church down the road of a different denomination, and go have coffee with them," said Father Reilly. "Father Jay Seymour from Gouverneur carpooled to the dinner with a protestant pastor from his area. It's those friendships that open hearts and minds."

"I hope people continue to be intentional about connecting," added Pastor Curry. "Maybe you get together with the pastor from another church and pray together every other week. Every year, my congregation hosts something to bring us all together to pray together."

"It's not a race. Relating to others is playing the long game."

"And developing relationships requires maintenance," noted Tosini. "It's saying, 'spending time with this other person and our friendship is a priority - it's what God wants of us.'"



Participants in Holy Cross Parish's Vacation Bible School enjoy activities themed around "The Great Outdoors."



The Greatest Adventure: VBS in Plattsburgh

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Holy Cross Parish's youth were taken to "The Great Outdoors" with a Vacation Bible School (VBS) that included everything from Camp Capernaum to Eagle Summit and Moose Ridge with music, a campfire, a trail camera for exploration and activities galore.

The VBS was held at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh from August 5 to 9 for Pre-k to fifth graders.

Desiree Kirk, director of Religious Education for the parish, noted that "I have never seen happier kids. There is a little girl that attended Mass but didn't feel connected; every year since she was four, she begs for VBS. Everyone is welcome and equal. The games we play, the stories we read, kids are not alone, and the families celebrate."

"At first two kids were in tears, but they loved the science and Bible reenactment," Kirk continued. "Youth are wanting to volunteer and make this come alive. They plan their vacations around it because they are so excited. Parents are stepping up; it's a true parish event. We have so much support. It is a great reflection of our parish. I'm so grateful, beyond touched."

There were six different stations: Wild Bible Adventures with waterfalls and a surprise appearance from a gladiator; a Saint of the Day with focuses such as learning what a tabernacle and scapular are; a God-sighting wall, where kids leave comments about where they saw God daily; Sticky Scriptures, reflecting on the Gospel of Matthew, Bible pictures to color, and choose which way to go adventures; the Imagination Station Expedition, with a walk through Igloo, snow, compasses and magnets, science projects and activities with choices; Glacier Games, differentiated by groups, with special challenges to earn prizes like frozen t-shirts.

Mike Gallagher ran the Sticky Adventures station with John Higgins, who is going into sixth grade. Gallagher shared that kids come "in on (the ground floor and learn) how to reference Scripture, (and) apply it to their life." Higgins added, "Kids always seem to have fun. The game always has something about Scripture."

Along with catechists, 14 student volunteers from Seton assisted at VBS this year. "It is a hands down dedicated group, 100% pouring out their hearts with joy in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Teen volunteers offer thoughts on VBS

Dayline Willette, a junior at Seton Catholic and volunteer, completed the following interviews for this article. Alan Desotelle, also a junior at Seton Catholic, videotaped a few of the interviews.

Q: Why do you choose to volunteer here?

• "My Mom has run this [VBS] since I was little and it really made an impact on me. It's like the first time I really felt that Church could be fun." - Isaac Kirk (Station Leader of Games)

• "Because I love God and I love to share his love with others." - Daisy Robertin (Snack Crew)

• "During the year we have Sunday school... but during the summer, they don't get it, so to have a week where we can pack as much as we can in and... learn new things, I think it's really really fruitful for them." - Riley McQuade (Wild Bible Adventure Station Leader)

• "I want [the kids] to be more included in their faith." - Loretta Capiello (Floater and Front Desk Sign-in)

• "I like helping the younger

generation of kids help grow their faith." - Alan Desotelle (Imagination Station Leader)

• "I really like meeting the kids and also you get a bunch of community service hours, so it helps!" - Matthew DuBay (Bear Crew Leader)

• "It's really fun. I remember when I was a kid and really enjoyed and looked forward to VBS." - Gianna Capiello (Imagination Station Assistant)

Q: What impact do you think VBS has on the parents and families of the kids?

• "Their parents get like a break kinda, and get to see how happy their kids are from like meeting new people and experiencing new stuff." - Ayat Nadeem (Eagle Crew Leader)

• "I think it's a good way to plant a seed in their faith and to draw them closer to it." - Mariam (Mem) Mahan (Crew Leader)

• "It allows for conversations at home to flourish." - Riley McQuade (Wild Bible Adventure Station Leader)

• "It helps the parents to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Guggenheim: Our 'deserted place'

By Deacon James Crowley
Chancellor

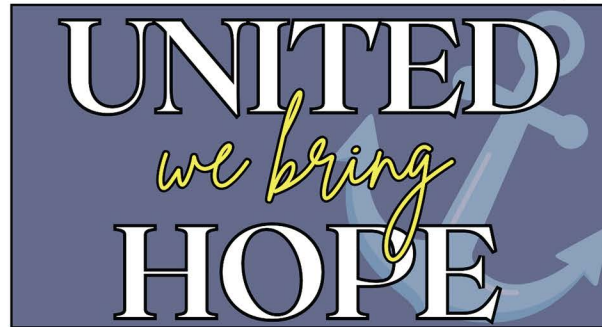
The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So, they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. (Mt 6:30-32)

Where do you get away from it all? Maybe it is a walk in the woods, a camp on the river or your man-cave. Or maybe you are still searching for such a place.

The apostles return after Jesus sent them two by two on mission to drive out demons and heal the sick. They

return to a maelstrom of people around Jesus. There is no time to process the mission experience, to rest from their travels or to listen to Christ's teaching and wisdom. Jesus knows these things are needed, and He leads them to a deserted place.

The Guggenheim Center, a Bishop's Fund Appeal ministry, is special, deserted place in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The mention of "Guggenheim" brings up visions of Summer Teen Camp and Family Camp. These gatherings give teenagers and families time to move out of the daily hubbub and into a deserted place to meet new people, pray, play, laugh and worship. But the Lodge and Dorm host many more groups. Some of our schools go



to Guggenheim to spend a few days with their graduating sixth graders or seniors. It is a time to process their educational careers at Seton Catholic or Saint James School before their next big step into middle school or college.

The Lay Associates of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Secular Carmelites host multi-day retreats in the Lodge in a deserted place of beauty and

quiet. Guggenheim is a place where you can feel the Spirit moving just getting out of your car. Rachel's Vineyard, a retreat for post-abortion healing, finds safe space in the Lodge as well.

The Guggenheim Center hosts the Fall Campus Ministry Retreat for college students in the North Country. It hosts a leadership weekend for high school students and time for young adults to get away from

the world. Each summer the seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gather in this deserted place to pray, share, celebrate and grow. Bishop Lucia often brings the Syracuse seminarians to Guggenheim. Many, many others use the Lodge and Dorm to "come away by yourselves" and refresh their souls.

Guggenheim probably has a few more creature comforts that the deserted place Jesus took the apostles. Maintaining a wooden Great Camp, built by Edmund Guggenheim around 1920, requires ingenuity, elbow-grease, time and money.

The accompanying boathouse, which is mostly over the lake, can be a bigger challenge. The property includes

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UNITED
we bring
HOPE

"We have this hope as an anchor
for the soul, firm and secure."
Hebrews 6:19

2025 Bishop's Fund Appeal

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A smile is infectious. Try it!

I admit to being a surprisingly good supermarket shopper. I am not referring to prices and deals. Frankly, I do not look at prices often enough. Ask my wife.

I do know about the important stuff in supermarkets though. Ergo, I consider myself an aficionado when it comes to food shopping.

I can often tell you what aisle such-n-such can be found in.

I know the nuances of most check-out clerks, who the friendly ones are and which ones failed the customer relations course.

I know where the restrooms are. You laugh. As we get older the location becomes a critical piece of information.

Don't you hate it when a product is temporarily moved? I do.

Grocers, who know a lot more about shopping patterns than me, will stack sale and promotion items at the end of an aisle to get people to find said product faster.

Trivia fans, the end of an aisle is called an "endcap." You can dazzle acquaintances with that factoid at the next event.

You are welcome.

I need to be focused when I grocery shop otherwise I'll spend a couple of hours in the aisles or staring at endcaps. I might even find myself watching the other shoppers.

That happened to me recently. I should have been paying more attention to my own basket, but I was gawking at

folks.

There were a couple of ladies shopping together. They had two carts, so they were shopping independently but together. One woman was oohing and ahing at all sorts of goods, remarking about the "good deals" to be had with this canned good or that bottle of something.

The other lady was sticking to a self-imposed budget. She had a fixed amount to spend on each food group. I heard her remark, "I only have \$2.69 budgeted for milk, so I'll have to get the half gallon."

Some people shop that way. I do not know if I could. Except eggs. I did shop around for the least expensive eggs.

An older couple was on the check-out line in front of me. The clerk, one of the nice ones at this market, was telling the man that he could get one more can of something that he already had seven of and he would qualify for the

huge discount available this week only.

He got the can. The clerk told him which aisle to find it in, so it didn't take too long for him to return. He saved money as a result.

The couple was happy, the clerk who did a good deed, was happy. I was next in line, and I was happy. Come to think of it, I'll use my supermarket experience in Church this weekend. What better place to be happy!

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 17 — Rev. William E. Capron, 1949; Msgr. Louis D. Berube, 1999

Sept. 18 — Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

Sept. 19 — Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975

Sept. 20 — Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994

Sept. 21 — Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953

Sept. 22 — Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951

Sept. 23 — Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 17-18 — New York State Prison Chaplain's Retreat in Canandaigua

Sept. 20 — 4 p.m. — Mass at The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville in Keeseville (at St. John the Baptist Church)

Sept. 21 — 11 a.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Bryan D. Stitt as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam, St. Patrick's Church in Colton and St. Mary's Church in Canton

Sept. 24 — New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston

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:

Sept. 18 — 2:30 p.m. — Siena Academy, Canton

Sept. 18 — 6 p.m. — Immaculate Conception Church Parish Center, Brownville

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@rcd-ony.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.Report-BishopAbuse.org

Environmental Stewardship

Someone must be first

During this Season of Creation, we are asked to go out of our way or leave our comfort zones to care for the planet. Now is a good time to examine our daily routines, as many of them that seem ordinary or normal are harmful to the environment.

Many people today claim to be awakened to the needs of nature, yet they fail to act on their knowledge. We hesitate to be the first to do something. Yet, if we see an individual performing a simple act of kindness to a stranger, going out of their way to pick up a plastic bottle or riding a bicycle to the store rather than taking their car, we are more likely to think, "I can do that."

As more individuals become actively engaged in simple acts to reduce their carbon footprint, limit their purchase of items intended to fill the void that exists in their heart or place food scraps in a composter rather than in the garbage, the environment suffers less.

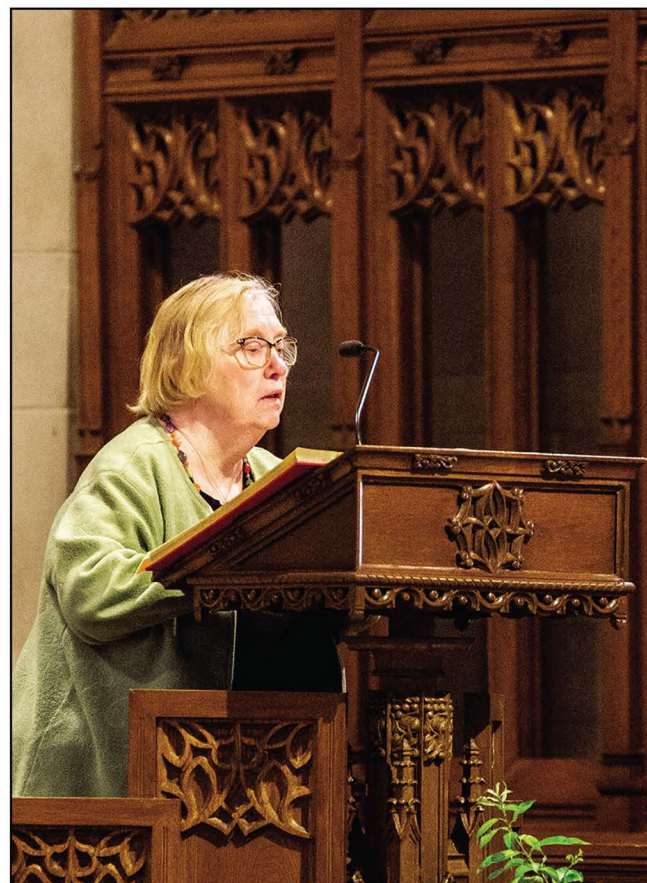
During this exceptionally dry period, record low water levels are exposing a variety of trash and refuse along the shores of lakes or the banks of streams and rivers that formerly were several feet below the surface. All it takes is for one person to venture out onto these dry riverbeds or lake bottoms and start collecting decade old items for others to do the same.

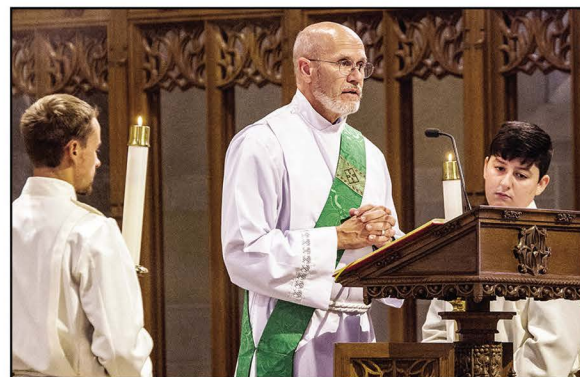
Many individuals realize all life is sacred and placed here for a purpose, but few do anything to preserve it. It seems human nature has programmed us to expend as little energy as possible to accomplish any chore. However, we are also programmed to quickly engage in a challenge regardless of how much time, energy and pain it may cause. Marathon running is an example. Why would anyone want to go through the torment of training for such a competition? Many people do because of that attitude that if others can do it, then so can I. But someone must lead the way

CELEBRATING LOVE, MARRIAGE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley served as principal celebrant for the
Celebration of Love & Marriage Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 7

Photos by Jesse Sovie





CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

More than half a million pilgrims visited St. Carlo Acutis' tomb

More than 620,000 people have visited the tomb of St. Carlo Acutis in the first eight months of 2025, according to the Diocese of Assisi, Italy. The diocese reported a surge of more than 121,000 visitors in August alone, a figure boosted by the Jubilee of Youth and Acutis' canonization by Pope Leo XIV on Sept. 7 in St. Peter's Square. Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15, is entombed in the Church of St. Mary Major in Assisi, where pilgrims can venerate his relics and view his body dressed in jeans, a track jacket, and Nike sneakers.

Cardinal Burke to celebrate Latin Mass in St. Peter's Basilica

Cardinal Raymond Burke will celebrate a special Traditional Latin Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 25 in a return to a prior custom, suspended since 2022, of an annual pilgrimage of Catholics devoted to the Latin Mass. Burke will celebrate the Solemn Pontifical Mass, a high Latin Mass said by a bishop, at the Altar of the Chair on the second day of the Oct. 24–26 Summorum Pontificum pilgrimage, the event's official website says. The cardinal also celebrated a Latin Mass at the Altar of the Chair for the pilgrimage in 2014. In 2023 and 2024, the pilgrimage was not able to receive authorization to celebrate the Latin Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica from the basilica's liturgy office, according to organizer Christian Marquant. Burke, a champion of the Traditional Latin Mass and one of the most prominent critics in the hierarchy of the late Pope Francis, under whom he fell conspicuously out of favor, met Pope Leo in a private audience on Aug. 22.

Vatican experts: Shooting victims could qualify as martyrs

Vatican experts said the two children killed in last month's shooting at a Minneapolis Catholic church could one day be included on a list they are compiling of "new martyrs and witnesses of the faith." Harper Moyski, 10, and Fletcher Merkel, 8, were killed while attending a parochial school Mass at Annunciation Catholic Church on Aug. 27 — prompting some to ask whether they could be considered martyrs killed "in hatred of the faith." "If the diocese or other local ecclesial entities present these figures to us as witnesses of the faith, we will examine them and see if we can include them in the list," said Archbishop Fabio Fabene, president of the Vatican Commission of New Martyrs — Witnesses of the Faith. The commission, created by Pope Francis in 2023 under the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, is compiling an archive of the lives of Christian martyrs, both Catholic and non-Catholic, who have been killed in the new millennium. As Fabene and other experts explained Sept. 8, the commission's selection criteria are not the same used by the Church to formally recognize a martyr through beatification and canonization. "They are two totally distinct things," the archbishop said. Inclusion on the commission's list of "new martyrs" does not qualify as a beatification, he said. Their catalog, which they hope eventually to publish, consists so far of 1,640 Christians killed in different circumstances of persecution and hatred around the world.

Montreal archbishop: prayer ban would be 'like forbidding thought itself'

Canadian Catholic News

The Quebec government's call for a ban on all public prayer raises "serious concerns" about a democratic society's fundamental freedoms, Montreal Archbishop Christian Lépine said in a public letter.

Such a ban would discourage gestures fostering hope and solidarity in a world already "shaken" by so many crises — economic, social, and environmental, the archbishop said.

"At its core, to forbid public prayer would be somewhat like forbidding thought itself," he said in a letter posted to the archdiocese's website Sept. 2.

Lépine said the proposal by Quebec Premier François Legault to end prayer in public places goes squarely against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Quebec's own Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Can we afford to discourage gestures that foster hope and solidarity?" he said.

The archbishop called the proposal unworkable and discriminatory, adding it would "jeopardize traditions deeply rooted in Quebec," such as the Way of the Cross, Palm Sunday processions, and the feast of Corpus Christi, among others.

"These events, marked by order and dignity, are spaces of encounter," he said. "To forbid prayer in public would be to threaten their very existence."

He added that Pope Francis' penitential pilgrimage to Canada in 2022, with its stop in Quebec City, might have been banned under such a law.

Quebec's Catholic bishops are also speaking out, saying the ban would violate people's constitutional rights.

Bishop Martin Laliberté, president of the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops, said he was "stunned" by Legault's suggested ban on prayer in parks and on city streets, warning that it would affect a wide range of activities practiced by people of many faiths.

In a recent open letter, the Quebec bishops said the ban would target minority religious groups perceived by some as threatening Quebec's identity, would be unenforceable, and would contradict both Canadian and Quebec Charter rights.

Legault's Coalition Avenir Québec

party first called for such a ban late last year and immediately drew condemnation from many quarters, including Quebec's bishops. In a letter at the time, Laliberté wrote to the government: "Prayer is not dangerous."

The Quebec government has been vocal about introducing a bill to ban public prayer following a spate of mass Islamic prayer gatherings in 2024 in conjunction with pro-Palestinian protests in the province, including a weekly one in the square outside of Notre-Dame Basilica in Old Montreal. Images and videos of Muslims praying in Montreal outside the basilica have made headlines this summer.

On Aug. 28, Quebec secularism minister Jean-François Roberge announced the government will introduce legislation in the fall to ban street prayer, although it has not said whether it will invoke the notwithstanding clause of the Charter to shield the legislation from constitutional challenges.

The Canadian Constitution Foundation also came out strongly against the proposal.

"This legislation is an assault on the constitutionally protected right to freedom of religion," said litigation director Christine Van Geyn. "We view this as overreach that will impact religious communities across Quebec and deserves careful scrutiny. Secularism does not require hostility to people of faith, and that is what this proposed law represents."

Van Geyn said it is understandable that the government wants to prevent protests and prayers that block streets, "but banning all public prayer in Quebec violates the very freedoms that make Canada better than a theocracy. The government should enforce existing laws and ticket those who block traffic and violate noise bylaws; don't attack all people of faith."

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) likewise condemned the proposal as "a clear infringement" on freedom of religion, expression, assembly, and association.

"Suppressing peaceful religious expression, individually or communally, under the guise of secularism not only marginalizes faith-based communities but also undermines principles of inclusion, dignity, and equality," said CCLA Director Harini Sivalingham.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting, Find PEACE in this life!

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: A common enemy in the spiritual life is discouragement, and Venerable Bruno Lanteri masterfully assisted his directees in overcoming it through his straightforward, practical counsels. By prayerfully reflecting on these gems – which Father-Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. deftly connects to the writings of other saints in his new book “If You Want Peace in This Life” – you will gain confidence in God and a greater patience with yourself. At this meeting FatherGallagher will lead us in discussing the first 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

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

CAR RAFFLE

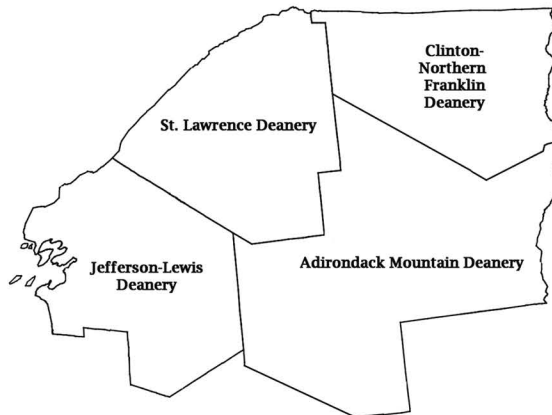
Lake Placid – St. Agnes School is having their annual Car Raffle. Win a new Subaru or \$20,000.

Features: Tickets are \$20 apiece or \$100 for six. Tickets are available at the school (weekdays), 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 or \$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

ALPHA

Lake Placid – ALPHA to be held, all are invited no matter your back-



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.

ground or beliefs.

Date: Weds. Starting Sept. 17

Time: 6:15 p.m. to 8:15

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: This is a free event and includes a delicious dinner, great videos (about life, faith, and meaning), and small group discussion. All are welcome, so help spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

Contact: To register and for questions, go to <https://stag-neislakeplacid.com/alpha>

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Saranac Lake – St. Bernard's School to have their annual St. Bernard's 4 person Golf Scramble.

Date: Sept. 20

Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Place: Saranac Lake Golf Club

Features: This fun-filled day on the greens will bring together teams of four for an exciting competition, all in support of the school's mission and programs. will feature a variety of contests and prizes for participants. Golfers of all skill levels are invited to join, with all proceeds directly benefiting the students and families of St. Bernard's School. Following the tournament, participants are invited to enjoy a post-tournament lunch provided by Blueline Brewery and Tail of the Pup.

Contact: To register your team

of four or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Andrea Kilbourne-Hill at 518-891-2830 or principal@stbernardsschool.org. Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

APPLEFEST

Peru – St. Augustine to have their 47th Annual Applefest.

Date: Sept. 20

Time: Activities begin at 10:30 a.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Features: Grand raffle, a craft fair, apple fritters, fried dough, caramelized apples, hot dogs, Michigans, sweet sausages, burgers, chicken BBQ, games, a train ride, face painting, a bounce house, and performances by the Pipes and Drums of Plattsburgh and the On Three Band. Roger's House and St. Vincent DePaul will also host sales throughout the day. Parade starts at 11 a.m., proceeding down Main Street from Peru Elementary School.

HARVEST DINNER

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angels invite you to St. Ann's Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 21

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

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$16; Children 6-12, \$9; Children 5 and under, Free

Features: Turkey and all the trimmings, Apple and Pumpkin desserts. There will be a bake sale, themed basket raffles and lottery ticket raffle.

A PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE FOR CREATION

Paul Smiths – This will be an opportunity to connect with nature to discover ways to protect our planet.

Date: Sept. 27

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Paul Smiths College VIC

Features: Come with an open mind and open heart. Welcome and opening prayer by Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, address by Dr. Curt Stager, nationally recognized environmental and climate scientist, time to spend in nature, sharing of thoughts and ideas with others, closing prayer by Bernie Clark and simple autumn snacks. Sponsored by the Faith & Ecology Group of Northern New York.

Contact: Tom Kalinowski, 518-891-1876.

HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish is

having their Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 28

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

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults and all take-outs, \$16; Children 6-12, \$9

Features: Menu will be a turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for “sinfully” delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes. Please join us!! We are handicapped accessible.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or Chazypa@rcdony.org

CHARISMATIC MASS

Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish to have a Charismatic Mass.

Date: Sept. 28

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: Prayer teams will be available after Mass for private prayer. All are welcome.

Contact: For more information please call (518)-483-1300 at ssymour@rcdony.org

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

DANCE

Glenfield – St. John's Church in Lyons Falls and St. Mary's Church will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11
be sponsoring a dance.

Date: Sept. 19

Time: 7 p.m. to 10

Place: Glenfield Fire Hall

Features: Music will be provided by Patti Stanford and her band. There will be basket and chance raffles and a 50/50 raffle as well.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Lyons Falls — There will be a drive-thru spaghetti dinner.

Date: Sept. 23

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: \$12 per dinner

Menu: spaghetti and meatball and sausage, tossed salad, Italian bread and dessert.

Contact: To pre-order call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577. On the day of the dinner call the church at 315-348-6599. Deliveries are also available!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown — St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Downstairs in St. Anthony's church in Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adult, \$12; Child, \$8; Meatballs, \$1 each; Sauce, \$5 a quart

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own container.

Contact: For more information contact the Parish Center at 315-782-1190

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE FOR CREATION

Cape Vincent — An invitation to an INTERFAITH celebration of the beauties of God's creation.

Date: Sept. 28

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Camp, Dablon Point on Lake Ontario.

Features: Prayer, reflection on Pope Francis' book "Care of our Common Home," time with nature, sharing with others, youth presenters and simple fall snack.

Contact: This event is sponsored by the Faith and Ecology Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph. For more information contact srbethssj@gmail.com or 315-212-6592

DIOCESAN EVENTS

COMMUNITY VOICES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ogdensburg — A Human Trafficking awareness informational meeting to be held.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Ogdensburg Free Academy Auditorium

Features: You can learn to spot the signs. Victims can be any age, gender, race or nationality. Be vigilant, Be observant. Be someone's hero.

SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a meeting if you are interested in learning about our Lay Associate Program.

Schedule: Sept. 21 at the for-

mer St. Patrick's School in Watertown

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Features: Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality, the charism and mission and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

Contact: If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald (srbethany@gmail.com).

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Saranac Lake — The Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Ministry is inviting all High School students (grades 9-12) are to their annual Leadership Weekend.

Date: Sept. 19-21

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$150 (financial aid is available)

Features: Special guest speaker will be Penelope Rose from Students for life. Learn to be a leader in Christ. Free T-Shirt is included.

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/leadership

DOVS LUNCHEON

Norfolk — All are invited to join the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) for Mass with Bishop LaValley followed by a free luncheon.

Date: Sept. 26

Time: Noon

Place: Church of the Visitation

Features: Bishop LaValley will speak on "The Role of the Laity As Disciples In Mission By Virtue of Our Baptism."

Contact: Register with Connie Randal by email (connierandal47@yahoo.com) or phone (315-783-0574)

BLUE MASS

Saranac Lake — Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Diocesan Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 28

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Dispatchers. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend this Sunday celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

Contact: Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.

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.

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg — The Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat Commit-

tee 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>

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

Date: Session 3: Oct. 10-12 (waiting list)

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy and special prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.

Contact: Registration is open now at <https://www.rcdony.org/fg> Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or starttaglia@rcdony.org.

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>



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Chicago chefs plan restaurant at papal retreat

By Amira Abuzeid
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV announced a historic partnership between the Vatican and two famous Chicago restaurateurs, Art Smith and Phil Stefani, to open a restaurant at Borgo Laudato Si', a 135-acre "zero environmental impact" complex in Castel Gandolfo, Italy.

Pope Leo XIV inaugurated the project during a livestreamed ceremony on Sept. 5, viewed at a Chicago watch party attended by Stefani, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, and other prominent figures.

The new restaurant will be located at Borgo Laudato Si', which is within the historic Papal Villas, a 17th-century summer residence for popes. The site promotes Pope Francis' teachings on environmental stewardship.

At the inauguration of Borgo

Laudato Si' village on Friday, Pope Leo XIV said it "is one of the Church's initiatives aimed at realizing the 'vocation to be custodians of God's handiwork.'"

Earlier this year, a committee led by the late Pope Francis selected Smith and Stefani to oversee the unprecedented project, which will debut in spring 2026 as the estate's sole restaurant and caterer, serving breakfast and lunch, and will include a small market.

The restaurant will serve Italian fare made from fresh, locally-sourced food with international influences, blending Chicago and Peruvian flavors in honor of Pope Leo XIV.

Ingredients will come from a solar-powered greenhouse within Borgo Laudato Si', which is modeled after St. Peter's Square's colonnade, and other local sources. The complex, which includes gardens, vine-

yards, training programs in organic farming, pesticide-free winemaking and olive harvesting, will also offer retreats for business leaders and ecology education programs.

The ecological complex also includes state-of-the-art insulation, photovoltaic, and circular water management systems.

Smith, a James Beard Award winner and former personal chef to Oprah Winfrey, is celebrated for his work with Common Threads, a nonprofit, and currently runs Reunion and Blue Door Kitchen & Garden in Chicago.

Stefani, whose Italian restaurant empire began in 1980 with Stefani's, operates the Stefani Restaurant Group, running Tavern on Rush, Stefani Prime, Tuscany, Castaways Beach Club, Stefani's Bottega Italiana, and Broken English Taco Pub.

"As a Catholic and Italian, this project is a dream for my family and me," Stefani said. "To be part of a culinary experience on Vatican property is deeply meaningful to us. But we also share this honor with the city of Chicago. We have the unique opportunity to bring a taste of home, some of that unique Chicago spirit, to a global audience."

Johnson called Smith and Stefani "true Chicago legends" and the partnership a "striking and serendipitous win" for the city.

Another Chicago tie is Father Manuel Dorantes, appointed administrative management director of the Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education in November 2024. Previously pastor of St. Mary of the Lake-Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on Chicago's North Side, Dorantes joined Pope Leo XIV at Friday's ceremony.

Great outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of the Catholic faith," shared Gallagher, who initially became involved in catechesis when he brought his son. "They needed someone to volunteer. I absolutely loved it. It's a mini-vocation in its own right. This is an amazing parish and has given so much to me."

Melita Mercier has assisted with VBS at the parish for 15 years.

"It's a family thing," she said. "My daughter (Louisa) helped for many years, it's a fun thing. The kids look forward to it every year. It's a nice week to come back after we haven't had religious education for a while and regroup. Desiree goes over-the-top with

decorations. It's great for kids to have; (there is an) opportunity for other camps but they can all come here, share the same faith and talk about Jesus. It is a lot of work, but the rewards are well worth it."

Another parishioner, Margaret Caldon, has been helping with VBS for 20 years.

"Kids are so excited," she said.

Assisting on the Tundra Treats Snack Crew, Caldon noted the specially themed goodies including paw print cookies with a spiritual message about how when we feel "paw-er-less" to make our mark Jesus can give us the "paw-er."

Mary Barber, who also assisted on the

Snack Crew, shared that she enjoys helping since she is retired.

"It gets me active in seeing kids out and about," she said. "I get involved in other programs. It's wonderful here."

Additionally, Daisy Robertin, who also aided with the Snack Crew, reflected on how beautiful it was that "Father Jose (Kaniyankunnel John, HGN) was coming daily and speaking to groups of kids. Kids know what priests do, (this way they) see them not just at Mass but as a person going around and talking."

VBS is held during the same week each year, so families can mark their calendars for the next great adventure.

Offer thoughts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

get them off of technology and grows the kids closer to God, especially in a world where it's so easy for kids to get distracted and stray away God." - Dayline Willette (Moose Crew Leader and Interviewer)

"What they learn here they may bring home and maybe even teach the parents something." - Karen Peryea (Craft/Music Station Leader)

Q: What is your favorite part of VBS?

"When they're leaving it's always so sad because they never want to leave, so I think that means you did something right and really brought some joy to the kid's life. That's the best part of VBS for me." - Dayline Willette

(Moose Crew Leader and Interviewer)

"Combining science and God while having fun." - Alan Desotelle (Imagination Station; Science Leader)

"I like it all ... I'm very impressed with how much they like art. They get so focused, and some [kids] want to do things their own way, and that's fine." - Margarita Garcia Notario (Craft/Music Station Leader)



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'Commit to the right road'

Would you please when I am hungry. I make up your mind!! can have either the delicious left-over carrot cake with my name practically written on it or some nice nutritious carrot sticks with celery spears just to make life more interesting. Which would you choose? Well, you see today's Gospel message is all about choice. What But then, what about choices will I make?



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

September 21

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS
Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13

What choices should I make? Will my choice hurt or help me?

Life is filled with many important choices. Our families are important, our jobs help sustain our families... notice the word "help" because the true sustenance of the family is love among the members of the family. Our careers are important because the career helps us get a job...again that word "help." Our education is important because it helps (again, that same pesky word) find a career.

In a world filled with choices, how do we make the right choices? Jesus provides some excellent guidance to making choices: No one can serve two masters. Not

only that, if we try to serve two masters, we will hate one and love the other. We must temper our world of choices with the message of Jesus.

In very simple terms, the pathway to heaven and the pathway to hell are very parallel roads but leading in different directions. Sometimes the scenery along the way may look the same; sometimes the paving on either road might be smooth or bumpy. Nevertheless, the final destinations are quite different: eternal happiness or eternal damnation.

Jesus wants us to commit to the right road leading to him with him guiding us along the way. Sometimes, we may experience loneliness, and sometimes we may feel lost. We see great road signs, great motivating messages along the way, but we may honestly wonder, will we ever get there?

On that road to Jesus, there are rest stops.

Sunday worship, our weekly rest stop, encourages and nourishes us along that road that Jesus lays out for us. We need nourishment along our daily trips. On our spiritual journey, the celebration of the Eucharist nourishes and gives us life.

Worldly people make sacrifices for worldly rewards. At the Eucharist, we celebrate the sacrifices that we make each day in order to have an eternal reward.

A sign in a Chicago garage reads: We crawl under your car oftener, we get our hands dirtier, and we work harder and longer than any of our competitors to make your car run better.

That's the commitment Jesus asks of us so that our road of life has the right vehicle to get us safely home.

Lord, open our ears, our eyes, and our minds so that we may hear, see, and understand that you are the way, the truth, and the life. AMEN.

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"Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope." (1 Pet 3:15)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Salutes the Pastors, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists of the diocese.

Catechetical Sunday
September 21, 2025



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
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First church dedicated to St. Carlo Acutis

While Pope Leo XIV canonized Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis on Sunday, September 7, in St. Peter's Square, in India, the Archbishop of Verapoly, Joseph Kalathiparambil, consecrated and inaugurated a church dedicated to Saint Carlo Acutis: the first in the country - and in the world - dedicated to the young Italian saint.

"It was a very significant moment for our community and for our young people," Msgr. Michael Antony Valungal, auxiliary bishop of Verapoly, told Fides. The archdiocese is located in southern India, where the Catholic presence is strong and represents more than 13% of the population, a percentage much higher than that of other Indian states.

The Church of St. Carlo Acutis "aims to be a parish focused on youth ministry." "Our local Church," the bishop stated, "hopes that St. Carlo's life will inspire young people seeking to combine spirituality and modern technology; the new church should give new impetus to this journey." Regarding Acutis, he added, "we are impressed by his extraordinary love for the Eucharist, which he lived intensely and which he also knew how to transmit through the web."

Regarding the situation of Indian youth, Bishop Valungal stated: "Our young people are very active. They live in a cultural, social, and professional context marked by new technologies; they are digital natives, and in this context, we hope that Acutis can be an inspiration for them. The Italian saint reminds them that holiness is possible today." The auxiliary bishop is intimately familiar with the youth situation, having served as parish priest, director of the St. John Minor Seminary in Kakkannad, and spiritual director of the St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary in Alwaye, in the same Archdiocese of Verapoly.

The parish priest of the church, Father Sojan Michael, reported that devotion to the young saint is already widespread among the local faithful. "People pray the novena dedicated to St. Carlo, and many present requests for intercession, especially to entrust him with the future of young people or their difficulties. St. Carlo is already an example for Indian youth and a reference for all of us," he stated.

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

*Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg when
writing or changing your will.*

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – John W. Slate, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2025 at St. Cyril's Church.

Canton – Karel M. (Ames) Mace, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brick Capel Cemetery.

Carthage – Cathy (Buckingham) Turner, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Constableville – Eva Mae (Gydesen) Swienik; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Glenfield – Helen E. (Kerfien) Raymond, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Gouverneur – Neil A. McCoy, 96; Private Services

Henderson – Marie (Buragino) Kardelis, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2025 at Queen of Heaven Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Marion Fuller Martin, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Long Lake – William Francis Moore, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2025 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Malone – Theresa E. (Benware) Mallette, 96; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2025 at Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Service; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Mooers – Harvey D. Surprenant, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Sept.

12, 2025 at St. Ann's Church' burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg – Donna A. (Lesperance) Bromley, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Charles S. Chatelle, 92; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2025 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Rodney J. Soucy, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2025 at Brown Funeral Home.

Port Henry – Sharon Lee (Stevenson) Ida, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2025

at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

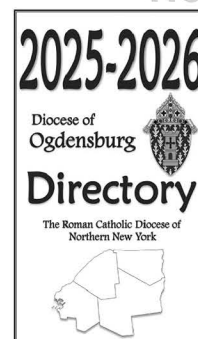
Redford – Maries D. Chauvin, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2025 at the Assumption of Mary Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Schroon Lake – Ralph Cooke, 91; Privates Services.

Waddington – Ronald N. Field, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Scotch Presbyterian Cemetery.

Watertown – John D. Lewis, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Diocesan Directories now available!



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Court approves Rochester abuse settlement

By Amira Abuzeid
Catholic News Agency

One of the nation's largest sexual abuse settlements unfolded in a federal bankruptcy court in Rochester, New York, on Friday, bringing about resolution for the nearly 500 survivors of child sex abuse by clergy within the Diocese of Rochester.

After a six-year legal battle, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York approved a \$246 million settlement, which will average approximately \$500,000 per survivor.

The settlement concludes a process that began when the diocese filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2019 following the passage of the New York Child Victims Act, which allows abuse victims to file civil lawsuits until they are 55 years old. The law temporarily

lifted the statute of limitations, enabling survivors to pursue claims against their abusers.

Bankruptcy attorney Ilan Scharf described the day as a "milestone for survivors in the Rochester area after being the first bankruptcy filed in New York" after the passage of the Child Victims Act.

Survivors expressed a mix of emotions, with many ready to move forward.

Gregory Stanley noted: "The healing can start now, which is more important than the money. I'm just glad it's over." Merle Sweet echoed this sentiment, saying: "Relief. It's all finally over," while John McHugh added: "I am actually, for the first time, excited for the future."

Attorney Mitchell Garabedian, representing 97 victims, emphasized the survivors' resilience, stating in a press

release that the process validated their experiences and contributed to a safer world for children, setting an example of determination for others globally.

Survivor Carol Dupre shared the profound impact on her community. "This was a real wounding of a lot of people and their families. There's literally thousands upon thousands of people that have been negatively affected by what happened to us," she said.

Bishop Salvatore Matano of the Diocese of Rochester addressed the media after the settlement, offering a message of hope and regret. "I pray that this is certainly a step toward their healing," he said of the victims. "I apologize to them. I deeply regret what transpired in their lives, which, as the judge said, never should have happened."

He continued: "While this

process legally concludes today, I take them in my heart every day of my life, and every time I approach the altar, they will be in my memory, asking the good Lord to give them the strength and the courage to continue on, and that they be blessed in the years ahead."

Matano issued a letter the same day in which he said the "settlement provisions can be effectuated" in the next several weeks. Of the \$246 million settlement, \$55 million will be paid by the diocese and affiliated entities, according to the letter, and the rest by the diocese's insurers.

The bishop concluded the letter addressing abusers, saying he entrusts "them to Jesus, the final judge, and I pray they have acknowledged their offenses and used their remaining years to seek his mercy and have prayed fervently for those they have hurt."



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Supporting the 2025 Bishop Fund Insert

Guggenheim

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

a garage and three out-buildings of the same vintage plus three 1963 buildings which compose the Dorm, Dining Hall and In. Add nearly a mile of dirt and stone road, a beach, trails, wells, septic systems, mowing lawns, cutting trees and discouraging critters to the maintenance list. As the beauty of warm summer months fades, the Center must be prepared for

freezing temperatures, winter winds and heavy frosts.

Caring for the Guggenheim Center is the Facility Director. Jeff Branch. Jeff took the reins in 2024 after Ralph Bennett decided 37 years at camp might be just enough. Jeff Branch brings a fresh eye and new vitality to the upkeep of our home on the lake. If you bump into Ralph or Jeff, be sure to thank them. This is not

a job you do just for a paycheck. Jeff puts it, "I love this place and just want to give back."

Why give to the Bishop's Fund Appeal? So that Jeff has the resources needed to repair and improve the Guggenheim Center. So that the Diocese has the resources to bring contractors in for big projects when it is necessary. So that we can ask for only a small donation from groups utilizing this Adirondack wonderland. And most importantly, so that hundreds of people of every age can visit the Guggenheim Center for a myriad of reasons and have a deserted place to come away and rest awhile with our Lord.

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