

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

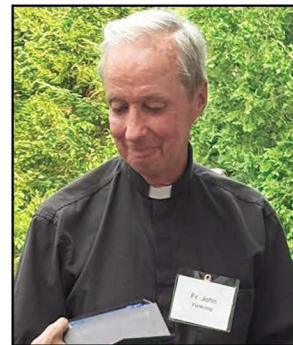
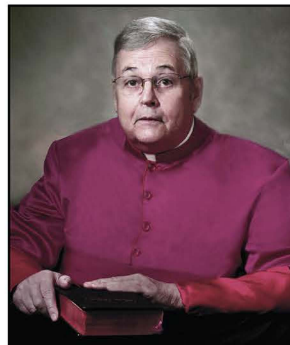
Concert drone show
lights up
Vatican I | Page 13

Mission Possible:
But only with
your help | Page 15

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 21

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025



We appreciate our priests!

In celebration of Priesthood Sunday, Sept. 28, and our priests, the North Country Catholic offers its annual Priest Appreciation edition.

In the pages of this edition, you'll read about (photo at far left) Father Jude Nnadib-uagha's love of soccer, (photo top right) Father Bryan Stitt's efforts to achieve the Adirondack 46er and summit all 46 Adirondack High Peaks, (bottom right) an award presented to Father John Yonkovig and (bottom middle) the impact Msgr. Harry Snow had on the faith of a former parishioner.

Please join us in celebrating our priests!

Pope Leo decries conditions in Gaza

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday condemned the "unacceptable conditions" faced by civilians in Gaza and called for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and renewed efforts toward a negotiated diplomatic solution.

"I express my profound closeness to the Palestinian people in Gaza, who continue to live in fear and to survive in unacceptable conditions, forcibly displaced - once again - from their own lands," the pope said at his weekly general audience. "Before God almighty, who commanded 'Thou shalt not kill,' and in the sight of all of human

history, every person always has an inviolable dignity, to be respected and upheld."

"I renew my appeal for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and a negotiated diplomatic solution, fully respecting international humanitarian law. I invite you all to join in my heartfelt prayer that a dawn of peace and justice may soon arise," he added.

In his catechesis at the audience on Wednesday, part of his series on "Jesus Christ our Hope" for the Jubilee 2025, the pope reflected on the mystery of Holy Saturday, when Christ lay in the tomb.

"The Son of God lies in the tomb. But this 'absence' of his is

not emptiness: It is expectation, a restrained fullness, a promise kept in the dark. It is the day of the great silence, in which the sky seems mute and the earth immobile, but it is precisely there that the deepest mystery of the Christian faith is fulfilled. It is a silence laden with meaning, like the womb of a mother who carries her unborn but already living child," he said.

Recalling that Jesus was laid in a garden tomb, the pope said the scene recalls the lost Eden and signals a new creation: "That tomb, never used, speaks of something that has still to happen: It is a threshold, not an end."

He explained that Holy Satur-

day is also a day of rest: "The Son too, after completing his work of salvation, rests. Not because he is tired, but because he loved up to the very end. There is nothing left to add. This rest is the seal on the completed task; it is the confirmation that what should have been done has truly been accomplished. It is a repose filled with the hidden presence of the Lord."

The pope contrasted this with the demands of modern life. "We struggle to stop and rest. We live as if life were never enough. We rush to produce, to prove ourselves, to keep up. But the Gospel teaches us that knowing how to stop is an act of trust that we must learn to perform."

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I don't have to guess

The text from my son, Jake, read, "guess who I'm having dinner with tonight."

Jake had been living in Central New York for only a week. He didn't know many people there.

I was traveling, so my response to his text was delayed, but I couldn't think of who he might have joined for dinner.

"Who?" was my only response.

"I went to Mass and had dinner with Father Bill. That parish is nice, and they love him! Father Menard is nice as well!"

That was Father Bill Muench (he writes the other column on this page) and Father Bernard "Bernie" Menard, both priests who started their ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

and now reside now in the same parish within the Diocese of Syracuse.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

When Jake and I connected via phone, he told me all about going to dinner with Father Bill and Father Bernie. He told me how warm and welcoming they were. He told me he loved their parish community. He told me how much he enjoyed the meal at their rectory. Jake was very excited to have had the opportunity to spend time with them.

I got off the phone with Jake and cried. I was overwhelmed with gratitude. It just amazes me that even hours from home, Jake is receiving pastoral care from priests of our diocese. I was so incredibly grateful for the concern and care exhibited by Fa-

ther Bill and the warm welcome extended to Jake by both Father Bill and Father Bernie.

When he submitted his column for this week's edition, Father Bill noted that his writing was a bit shorter than normal, and I would have a bigger space to fill.

"I hope you have a lot of appreciation," he wrote in his email.

I certainly do, Father Bill. I certainly do.

While I especially appreciate Father Bill and Father Bernie and the welcome they gave my son, I appreciate all our priests. They're our spiritual fathers, and they work hard to ensure we have access to the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They provide counsel. They minister at hospitals and gravesides. They bring Jesus to inmates. They teach adults and children. They

serve at food pantries and soup kitchens. They ensure our parishes are operating well. They minister to law enforcement. Our priests are involved in countless ministries and tasks to serve us, the people of God here in the North Country.

Many of our priests are thanked personally in the pages of this edition. Not all are, though. Some were not specifically named. It may be because someone missed a deadline, someone's ad request got lost in the mail, or someone just plain forgot. Whether named or not, we appreciate all our priests, and we thank them for saying "yes" to God's call and to serving his people so well.

Please join us in praying for our priests and for their intentions.

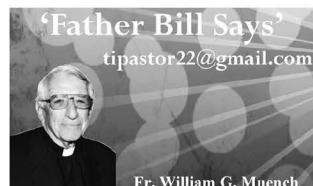
We truly appreciate our priests.

I don't have to guess about that.

Appreciation for our priests

The Priest Appreciation Issue: Several years ago, when I was still a pastor, I was given a plaque. I would like to send one of these to each of our priests. It read, "To our pastor - in infinite wisdom, the Lord surely knew that we would need a pastor as faithful as you. A love of God's word and a heart for his flock, you give of yourself, and you stand on the rock. We appreciate you."

I was impressed when I received this. However, I did know that the Lord Jesus had always been there to be my support. Jesus constantly guided me. Jesus was always showing me the way to be a good priest. So, I did feel rather humble for such an honor. I also realized that I constantly had the support of the people of the parish. They helped me to understand all that God



expected of me.

This year, I want to offer my appreciation to all the priests - all the pastors - of my Diocese of Ogdensburg. I know well that they are dedicated with God's help to lead their parishes with love. They are dedicated to our Catholic Church and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They bring Jesus to their people in so many great ways. So, I want you to know how very impressed I am with our priests and their ministry to the people of the North Country.

I also want to use this opportunity to offer my appreciation and grati-

tude to our bishop, Bishop Terry LaValley. With faith and wisdom, Bishop LaValley has led our diocese over these several years. Bishop LaValley demonstrates his love and dedication to our God as he travels around our diocese. Bishop LaValley, we appreciate you.

I want to encourage you to join me in praying for our priests, praying for our bishop. In addition, please pray for our seminarians as they prepare to take their place among the priests of our diocese. And we must pray for an increase in the number of priests for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We need these priests to minister of all the people of the North Country, to bring Jesus to the people of our parishes, especially in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Each year, as I pray

about the appreciation of our priests, I think of my priest friends who are now with the Lord. I have been blessed in such a wonderful way with so many of these priests, my friends, now truly saints with God. They have guided me. They support me even now; they are always with me. I pray to them and ask them to continue to walk with me. I am confident that they will.

Please join me as we pray for our priests and our bishop: *O God, who made your Only Begotten Son the eternal High Priest, grant that those he has chosen as ministers and stewards of our mysteries may be found faithful in carrying out the ministry they have received. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

Priests helped me hear God's voice

By Deacon Garry Stevens

Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

When I think back on the path that led me to the diaconate, it wasn't marked by one big moment or dramatic sign. It was more like a series of quiet nudges: gentle, faithful invitations from God. Most of those came through the parish priests who walked alongside me, prayed with me and believed in me long before I ever thought I might be called.

Growing up in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I was blessed to be surrounded by priests who lived their vocation with humility, joy and a deep love for their people. They weren't just celebrating Mass; they were spiritual fathers, mentors and steady companions. Their presence was never flashy, but it left a lasting impression.

I remember one priest who made it a point to greet everyone by name after Mass. It wasn't just polite, it was pastoral. He knew our stories, our struggles and our joys. His homilies came from a place of prayer and lived experience, not just study. Watching him taught me something important: ministry isn't about being perfect, it's about being present.

Another priest had a quiet way of encouraging me. He saw something in me I hadn't yet recognized - a desire to serve, a heart for the Church and maybe even a call. He never pushed, but he asked questions that stuck with me: "Have you ever thought about the diaconate?" "Do you think God might be inviting you to something more?" Those questions didn't demand answers, but they opened a door.

Over time, I began to see the diaconate as a way to

respond to the grace I'd received through these priests. Their example showed me ministry isn't confined to the sanctuary; it reaches into hospital rooms, food pantries, funeral homes and family kitchens. A deacon, like a priest, is called to be a bridge between the Church and the world, a servant of the Word and of charity.

What moved me most was how these priests lived their vocation with joy, even when things were hard. I saw them bury parishioners they loved, counsel families in crisis and carry the weight of parish life with grace. And through it all, they remained faithful - not out of obligation but out of love, love for Christ, love for His people.

As I entered formation, I carried the witness of those priests with me. I thought often about how they listened, how they prayed, how they served. I realized the call to the diaconate wasn't just about what I could do, it was about who I was becoming. It was a call to deeper communion with Christ and His Church.

Now, as a deacon, I try to live with that same pastoral heart. I try to be present to those who are hurting, to proclaim the Gospel with clarity and compassion and to serve with humility. I don't always get it right, but I know I'm not alone. The same grace that sustained those priests sustains me. Their example still guides me. Ministry isn't about being noticed; it's about noticing others.

I'm especially grateful for the Diocese of Ogdensburg's commitment to fostering vocations. It was through encouragement that I began to truly discern my call. The Church needs priests and

deacons who are willing to say yes, not because we have all the answers, but because we trust the One who calls.

To the priests who walked with me: thank you. Your faithfulness lit the path I now walk. Your witness gave me courage.

Your love for the Church helped me fall in love with her, too. I pray my ministry honors the legacy you've given me.

And to anyone discerning a call, whether to the priesthood, the diaconate or another form of service, know that God

often speaks through the people around us. Pay attention to the quiet nudges, the gentle invitations and the faithful witnesses. Sometimes, the call doesn't come in thunder; it comes in the voice of a priest who asks, "Have you ever considered...?"



FATHER JAMES SEYMOUR

Thank you for all that you do
and all that you are.

St. James - Sacred Heart

We appreciate our priests

We are so blessed to have you as priests at St. Peter's Parish in Massena. We appreciate all that you do for our parish and our community!

Thank you for your vocations and God bless you,
**Fr. Mark Reilly, Fr. Lukas Gruber and
Fr. Fernando Solomon.**



To the priests who feel forgotten,
to those who are discouraged, to those
who are carrying unseen crosses...

Thank you

Your work and your love for Our
Lord and His Church are not in vain.
You are a *beloved* gift to us all.

**Fr. Bryan Stitt,
Thank you for
saying yes.**

*~Love and Prayers,
Debbie Hintopoulos*



Father Allen,

What an inspiration you are to the both
of us. Thank you for being a priest.



Deacon James & Christine Chaufy

**Fr. Kevin, Fr. Doug
& Fr. Jose,
Thank you for your
friendship and all
you do for our
three parishes of
Holy Cross.**



Father Jay Seymour and Monsignor John Murphy
We appreciate you and your services.

St. Hubert's Church
Knights of Columbus Council 5718

***Father Arthur J. LaBaff, Father Douglas G. Comstock
& Father Donald Robinson***

*The Catholic Community of Alexandria & St. Mary's in Clayton
are so blessed in having you as our priests!*

Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller, Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank, Deacon James & Wanda Kavanaugh,
Deacon Bernie Slate, Deacon Joel & Dawn Walentuk,
and your parishioners,
St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay
St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood
St. Mary's Church, Clayton



WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

'Healthy in order to serve the people of God'

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

The sport for Father Jude Nnadibuagha in Nigeria was soccer. At school, after school, during school breaks, he learned his basic soccer skills – skills like dribbling, passing, shooting and trapping a ball with your body. He refined his skill throughout his youth.

His favorite game was soccer, but as a young man, he aspired to become a lawyer.

Father Nnadibuagha was the third of six boys in the Nnadibuagha family. His parents, Ernest and Eunice Nnadibuagha, rounded out the family with two girls.

"Fortunately, I went to a first Mass of a priest near my village. I became excited about becoming a priest." At age 21, that Mass "changed my whole life plan," he said.

The future priest joined the Carmelites and became a novice in his home country. Later, Father Nnadibuagha would study theology in Rome before heading home. His complete vocation story was detailed in the North Country Catholic August 12, 2020.

Back in Nigeria but before ordination, Father Nnadibuagha communicated with a couple of dioceses in the United States and eventually was interviewed here. He



Father Jude Nnadibuagha

travelled around this diocese with the director of Vocations then, Father Douglas Lucia, pastor in Waddington. Father Nnadibuagha's desire to affiliate with this diocese was eventually accepted. Following more studies in seminary in the US, he was ordained a deacon and was assigned for a year to Lowville. His ordination as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg followed on August 1, 2020. He returned to Lowville as a priest. Subsequent assignments were in Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh and now Watertown.

Each assignment has offered new opportunities and new acquaintances. Father Nnadibuagha has not forgotten soccer, still his favorite sport.

"While in Ogdensburg,

I discovered a summer soccer league and joined the teams in Lisbon and Heuvelton," he said.

Father Nnadibuagha that he talked about the spirituality of sport – how this man committed to pleasing God identified the beauty of sport.

"They say that a sound mind lives in a sound body. Exercise is very important. Our spiritual life is important. One needs to live in a healthy body because our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We need to be healthy in order to serve the people of God," he said.

Father Nnadibuagha is in good shape. He eats well. He eats a lot of fruit. "Here in Watertown, Father Mickey (Father John "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown) start-

ed buying a lot of fruits for me. I am grateful for that."

"What is important is eating well and exercising well," he said. "If you have a sound body, then you can pray well and be happy."

The concentration and discipline of the game bring out another side of Father Nnadibuagha – the competitor.

"When I was younger, (he is 41 now), when I was a Carmelite, I was a defender." That says something about his talent on the pitch. A soccer defender protects the goalkeepers and prevents the opposing players from scoring. One web site characterized a good defender in soccer as a player with strong physical qualities, tactical awareness, and excellent positioning.

"As I am growing older," he told me, "I find myself more in the mid-field role. I pass the ball more to attackers and do not run as much."

Back in the Western part of the diocese, Fa-

ther Nnadibuagha played three games with his old teammates and discovered an indoor league that will be starting this fall. He intends to join it.

"All creation turns toward God. God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," he said. "A perfect relationship. We find that in the game of soccer too. To score a goal, you have work as a team, a perfect relationship. If there a clique on a team, or one or more players do not cooperate, the team will self-destruct. The same is true in the family or in a parish. We have to walk together. If that is lacking, then the process is divided, and everyone suffers."

Father Nnadibuagha is the parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown. His greatest ambition is to have a closer relationship with God and his people. He strives to be a happy priest.

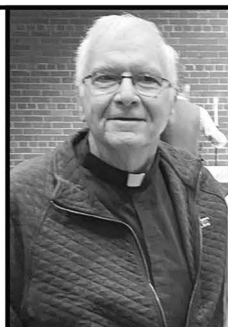
He is happy serving God, walking with parishioners and donning a soccer uniform.



Fr. Patrick Ratigan

Thank you for being a first rate Shepherd, Spiritual Director, Mentor and friend!

Jimmy and Robin



The Sisters of St. Joseph are grateful to the priests of the Diocese for their support and friendship through the years.

We especially thank:

*Fr. Mickey Demo, Fr. Matt Conger,
Fr. Jude Nnadibuagha, Fr. Frank Natalie,
The Diocesan Priests of Jefferson Deanery
and the
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart,
for their priestly presence among us.*

We, the students and staff of St. Bernard's School, would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our beloved pastor, Father Martin. His devotion to our school and parish community shines through in everything he does. With a joyful spirit and a wonderful sense of humor, he makes learning about God fun, meaningful, and easy to understand—even for our youngest students.

Father Martin's dedication and the time he gives to our school never go unnoticed. Whether he's celebrating Mass with us, visiting classrooms, or simply sharing a joke, his presence is a true blessing.

And let's not forget—his love for *Star Wars* reminds us that even Jedi Masters have nothing on a great pastor. May the Lord (and the Force) always be with you, Father Martin!



With gratitude and joy,
The Students and Staff of St. Bernard's School

Dear Father Philip Allen

Thank you for being our spiritual leader, a hardworking farmer, our friend and devoted servant to God.



~The People of St. Mary's and St. Paul's love and appreciate you.



WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



Father Bryan D. Stitt, center, at the completion of his Adirondack 46er, an effort to summit all 46 Adirondack high peaks. He finished the challenge on Whiteface Mountain.

A new 46er: A witness to God's beauty and wonder

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

On his birthday, August 13, Father Bryan D. Stitt, diocesan director of Worship and pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, St. Patrick's in Colton, and St. Mary's in Potsdam, finished climbing the 46 High Peaks of the Adirondacks, ascending the summit of Whiteface Mountain.

"I'm not that exceptional," he emphasized. "Father Philip Allen, Father Bill Reamer, Father Scott Belina, Father Justin Thomas, Father Ray Moreau are 46ers, and Father Carter Pierce is aspiring."

Traveling "to the heights" is in Father Stitt's blood.

"It's been something I've loved doing since I was a kid," he said. "Mom was the inspiration for getting off the couch and getting outside. Dad was an inspiration for beauty. I did the first one when I was 14. And then, when I entered seminary, I started spending a lot of time in the Adirondacks because of Guggenheim but also because of being assigned to Saranac Lake with Father Tim Soucy, so we started chipping away."

"I thought I had done a bunch of them," Father Stitt reflected. "And then the ultimate motivation was three years ago. For Christmas, my brother and sister gave me this beautiful gift of a picture frame with puzzle pieces to put in once you've climbed each mountain. I said, 'Oh, that will be great, I've probably done not half but a third.' I'd only done nine of them. And so. I had this

big picture frame with just nine spots in it. That's silly, I have to fill this out." **'CAREFREE TIMELESSNESS'**

"I had a number of good friends around me and we ended up going into the mountains together. There is nothing like a hike for good visits with people," Father Stitt said. "You've got hours and hours, most of it's not that arduous, there's tough spots along the way, some of the best conversations you get into are on those long mountain hikes. Ultimately what drives me is seeking the experience of beauty and wonder, that's a huge piece of the motivation for me. There's nothing like it—to be able to get away from everything else."

This sense of venturing out is one of the most exhilarating aspects for Father Stitt.

"One of the saddest experiences I had was when I was heading in from a hike, and somebody was coming down from what we presumed was the summit of one of them. I said 'Oh, you're already coming down, that's great.' 'No, I got called into work,' he replied. He was miles and miles in. And what do you do?, I thought. What could he possibly do? Was he a surgeon? If so, like how many hours (had he spent climbing)? But that's an unusual experience in the mountains. Normally, people are experiencing the carefree timelessness out there."

COURAGE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Father Stitt has a wealth of stories to share about his most memorable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

A witness to God's beauty and wonder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

climbs. "I've done Colden more than any other. It's really outstanding, not that long of a hike. I really loved my hike of Allen, which is many people's least favorite. But again, it was a perfect day and I was hiking with wonderful people, Madonna Champagne and Gabe Gratto, who will be married soon. And it was just a pleasant conversation - and we didn't die; Alan is a little treacherous in some spots. It was a pleasant surprise at how much I enjoyed that one. If I had to choose one, I'd say Colden is my favorite."

At times, Father Stitt encountered unexpected dangers. "I was hiking with my brother-in-law, and we were at the summit of Hoff mountain. We covered four mountains that day and we were hoping to hit five (the Dix Range). Dix was still off in the distance and, when we got to the top of Hoff - remember when Frodo and Sam look out on the horizon and see Mt. Doom, and all the sky just looming? - that's what it looked like when we got to the top of Hoff. And around that time we heard the thunder. And we said 'Oh dear, this could be bad.' So we started making our way down, we just gave up on Dix right then."

"And the storm came in fast and hard," he continued. "It had been such a beautiful day. We were going down and there were a couple of other people that were also at the summit and were coming down. My brother-in-law and I had started a Rosary earlier in the day and we paused when we were with other people. Anyway, as we're coming down the mountain now it's thundering and lightning and we're

basically at the top of the mountain, and I said 'Scott, I think it's time to get that Rosary going again.' And I said to the people we were with, 'Folks, do you mind, we're going to start our Rosary again?' And one guy said, 'We really would like you to do that.' It wasn't the most prayerful of Rosaries but it was earnest. I don't think that I'd ever been wetter and I've gone swimming before."

MOUNTAINTOP ADVENTURES

And then there was the time that he and a brother priest made a daring escape.

"Couchsachraga is a Huron name that means desolate wilderness, and that should have been the clue that it wasn't going to be such a great experience," Father Stitt said. "There is a bog as you approach the summit because there are two other taller mountains there so it's like a swamp, sometimes it's waist deep and there is no other way around it. So, what a lot of people advise is to do it during the winter. Father Scott Belina and I decided to do so. It was great, I mean it was a tough day, it was long and we were in snowshoes. But we walked right over the frozen bog; that was wonderful, but, then, as we approached the summit, there was four or five feet of snow on the mountain at that point. This was March sometime."

"It was just warm enough that the snow was starting to give way," Father added. "And there's something called a Spruce trap, when the snow covers the branches and you can walk over it oftentimes but sometimes if the snow hits the right way you go through the tree. It had just warmed up, we had

hiked up to the summit and we had gone over fine, now we're coming back and it warmed up just enough that Father Belina went through. And we talked him out of it and then I went through. To get out, I was trying to push myself out, and the snow was collapsing underneath and so we had to figure out how to do these things. Eventually, we decided to wait until spring to do the next two. We closed winter that year."

That wasn't Father Stitt's only adventure. Another time, "Mike Neaton almost needed a helicopter rescue because he was nauseous at the top and Karl Doty blew out his boot and only a mile into a 12-mile hike but somehow soldiered through. Other memorable ones are bringing my nieces and nephews up and just introducing other people into the mountains. I've hiked with some newbies and been able to share that joy. The greatest celebrity I hiked with was Father Phil Allen whose done them 25 times. I got two in with Father Allen, so that's a special honor."

SOURCE AND SUMMIT

Father Stitt shared that hiking is sometimes a spiritual experience. "We're Catholic, we can pray anywhere. John Paul (II) was definitely an inspiration for me early on. Witness to Hope came out when I got to major seminary, so learning about him offering Mass on a kayak with young adults was something that I was doing early in my priesthood, going out to experience the beauty of creation and the Source and Summit of the faith all at once."

"And Rosaries, and Liturgy of the Hours - many of my fellow hikers learned that 'Okay,

we're going to be pausing a few times a day to pray the (Divine) Office.' So, the outward facing inward kind of beauty. The Psalms really come alive when you're praying 'Sun and moon, praise the Lord, mountains and hills praise the Lord.' When we're praying the Luminous mysteries of the Rosary and there's the Baptism of the Jordan and we're walking by a brook, and the Transfiguration and you're at the summit of the mountain, and the Institution of the Eucharist and you've come from offering Mass, it all comes together beautifully."

"The obvious thing, too, should be that wherever you have a beautiful view as you do on many of the summits of the 46, you realize the sheer magnitude of God, the wonder of God, the beauty, the complexity and the strength, and also how fragile we are as well."

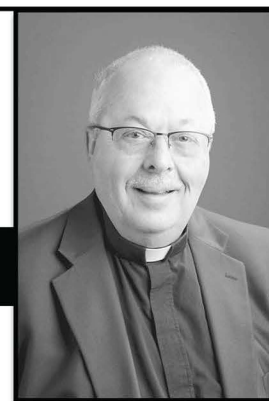
THE END AND THE BEGINNING

Father Stitt's ascent to the heights isn't over. "One of the joys has been sharing this with other

people, so I'm going to support them," he said. "I never did finish Saranac Triad or the Tupper Triad, so I want to finish those."

For those who are interested in beginning the journey, Father Stitt offered this advice: "Start with the Saranac Six or the Tupper Triad, none of those are of the 46, but if you've never been hiking before those are good mountains to start on, Baker in the village of Saranac Lake or Arab over in Tupper Lake. Those are terrific little ones to start on. After you've experienced those, then the gateway of the high peaks is Cascade. It's a wonderfully beautiful mountain and relatively short. What you can see at Cascade is just amazing, and many people will knock out Porter because you go almost all the way into Cascade and then there's a fork in the road (leading there). So many people will do two high peaks in their first hike. Cascade was my second high peak. My first one was Marcy. That's not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Fr. Ray Moreau

Thank you for your 40 years of service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

~Ralph and Connie Randall



*The Students, Faculty &
Staff of Seton Catholic
are so grateful for all of the
priests who help our school,
especially*

*Fr. Chris, Fr. Kevin,
Fr. Reamer, Fr. Pierce,
Fr. Doug and Fr. Jose*



Father Patrick Ratigan
I always think of you as God's
paratrooper. I'm grateful that
you landed here with us!

~Debbie Hintopoulos

Father Don,

With our successful restoration
behind us, we look forward to our
Divine Renovation under your
loving pastoral care. Thank you!

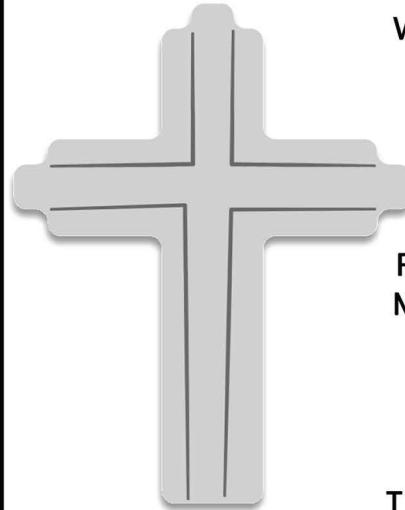


~St. Stephen's Parish &
Knights of Columbus Council 2175



We appreciate our priests

Fr. Kevin McEwan



We are so blessed to have you
as our pastor.

We are also blessed and
thankful for our
Parochial Vicars:

Fr. Doug Schirmer and
Fr. Jose John Kaniyankunnel.
May the peace of Christ Shine
upon you.

The parishioners of Holy Cross
Parish Plattsburgh, New York



**Thank you Fr. Demo.
Welcome Fr. Jude.**

~St. Anthony's Divine Mercy Group



Mercy Care honors Father John Yonkovig

Cathy Johnston, president of the Board of Directors of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, presented its inaugural Paul J. Reiss Love & Mercy Award to Father John Yonkovig at Mercy Care's Fundraising Event on August 4.

Cathy Johnson remarked, "Last February, Mercy Care lost a dear friend and its founding board president, Dr. Paul J. Reiss. Dr. Reiss and his wife, Rosemary, were also Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers."

Dr. Reiss is the author of the booklet, "It is about Love and Mercy," a history of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks established in 2007. The booklet describes the changing place of elders in family, in community, and the resulting need for a new kinship network to help elders age in place more successfully. Dr. Reiss served as President of



Father John Yonkovig accepts the inaugural Paul J. Reiss Love & Mercy Award from Mercy Care for the Adirondacks Board of Directors President Cathy Johnston.

Saint Michael's College and Executive Vice President of Fordham University, among other academic positions.

The Paul J. Reiss Love and Mercy Award recognizes those individuals or organizations that act

upon an understanding that all members of our community are our neighbors, especially those in most need of our love, friendship, and companionship. The Mercy Care Board established the criteria for the award:

A person who practices love in action—extending mercy to those in need, whenever possible. A person who facilitates healing, compassion, and joy through mercy and friendship. A person who builds community where it is scarce. A person who respects and supports every person's self-worth, undiminished in value or dignity by age or infirmity. A person who practices love in action—a standard that endures over time.

In presenting the award, a crystal replica of Catherine McCauley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Cathy Johnston quoted Paul J. Reiss in Love and Mercy: "Let us remember that Mercy is not just feeling love of God and love of neighbor, mercy is love in action. Mercy Care is the loving care given to others in kindness and in a manner that is both compassion-

ate and just."

Cathy read a note from Bishop Terry LaValley, who regretted he had another commitment and could not attend. Bishop LaValley wrote, "I can't think of an individual more deserving than Father John Yonkovig to receive this award. You are aware of his strong support of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks. He is a shepherd who truly cares for the often-forgotten person. His heart beats with the love and compassion of Christ. We are blessed."

Father John accepted the award with his usual grace, humility, and gratitude. He said, "I am honored to accept this award but there are so many who are far more deserving than I am. Paul Reiss put so much of himself into Mercy Care and has helped so many. The Mercy Care Volunteers are a true inspiration to me."

We appreciate our priests

FR. KEVIN O'BRIEN

Thank you for all you do for us at
Saints Philip and James Church, Lisbon and
St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton.



Father Martin Cline

Thank you for
inspiring us!

St. Bernard's Parish,
Gabriels



Thank you for everything you do for us

Fr. Bryan Stitt and Fr. Scott Belina.

You are a blessing to our parishes.

Knights of Columbus
Canton and Potsdam

Fr. Martin Cline,

We appreciate
your service.

~Jimmy and Robin
Law



Father Christopher Looby

We are blessed by your dedicated service
in the Diocese of Ogdensburg!
You are an outstanding priest!

God Bless,
Deacon Bernie Slate



Father Ray,

Many a heartfelt thanks for all that you do!
Your positivity, joy and promotion of unity between the
3 Parishes, has brought us closer together. Thank you for
all your hard work for planning those special events so
we could get to know our fellow Parishioners in our
neighboring Parishes. Also, your homilies are the best!
Your explanation of the Scripture and how it relates in to
our everyday lives, how you present them through stories
with either a dash of humor or seriousness that keeps us
fully engaged. Thank you, Father Ray! You are the best!!
From Saint Patrick's Parish, Brasher Falls.

Congratulations
Fr. Stitt on your
installation as our
pastor. Welcome to
you and Fr. Belina.

~The Parishioners of
St. Patrick's Church,



Environmental Stewardship

Upcoming events

This weekend, there will be two events based on the Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation developed to celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. Both programs, sponsored by the Faith & Ecology Groups in our diocese, will offer opportunities to deepen our relationship with God, each other and the earth. Ideas and actions will be shared on ways we can heal and protect the earth God has entrusted to us to care for as good stewards.

As Christians, we believe it is best to place our trust for a better future into the hands of Jesus. Although prayer is a key component of any strategy for going forward, so are actions that mirror the words of our prayers. At both events, there will be speakers who share ideas for working for a brighter tomorrow. There will also be opportunities to spend time with nature. Witnessing the harmony that diverse organisms establish and the beauty which they radiate can offer lessons for our lives. It can motivate us with the desire to express our gratitude through concrete choices that benefit the wellbeing of the planet.

The first program is on September 27 at the VIC Center in Paul Smiths from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will feature Dr. Curt Stager, environmental and climate scientist, as the keynote speaker. The trail to be used for exploration is handicapped accessible, so anyone with a mobility issue should not be discouraged from attending.

The second program is on September 28 at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Camp at Dablon Point along Lake Ontario, Cape Vincent, from 1 to 4 p.m. There are paths to walk on and places to sit beside the beauty of Lake Ontario. Several Youth Groups will share what they are doing to bring hope for creation through their actions to heal and protect the earth.

All are welcome! Bring your family or a friend. Fall snacks will be provided to celebrate the Season!

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

Sept. 25 — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 26 — Noon — Mass at the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk (at the Church of the Visitation) followed by a Luncheon with the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society in the Father Amyot Parish Center

Sept. 27 — 10:30 a.m. — Council of Deacons Meeting followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 28 — 11 a.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Clement Rimonds, HGN as Pastor of The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro, Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville in Keeseville and St. Margaret Church in Wilmington

2:30 p.m. — Blue Mass at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

Sept. 29 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 24 — Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Rev. Leo Staves, O.M.I., 1994; Rev. Jude Belisle, 1994; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005

Sept. 25 — Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989

Sept. 26 — Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

Sept. 29 — Rev. Patrick O. Thompson, 1955

Sept. 30 — Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968

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

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. This required training addresses child abuse, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

This year, we joyfully honor **Father Martin Cline** on the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.



Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering service have deeply enriched our parish and our community.

Thank you for all you do—our hearts overflow with gratitude and praise to God for the blessing you are!

Catholic Daughters
Court 787 St. Bernard's
Saranac Lake

In abundance of appreciation to



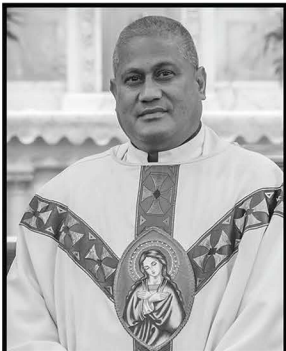
Father Alan Shnob

A man of deep faith and a friend of our family for many years.

Thank you for your spiritual guidance.

Scott & Doreen Wilson
Louisville, NY

We appreciate our priests



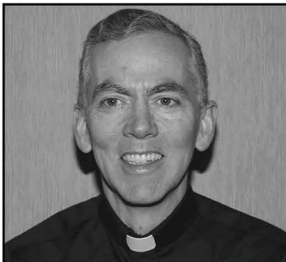
Thank you,
Father Joseph
for being a great
priest and always
available to us

- Deacon James and
Christine Chaufy



St Mary's & St Paul's
Churches extend their
sincere appreciation &
love to **Father Allen** for
his many years of
dedication; service &
vegetables he shares
unconditionally to
everyone in the
community & parishes.

May God continue to
bless Father Allen for
many years to come.



Fr. Morgan

Thank you for all
you do for all your
parishioners and
for me.
God bless you,
always.

From Letty Hockler



Congratulations
& Best Wishes
to our new pastor
Fr. Nicolas Revilla

From The
Parishioners of
St. Mary's & St. Patrick's

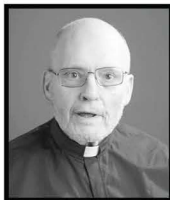


Father Fish,

Thank you for the
comfort of your
Masses and your
caring.

Love,
The DeGraws

Thank you,
**Fr. Mickey Demo, Fr. Jude Nnadibuagha,
& Fr. J. Michael Gaffney**
for all you do for us!



We are truly blessed by your joyful ministry and
so very grateful for your leadership.

*From the People of
Blessed Sacrament Parish
St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's & Holy Family, Watertown*

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

A priest put me on the path to Christ

Editor's note: Several years ago, Jonathan Monfiletto served as a North Country Catholic reporter. Currently residing in Central New York, he offers the following reflection of how a priest of our diocese helped him find Christ.

By Jonathan Monfiletto
Contributing Writer

Though I now attend a Christian church that isn't Catholic, I consider myself a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, and it is due to the influence of at least one priest that my mind and heart have been pointed – and pointed back – toward God.

Raised in Morristown, I grew up attending St. John the Evangelist Church with my mother and my sister. In fact, the church is through the backyard and up the hill

from our family home on Main Street. I went to St. John's literally from the time I was born all the way until I graduated high school, except for a break during my phase as a prodigal son.

Born in April 1988, I came along at a fortuitous time in the history of St. John's. Then-Father Harry K. Snow, later Msgr. Snow, was just a couple of years into his 11-year tenure as the pastor there, and the current St. John's Church building had just been constructed and opened. In May 1988, Father Snow baptized me, beginning what I'm only realizing and appreciating now as his influence on my faith journey.

If I were to describe Father Snow – and later Msgr. Snow – in one word, it would be “stalwart,” a stalwart not just of the Church but of the

community.

I'm also only realizing and appreciating now how fortunate I was to grow up in a town as small as Morristown. While some people talk about growing up in a town so small it had only one traffic light, I like to joke my hometown is so small it doesn't even have a traffic light. Living in a town where everybody knows everybody and everybody knows everybody's business was not a bad thing though.

For one thing, it meant people looked out for one another and took care of one another. Msgr. Snow was one of those people who looked out for others and took care of them. He was always there! Of course, I would see him at Mass on Sundays. Like my father and other community stalwarts, Msgr. Snow served with the volunteer fire department, responding to the community's emergencies to meet people's physical and spiritual needs.

I would see him at all of the fire department functions – he dressed up as Santa Claus for the firefighter's Christmas party every year. I would see him around town when I went to check the mail at the post office or to pick up something at the store, or as a I rode my bike around the streets. Msgr. Snow was always there.

And, as I'm only realizing and appreciating now, Msgr. Snow was praying for me – praying for me from the time I was a baby and through my childhood and probably even after he moved on from St. John's when I was 9 years old. I have no doubt it is because of his prayers to God on my behalf that I am where I am in my faith journey today.

My father recently had our family home videos digitized and copied onto DVDs, and it has been an absolute delight to dig into this treasure trove of family memories. Christmases, birthday parties, family get-togethers, just ordinary moments – videos that jog my memory of these moments and remind me of people who are no longer with us.

One of the videos captures my baptism by then-Father Snow when I was just one month old. This scene comes in a succession that includes the nurse bringing newborn me to my mother in the hospital and my sister meeting me for the first time. This scene of my baptism is just as important, if not more so, than those others.

Being a home video with a camcorder, the audio is difficult to hear. Yet, the beginning shows Father Snow charging my family members in the church to help me know “that God is with him to help him as he goes through life. Help him to see God's presence in his life. Help him begin to recognize God and share God with other people.”

As Father Snow anoints me with the oil of salvation, he prays over me, “May He strengthen you with His power that reigns forever and ever,”

calling me “a young child of God.” When a candle is lit, he prays over me again, “May He keep the flame of faith alive in your heart,” and that I may live “always as a child of the light.”

Father Snow continues his prayers as he closes the ceremony: “May He soon touch your ears to receive His Word, your mouth to proclaim His faith.” Then he pours water over my head, baptizing me “in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

How amazing and wonderful it is for me, now 37 years old and married with children of my own, to see this moment and hear these words and know that someone – my parish priest – was praying that I would experience the presence of Jesus Christ throughout my life, from the time I was an infant. Almost literally from my birth, Msgr. Snow was praying that I would come to know God and help others come to know God, as I grew up from a baby to a child to a teenager to a man.

I have walked my faith journey along a rocky road, but in my mid-20s I finally came to love God with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength. Now, I help not only my own daughters but also other children in the church we attend learn to trust God and love Him in the same way. And I have no doubt it is because Msgr. Snow – and many other people throughout my life – was praying for me.

I never saw Msgr. Snow after he left St. John's in 1997, and now he is heaven where I pray God has told him, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Thank you, Msgr. Snow, for your prayers.



Father Jay and Monsignor Murphy

Your dedication to The Church reflects the love and compassion of Christ.
Thank you for the sacrifices you make to bring us the Holy Sacrifice of The Mass.

St. Hubert's Church, Star Lake
St. James Church, Gouverneur
Sacred Heart Church, Edwards

*Fr. Scott Seymour,
Thank you for coming
to our beautiful
house of worship.*

~Boyea Sisters & Daughters

Concert drone show lights up Vatican

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

St. Peter's Square became the stage for an unprecedented spectacle on Saturday night as tens of thousands gathered for "Grace for the World," a massive concert closing the third World Meeting on Human Fraternity.

The event opened with breathtaking symbolism: More than 3,000 drones illuminated the night sky above the basilica, tracing the image of Pope Francis, framing Michelangelo's dome and Bernini's colonnade in light. The display, a first for the Vatican, drew reverent silence before the crowd erupted in applause.

The moment was accompanied by a stirring duet of "Amazing Grace" performed by world-renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli and American singer Teddy Swims. Their voices rose over the hushed square, blending with the faint hum of the drones in an atmosphere of solemnity and awe.

After that, the Roman sky became a vast canvas. The drones depicted the hands from Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam," followed by a monumental dove of peace and finally a striking image of the "Pietà," Michelangelo's famous marble sculpture housed in St. Peter's Basilica. The projections, clear against the night, prompted ovations and a forest of cellphones lifted high to capture the scene.

Also projected was the icon of "Salus Populi Romani," venerated in the Basilica of St. Mary Major and cherished by Pope Francis.

The innovative display set the tone for the evening: a call to universal fraternity, dialogue



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Illuminated drones reproduce Michelangelo's "Pietà" over St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Sept. 14.

among cultures, and hope in times of global crisis. For the first time in history, St. Peter's Square was transformed into an open-air arena for a concert of this scale.

The event marked the conclusion of the two-day World Meeting on Human Fraternity, which brought together 500 participants, including Nobel laureates, academics, cultural leaders, and experts in technology and the environment. Fifteen dialogue panels explored themes such as peace, care for the planet, technology's impact, and the future of humanity.

In his greeting to the audience, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica and president of the Fratelli Tutti Foundation, pro-

claimed: "In the midst of shadows, we see the possibility of a rebirth: the capacity to resist, to innovate, to build bridges."

Bocelli, a practicing Catholic and one of the world's most acclaimed tenors, was among the evening's central per-

formers. He opened with Schubert's "Ave Maria," transforming the square into a place of silence and emotion.

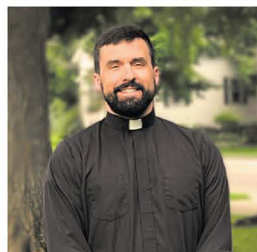
Colombian singer Karol G drew some of the loudest ovations of the night. She performed "Mientras me curo el

cora" in a gospel-inspired style and closed with a moving duet with Bocelli of "Vivo per lei." Dressed in an elegant, understated outfit, she was greeted with flags, shirts, and chants from fans who had crowded the front rows.

Alongside the music came urgent appeals for peace and justice. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Mozambican activist Graça Machel, and Iraqi Nobel laureate Nadia Murad all called for an end to war and violence, urging greater commitment to human dignity and fraternity.

Pope Leo XIV was not present at the concert, but organizers thanked him for his support and noted that he celebrates his 70th birthday Sunday.

This story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.



IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR PRIESTHOOD



Thank you to our Pastor, Fr. Bryan Stitt, Parochial Vicar, Fr. Scott Belina, and retired assistant priests, Fr. Stephen Rocker, & Fr. Patrick Ratigan. Thank you for your continued "yes" to Our Lord's call and for all you do in shepherding the souls entrusted to your care. May each day be a new opportunity to draw even closer to His Sacred Heart.

from your parishioners at St. Mary's in Potsdam, St. Patrick's in Colton, & St. Mary's in Canton



A new 46er

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

what I would recommend for most people." **MORE ENJOYABLE TOGETHER**

"So much of the hike is getting into the mountains," Father explained. "And many of them, like the Dix range or there's one stretch called the Great Range - once you're in there, you've gotten most of your elevation in - and the most technical parts are at the top, but you're just knocking them out as you go. Once you've done your first dozen or

so, most of the mountains you're doing two or three at a time. That's how you really start ramping it up."

"(One time) we stayed at Johnsbury Lodge, a wonderful little spot (in Keene), where you hike in three and a half miles. There is a little lodge to stay at that has four bunk rooms, and they make dinner for you, get you breakfast in the morning, and pack a lunch for you. God bless the Guggenheim staff that work there, they lug like 60 pounds

of groceries in every day to feed the dozen or two dozen people who are staying there."

Father Stitt's least favorite hike had nothing to do with the terrain or weather.

"My least favorite hike is one that I did by myself. It was fine, I mean it's not a bad thing to hike alone as long as

you're safe about it and let people know where you're going to be. It's definitely not as enjoyable as it is to share something as beautiful as that. Even Jesus

brought Peter, James, and John on the mountain; he went off by himself to pray but to experience the glory at the summit is much more enjoyable together."

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Fr. Joseph Giroux

**Thank you
for
everything.
We miss you!**

From the Ames
Family



Father Medenel

**We appreciate all
you do for us!**

St. Mary's
of Ticonderoga
Our Lady of Lourdes
of Schroon Lake
Sacred Heart
of Crown Point

Our Gratitude



Father Mark

Father Gruber

&

Father Fernando

*Thank you for the support that you give
to St. Peter's Outreach Ministry and
the parish community.*

Bishop LaValley

Fr. Joseph Morgan

Fr. Michael Marzan

Fr. James Shurtleff

Msgr. Robert Aucoin

Fr. Kevin O'Brien

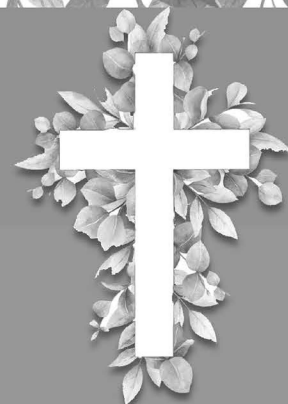
and

For all Priests who serve in the Diocese

*We are truly blessed and grateful
for your ministry.*

Thank you for all you do for
St. Mary's Cathedral, Notre Dame
Church and our Diocese.

Peace Love & Prayers
Deacon Mark & Vicky Lalonde

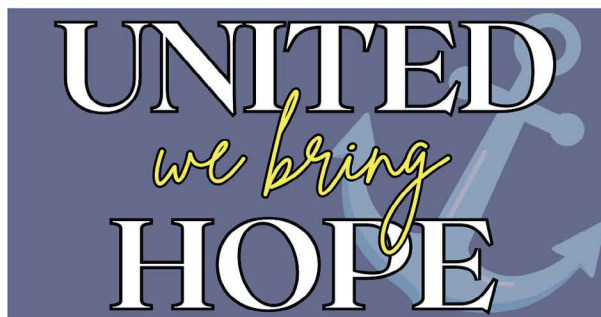


Mission possible... but only with your help

By Stephen Tartaglia
Director, Family Life Office

With the last of the Mission Impossible movies released recently, I know what I'm hoping to get for Christmas! There is something so compelling about hearing "Your mission, should you choose to accept it..."

It's a big challenge to help young people choose relationships that will lead to good marriages, to support them as their families grow and to help them as they face challenges that threaten the sanctity of marriage and family life. This, of course, is exactly what the Family Life Office does. Programs that the Family Life Office provides include, but are not limited to: The Dating Project, Pre Cana, Family Guggenheim, Surviving Divorce, Life-Giving



Wounds Retreat, Marriage Jubilee and Loving Authentically.

The Dating Project teaches parents and teens about how to avoid the cultural pressure to engage in "hooking up," that is, having

one-night stands, and instead, to practice dating properly. Pre Cana is a marriage preparation course that is offered while a couple is engaged to help them understand what the sacrament of matri-

mony is, to help them discern if they are truly being called to this sacrament, and to prepare for a healthy and good marriage if they are.

Family Guggenheim is a retreat offered three times each year for the entire family at Camp Guggenheim on Lower Saranac Lake. The two sessions held in late August begin Thursday afternoon and end on Sunday afternoon. The third session, held on the weekend preceding

the Columbus Day holiday, is shorter, starting Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. Families spend time praying and playing together and practicing skills that enable families to thrive and grow in holiness.

Surviving Divorce is a 12-week support group that helps people who are going through a separation or divorce to stay connected to the Church and to deal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Fr. Mark Reilly
Fr. Patrick Ratigan
Fr. Martin Cline

Thank you for all of your help on my spiritual journey.



~Claudia Fennell

Fr. Kevin McEwan

Fr. Jose John Kaniyankunnel

Fr. Douglas Schirmer

Thank you for everything that you do for our parish!

We appreciate your dedication and guidance.

HOLY CROSS PARISHIONERS



Thank You

Fr. Donald Robinson

Fr. Joe Morgan

Msgr. Robert Aucoin

Fr. Bill Reamer

Fr. Andrew Amyot

Fr. Stephen Rucker

Fr. Scott Seymour

Fr. John Downs

Fr. Matthew Conger

Fr. Ray Moreau

Words cannot express how much you are appreciated and respected for everything that you do.

Thank you so much for being there when you were needed.

~Connie Randall

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Named and unnamed

"Hey you!!" Have you ever been addressed with those words and perhaps in a less than pleasing manner? I remember a few times someone saying to me something like: "You know, I do have a name." There is something special about having a name, something pleasing about an ability to name someone.

We just like to know who people are. Having a name and being able to name someone else are opportunities to be special or to, at least, feel special.

Well, we have two main characters in today's Gospel. One has a name, Lazarus; the other person is unnamed... a rich man, a generic term that says nothing about the person and perhaps minimizes him. Thus, the importance of Lazarus is his identification by name. Even though the rich man has no name, tradition has given him the name, Dives, which is just the Latin word for rich. It's sort of the biblical equivalent for "hey you!"

Who is the main character in the story? Well, as a matter of fact, they are co-stars, both have prominent roles. Lazarus, because he appears to be the winner, may stand out more. Dives, the rich man, as the loser may appear to have a secondary role.

When they were both alive, Dives came off as the winner. He was rich, had all that he needed and did not seem to have a care in the

world. Lazarus, on the other hand, looks like the loser. Simply put, he has nothing.

In the second half of the story, the roles are reversed. Dives suffers; Lazarus has found a home in the bosom of Abraham. Dives will suffer for all eternity; Lazarus has joy for all eternity.

If this story makes us nervous, then Gospel writer has been successful in crafting the narrative, and Jesus has made his point. Many falsely believe that eternal happiness is a natural, that there is no eternal suffering. If we live with an entitlement mentality, today's story makes no sense, and it ends up

September 28

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Luke 16:19-31

being just a story. For many the secular idea of entitlement has crept into our thinking about eternal life.

In this parable, Jesus clearly describes the reality of eternal happiness and eternal condemnation. We may not like the story, but we cannot change reality. The story wants to arouse something in us.

To some, also, it may appear as if Jesus is out of hand condemning the rich. However, in reading the story carefully, we see that Dives is not condemned so

much for being rich as for what he did not do with his riches. Dives was never meant to Lazarus, never treated him poorly. Rather, Dives could have responded to the genuine needs of Lazarus but never did. His lack of concern and outreach led to his condemnation.

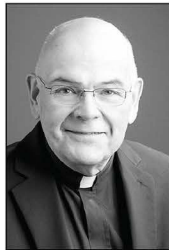
The reading from Amos described what we commonly call "the good life:" beds of ivory, drinking wine from bowls, rich food, the best of music. The condemnation of Amos, again, is not that they are rich in worldly goods, but what they have done with those riches.

The many gifts God has given us are meant to improve our lives and to be used for the improvement of our

society, our family, our community. Among these gifts are our talents and our resources. We cannot live as individual islands. We are all responsible in so many ways for each other. Each of us is created in the image and likeness of God. For that reason alone, we must be concerned for one another.

The conclusion of the story can lead us to understand that the poor need the rich to get them out of poverty, but the rich need the poor to help them out of eternal condemnation. Perhaps, the role of Lazarus in life was to help Dives get to heaven, but Dives did not respond.

So, the question becomes: "Hey you! What side of eternity do you want to be on?"



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

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

Amen.

October



The Most Holy Rosary

OCTOBER

DIOCESE OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

For more copies contact:

Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369 Ogdensburg,
NY 13669REV.
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DELUCA,
MSCMSGR. 12
DENNIS J.
DUPREY,
VFREV. 19
GARRY B.
GIROUXREV. 26
MICHAEL J.
JABLONSKIREV. 6
GARVIN J.
DEMARAISREV. 13
GUY E.
EDWARDSREV. 20
JOSEPH W.
GIROUXREV. 27
JOSE K.
JOHN HGNREV. 7
RICHARD
D. DEMERSREV. 14
ALFRED
H. FISHREV. 21
L. WILLIAM
GORDONREV. 28
JOSEPH
KANIMEA,
MSCOUR
PASTORPOPE 15
LEO
XIVDECEASED
PRIESTSREV. 29
PAUL J.
KELLYBISHOP 1
TERRY R.
LAVALLEYREV. 2
PEDRO E.
DE LA ROSAREV. 9
JOHN
M. DEMOREV. 23
LUKAS H.
GRUBERREV. 30
JOHN P.
KENNEHANREV. 3
DOUGLAS
A. DECKERREV. 10
RAYMOND
DIESBOURG,
MSCREV. 17
JAYA K.
FRANCIS,
MSCREV. 24
ALBERT J.
HAUSERREV. 31
THOMAS E.
KORNMEYERREV. 4
ROBERT L.
DECKERREV. 11
JOHN L.
DOWNSREV. 18
J. MICHAEL
GAFFNEYREV. 25
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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society, www.myvocation.net



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Supporting the 2025 Bishop Fund Insert

Assisted suicide in Canada poses higher risk for vulnerable groups

By Tessa Gervasini
Catholic News Agency

The legalization of medical assistance in dying (MAID) in Canada has led to disproportionately high rates of premature deaths among vulnerable groups, according to a recent Cardus Health report.

Cardus Health, an organization that aims to foster a social system that supports natural death and helps institutions care for patients approaching the end of life, conducted a report to evaluate assisted suicide in Canada.

The report, "In Contrast to Carter: Assisted Dying's Impact on Canadians with Disabilities," examines if the expectations of MAID laid out in the British Columbia Supreme Court case, *Carter v. Canada*, are being met.

In 2012, the court concluded in *Carter v. Canada* that an appropriately safeguarded physician-assisted dying program could be adopted in Canada that would not create a "heightened risk" or an "inordinate" impact on vulnerable groups, and there would not be a disproportionate impact on their right to life.

The safeguards stated that physician-assisted suicide would primarily be for those terminally ill, physicians would carefully examine MAID requests for people with disabilities or depression, and those who felt like a burden, were socially isolated, or suffered from neurological illnesses would be protected through a scrupulous review process.

The Cardus report concluded that Canada has not upheld these expectations and the "safeguards have failed to materialize," based on data from Health Canada; the independent monitoring authority of Quebec for end-of-life; the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario; and peer-reviewed medical studies and public reports.

In 2021, Canada expanded MAID requests to non-terminally-ill and disabled patients, which led to 223 assisted suicide deaths for non-terminally-ill persons in 2021, 463 in 2022, and 622 in 2023.

The report highlighted that from 2019 to 2023, at least 42% of all MAID deaths were people who required disability services. This included more than 1,017 people who required dis-

ability services but did not receive them.

The research found that assisted suicide deaths of those who "required disability services and received them" increased each year. In 2019, 2,223 people in this category died by assisted suicide. The number rose to 3,219 in 2020, 4,278 in 2021, 4,819 in 2022, and 5,181 in 2023.

The deaths of those who "required disability services and did not receive them" also experienced substantial increases. In 2019, 87 people in this group died by assisted suicide in Canada. By 2023, the number had risen to 432.

The report noted: "Those who died from MAID were more likely to have been living with a disability than those who did not die from MAID, even though both groups had similar medical conditions and experienced diminished capability."

According to the report, people suffering from mental illness are also dying by assisted suicide at disproportionate rates.

A study of assisted suicide deaths between 2016 and 2019 at a care center in Toronto found individuals requesting MAID had high rates of "psychiatric comorbidity," meaning they had been diagnosed with two or more mental health disorders. Of 155 patients that requested MAID, 60 (39%) had a documented psychiatric comorbidity, most commonly depression.

According to MAID providers in 2023, almost half of the patients (45.3%) who died by assisted suicide reported they felt like a burden to family, friends, or caregivers, which was 10% higher than in 2022. In 2023, isolation and loneliness were reported as a source of suffering by 22% of MAID recipients, which was 5% higher than 2022.

The research found disproportionately high numbers of people with neurological disorders, including dementia, had died by assisted suicide between 2019 and 2023.

In 2023, almost 15% of people who died by MAID had a neurological condition as a qualifying illness. The study found that in 2019, 589 people suffering from a neurological condition died by assisted suicide, which increased to 775 in 2020, 1,249 in 2021, 1,666 in 2022, and 2,279 in 2023.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

U.S. bishops launch initiative to promote mental health

Ahead of World Mental Health Day on Oct. 10, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced an addition to its ongoing National Catholic Mental Health Campaign to amplify local engagement on mental health. The title for the initiative, "Healing and Hope," was taken from the National Catholic Mental Health Campaign's introductory statement, written by Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, Bishop Robert Barron. "As pastors, we want to emphasize this point to anyone who is suffering from mental illness or facing mental health challenges: Nobody and nothing can alter or diminish your God-given dignity. You are a beloved child of God, a God of healing and hope," the U.S. bishops said this week. The initiative "builds upon the goal of promoting healing and hope for all who struggle with mental illness and is inclusive of the people who accompany them," the USCCB said in a Sept. 15 statement. "Healing and Hope" is intended to combat the present mental health crisis affecting people across the nation, especially younger generations. Pew Research found that as of April, 55% of parents report being extremely or very concerned about the mental health of teens.

Pope approves effort to include people with disabilities

Pope Leo XIV has approved new measures to promote the hiring of people with disabilities in the Vatican, saying their condition does not prevent them from serving in Church institutions. The updated regulations require Vatican offices to welcome and support employees with disabilities, including by providing accommodations where needed, "since the condition of disability does not preclude suitability for work," the new provision states. Health requirements for job candidates have also been revised. Instead of demanding perfect health, the focus will be on whether a person is fit for the specific duties of the job, with certification provided by Vatican health services. The changes apply both to the Holy See and to Vatican City and take effect immediately. They follow another papal decision in August expanding family benefits for employees, including paternity leave and extra support for parents caring for children with disabilities.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



Parents of shooting victim: Progress is 'miracle'

By Kate Quiñones
Catholic News Agency

Less than three weeks after the Annunciation Catholic School shooting in Minnesota that killed two children and injured 21 during Mass, the parents of a 12-year-old girl who was shot in the head say her progress has been "miraculous."

When Sophia Forchas arrived at the hospital with a critical gunshot wound in her head, the doctors warned her parents that her life was in

the balance.

"Doctors warned us she was on the brink of death," Forchas' parents, Tom and Amy Forchas, said in a statement. "In that darkest hour, the world responded with faithful devotion and fervent prayer."

As news of the shooting spread, people around the world offered prayers for the victims and the community in prayer services, online, and in the quiet of their own homes.

In the early days after the shooting, Forchas'

condition "was changing minute to minute," according to a Sept. 5 update from her parents.

A GoFundMe page organized by Michelle Erickson on the Forchas' behalf has raised more than \$1 million for Sophia's recovery and to support her family with counseling services.

Sophia's younger brother was also inside the school during the shooting, according to Erickson. Sophia's mother, a pediatric critical care nurse, "arrived at work to help during the tragedy, before knowing it was her children's school that was attacked and that her daughter was critically injured," according to the GoFundMe page.

Sophia's parents asked the world for prayers — and the world responded. The Forchases say they have heard from people from Athens to Minneapolis who are praying for their daughter.

In the wake of the tragedy, the Forchas family said that "rays of hope emerged" last week.

Sophia's doctor said she "was showing signs of resilience," the family said. "Her progress to this point is being called miraculous. We are calling it a miracle."

"We thank you for all the prayers, love, and unwavering support from across the globe," the Forchas family said. "The road ahead for Sophia is steep, but she is climbing it with fierce determination."

"She is fighting not just for herself, but for every soul who stood by her in prayer," they continued. "Please continue to keep Sophia in your hearts and prayers. She

is a warrior! And she is winning!!"

This week, hundreds gathered to support the family of 10-year-old Harper Moyski, one of the two children killed in the shooting. Fletcher Merkel, 8, also died in the attack. Twenty-one other people, mostly children, were also injured.

Mike Moyski and Jackie Flavin, Harper's parents, called her a "light" in their remarks at a celebration of life on Sept. 14 at Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis.

"She taught us something profound, that light doesn't always mean being strong on your own," Flavin said, according to a report by CBS News. "Sometimes it really means being soft enough to let love in."

"Harper didn't do anything halfway. She was extra in the very best way," Flavin said. "She just packed so much joy and imagination into her short 10 years, and thank God. Thank God she made it all count."

Harper's mother said the last few weeks "have felt like being dropped at the bottom of the ocean, where it is pitch dark, and the pressure is crushing and no human is really meant to survive it."

But in the midst of their suffering, Harper's parents said they feel grateful for the support.

"There's just so much love and support lighting our path that we haven't felt lost," Flavin said. "Shattered and heartbroken, but not lost."

"You've lifted us up during the hardest days of our lives, and we are so grateful," Moyski said.

Annunciation Catholic School students are returning to school with a modified schedule this week, according to an announcement by the school's leaders. The school will have supportive activities as well as extra security and support staff.

The church where the shooting took place will have to be reconsecrated, according to the archdiocese.

Reconsecration is a Catholic ritual used to purify a sacred space after it has been desecrated.

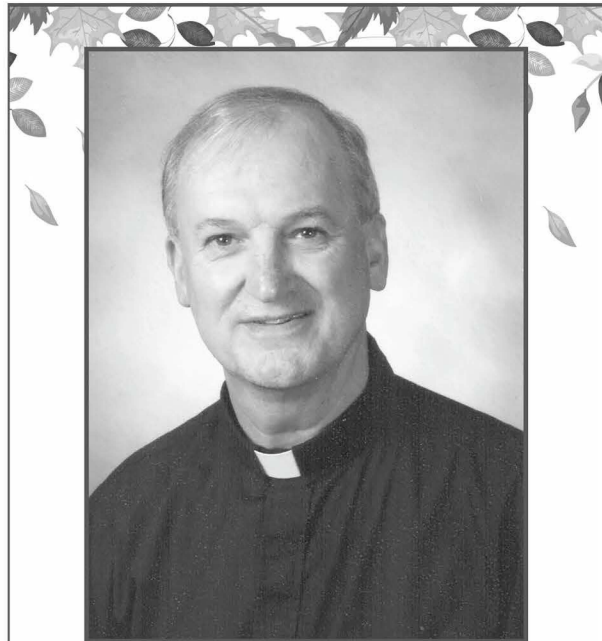
Father Matthew Crane, a canon lawyer in Minnesota, explained that as part of the rite, "the sanctuary is stripped in a manner consistent with Good Friday."

"After the procession, much like the rite for initially dedicating a church, the celebrant, usually a diocesan bishop, blesses holy water and then sprinkles the people and walls with it," Crane said. "Penitential prayers are offered, and the altar is only dressed with cloth and candles after these rituals have concluded."

Crane said the "spiritual effects" include "purification and reparation."

Crane, who has attended a reconsecration in the past, said he "was surprised at how, by virtue of participating in that ritual, I felt connected to and comfortable in the building and place."

"I would hope that in Annunciation, or any Catholic community, the ritual of reconsecration would grant the community a profound sense of being once again at home in a house of God," he said.



The four parishes of
Southern Lewis County thank
Father Dan
for all he does for our parishes.

St. John's, Lyons Falls, St. Martin's, Port
Leyden, St. Mary's, Constableville and
St. Mary's Nativity in West Leyden.



CALLED TO SERVE

This has got to stop, please!

NBC News reported this following the assassination of conservative activist Charles Kirk in Utah.

"In the last five years alone, the country has seen a steady drumbeat of violence."

"Kirk's shooting at Utah Valley University came nearly three months after a gunman killed former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, and injured State Sen. John Hoffman and his wife. Two months earlier, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's residence was set on fire by a man who suggested he was upset by the governor's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

"In the 2024 presidential campaign, then candidate Trump narrowly survived a shooting during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Two months later, he was

saved by Secret Service agents who fired on a gunman lying in wait for Trump on his golf course in Florida."

"In the fall of 2022, a man broke into former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home in an effort to kidnap her and then assaulted her husband, Paul Pelosi, with a hammer. The previous year, on Jan. 6, a violent mob stormed the U.S. Capitol in a bid to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, and pipe bombs were found at both Democratic and Republican Party headquarters."

"In the past few years, law enforcement officials have also prevented attempts to harm political figures."

It is time for Pope Francis' prayer for peace.

"Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us, and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of

war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust and our quarreling into forgiveness.

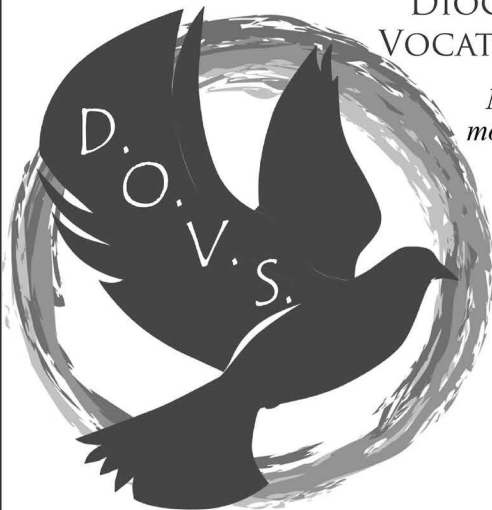
Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our

tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen."

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon



DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
VOCATIONS SOCIETY (D.O.V.S.)

May your faith continue to move mountains, your ministry illuminate countless lives with hope. With profound gratitude, we appreciate all that you do for all of us!

Thank you to all of our priests for answering their call to the priesthood.

WIN

A 2025 Subaru Forester*



*Or \$20,000 Cash

Drawing Sunday, October 12, 2025

Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

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

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

Tickets available by phone: (518) 523-3771

To order tickets by mail, please complete form and enclose with your check made payable to:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____

Winner need not be present to win.

ST. AGNES CHURCH
169 Hillcrest Ave.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

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

Date: Sept. 25

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. By prayerfully reflecting on these gems — which Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. 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 Father Gallagher will lead us in discussing the first half of this book.

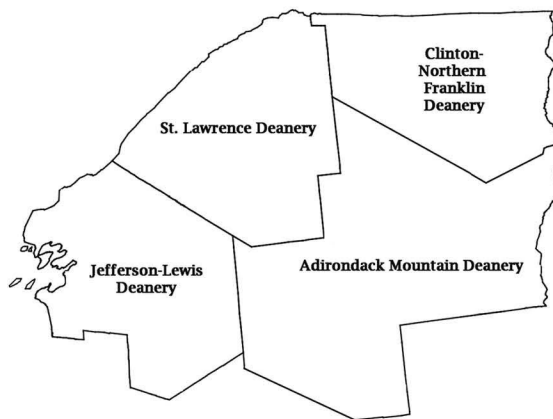
Contact: To order "If You Want Peace in This Life," please visit sophiainstitute.com and enter Friendship25 at the checkout to receive a 25% off discount. For more information or to sign up please contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiainstitute.com

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 of \$20,000 cash - and 100% of raffle



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.

proceeds benefit scholarships and programs.

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

ITALIAN BUFFET

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

Date: Oct. 4

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: Adirondack Veterans Center

Cost: Donation

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

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

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, environmental and climate scientist, time in nature, sharing of thoughts and ideas with others, closing prayer by Bernie Clark and simple 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: A turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for "sinfully" delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes. Please join us!

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 sseymour@rcdony.org

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: Oct. 3

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

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

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

Date: Oct. 6

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

Place: Newman Center

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

Contact: evemcgill@charter.net 518-645-2648

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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 Sa-

cred 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 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

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

Date: Oct. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

ALPHA

Massena — Join us for ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting Sept. 30

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

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

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DOVS LUNCHEON

Norfolk — All are invited to join the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) for Mass with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Father Ray,

Thank you for all you do for our parish family!

From the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere & Chaumont



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20
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 Fr. Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcondony.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 Committee is offering a Women's Healing Retreat with the theme

"From Eve to Mary, A Journey of Hope and Healing."

Date: Oct. 9 – 12

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 includes accommodations and meals

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

Contact: to register and for more information go to <https://www.rcondony.org/ourlady>

CLM DINNER

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

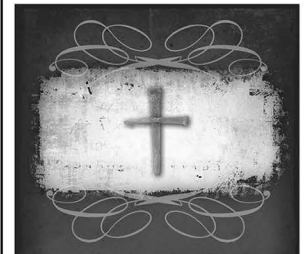
Date: Oct. 15

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

Cost: \$15

Features: You are invited to join commissioned lay ministers for mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley, a catered dinner and talks by Bishop and Patrick Looby diocesan youth director and his wife, Shannon.

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

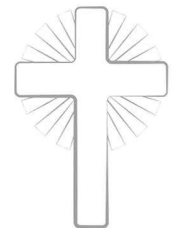


Many thanks and appreciation to:

Fr. Mark Reilly
Fr. Lukas Gruber
Fr. Fernando Solomon

for all you have done and continue to do for our parishes.

From your Deacons
Nick, Randy and Tom



Rev. Bryan Stitt
Rev. Scott Belina

We appreciate
your service.

William and Carol O'Horo

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY



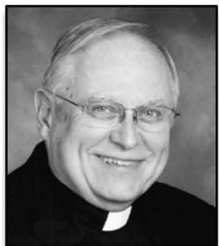
REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER
OCTOBER 10, 1987
38TH ANNIVERSARY



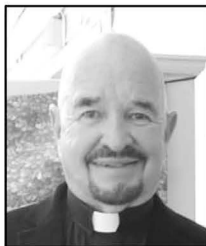
REV. CARTER G. PIERCE
MAY 25, 2024
1ST ANNIVERSARY



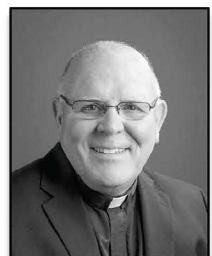
REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY
MAY 12, 2001
24TH ANNIVERSARY



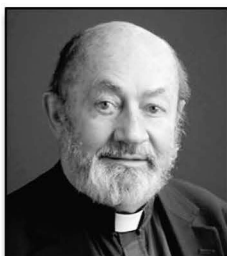
REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON
MAY 22, 1965
60TH ANNIVERSARY



REV. GUY (BILL) EDWARDS
MAY 4, 1985
30TH ANNIVERSARY



REV. MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY
JUNE 27, 1970
55TH ANNIVERSARY



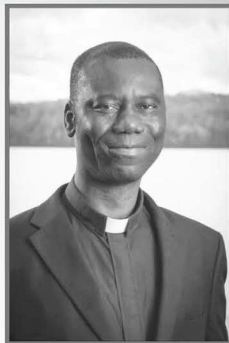
REV. FRANCIS J. FLYNN
DECEMBER 19, 1969
60TH ANNIVERSARY

**"YOUR WORK PRODUCED BY FAITH, YOUR
LABOR PROMPTED BY LOVE, AND YOUR
ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY HOPE IN OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST."
THESSALONIANS 1:3**

**FROM ALL OF THE PARISHIONERS AT
ST. ALEXANDER, ST. AUGUSTINE &
ST. JAMES
TO ALL OUR PRIEST WE
THANK YOU! GOD BLESS YOU!**

We appreciate our priests

**Thank you
Fr. Severinus Torwoe**



For answering God's call.

*St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of
Jesus, Tupper Lake
St. Henry's Church, Long Lake
St. Therese Church, Newcomb*



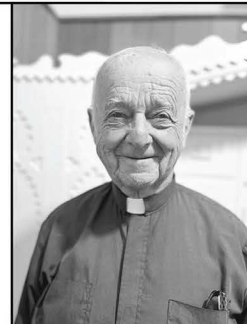
Fr. Scott Belina,
We are blessed to have you as our
parochial vicar. Congratulations on
celebrating your first Latin Mass!

~Debbie Hintopoulos

Fr. Philip Allen

Thank you for Father for
your gentle and loving
care of our souls.
You inspire us everyday!
God Bless.

St. Joseph's Church,
Olmstedville



Father James Teti,

the parishioners of

St. James Major, Lake Pleasant,
and St. Ann's, Wells,
appreciate your leadership.

We pray that God will continue to
bless you in your priestly ministry.



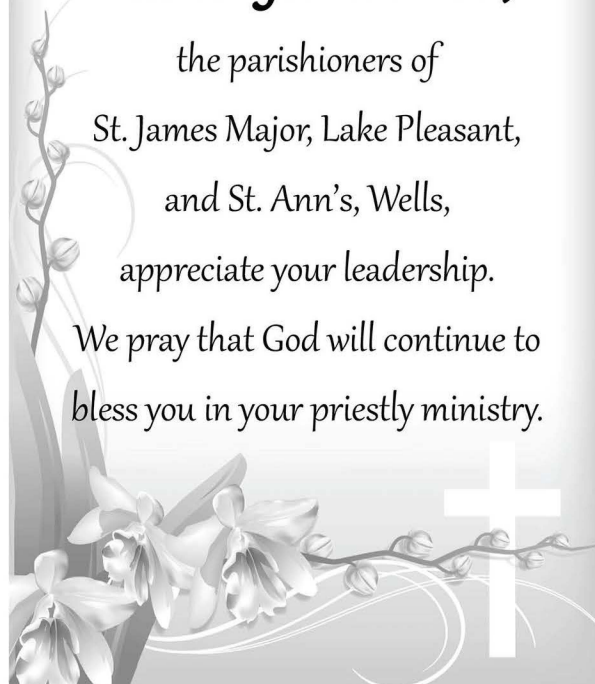
*Fr. Sony Pulickal,
Sem. Ladouceur Flarissaint,
and Fr. John Ojuok*

With Deep Gratitude

We sincerely thank you for your
unwavering dedication to God's
will and your faithful service to
our parish. Through your
administration of the
sacraments and your spiritual
leadership, you continue to
strengthen our community in
faith, hope, and charity.
We pray that God blesses you
abundantly with good health
and sanctifying grace, body,
mind, and soul.

May the Lord continue to guide
and protect you always.

From St. Peter's Eucharistic
Rosary Prayer Group.



Thank you, priests

We are grateful for all our priests and their continued service to the Church. It is only with their ongoing hard work and support that we can complete the work we do every day. We are especially grateful for their efforts with this year's MPDO and Missionary COOP appeals.

We would like to specifically thank Bishop Terry LaValley, Father Joseph Morgan, VG, Father Daniel Chapin and Father Kevin O'Brien for supporting us on our board of directors. Your guidance and the time and effort you put into helping us are invaluable.

The priests in our diocese and diocese around the world work hard every day to fulfil their vocations. We pray for the priests in mission territories working to distribute the sacraments in areas torn by war and violence. We pray for the priests striving to keep their people fed and clothed



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@rcdony.org

in the face of poverty and corruption. We pray for priests fighting for the dignity of those who are not granted it by society.

As we come out of MPDO and Missionary COOP and move towards Extraordinary Mission Month, may we keep in mind all those men called to service in the Church with a vocation to the priesthood. We are especially grateful for those who spend their lives as missionaries. Because of them, we can become more interconnected with the rest of our church family and better live out our vocation of missionary spirit. We thank all priests in our diocese who served at our former mission

parish in Mollendo, Peru, for their faith, dedication, and hard work. We also thank those priests that have come to us from other countries and who share their culture, faith and spirit with the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

We pray that God blesses all of you abundantly.

To be added to our mailing list or to learn more please feel free to contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found at our website www.rcdony.org/mission.

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

OBITUARIES

Canton — Daniel G. Fay, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Clayton — Maureen A. (Earley) DelBalso, 81; Graveside Services Sept. 26, 2025 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Champlain — Jared Phillip West, 52; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

Croghan — Lynn T. Kampnich, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church.

Heuvelton — Daniel Ray Johnson, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2025 at St. Raphael's Church.

Massena — Shirley A. (Diehl) Matzan, 88; Private Services held.

Morrisonville — Alexander B. Inniss,; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2025 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

Mooers — Real J. Boulerville, 86; Graveside Services Sept. 19, 2025 at St. Ann's Cemetery.

North Bangor — John William Brady, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Shirley E. (Ducatte) Caron, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor — John P. Kenna, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2025 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery

Theresa — Vilai "Paw" T. (Saepong) Drake, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 15, 2025 at Frederick Bros Funeral Home; burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Eleanor Theresa (McKillip) Moeller, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 18, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Holy Name Church.

Watertown — Vincent H. Cumoletti, Jr., 62; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — William P. Doyle, II, 75; Memorial Mass Sept. 23, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church.

Watertown — William D. O'Brien, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery

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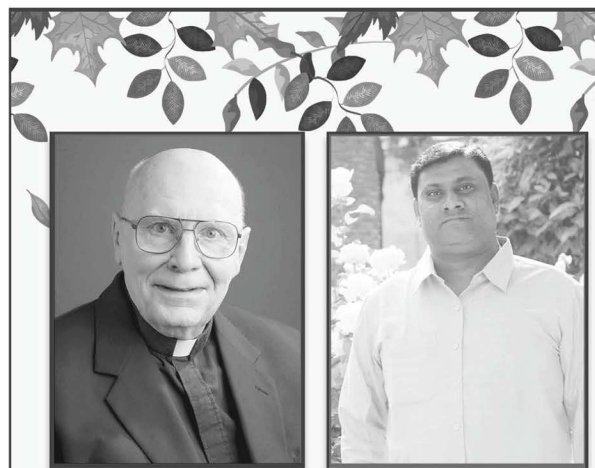
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OR Call
Christine at
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Father Rocker,

It's good to have you back in our area and I'm happy to hear that you've joined the faculty of St. Catherine of Siena Academy.

~ Debbie Hintopoulos



Rev. John Looby

and

Rev. Amruta Kumar Pasala

Thank you for your priestly service and dedication to the communities of

St. Mary's of the Fort,
CC of Burke & Chateaugay, CC of Constable,
Westville & Trout River.

May God bless and fill you both with grace.

Mission possible

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

with the painful and complex thoughts and emotions that are entailed in their situation. Life-Giving Wounds is a retreat for adults who, at one point or another in their life, experienced the separation or divorce of their parents. They carry wounds with them that, unless addressed, stay with them for the rest of their lives, causing many to reject the

faith, leave the Church, and not get married. Those that do get married have a significantly greater likelihood of having a divorce themselves. The retreat, offered annually, is very successful in addressing these wounds and gives the participants the opportunity to begin healing.

A Life of Love, Celebrating Marriage was formerly called the Marriage Jubilee. It is

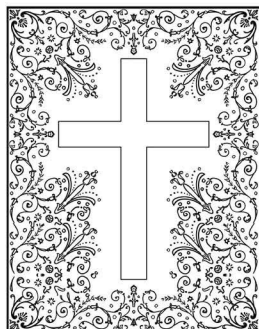
an annual gathering of married couples, no matter how long or short they have been married, to celebrate their commitment with in a mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley. Couples renew their marriage vows and have their rings blessed. The Mass is followed by a reception in which the couples receive a certificate, signed by Bishop LaValley, acknowledging

ing their years of marriage.

The Loving Authentically program is a two-part presentation which teaches people about the connection between sex, happiness and Catholic teaching, explaining why the Church teaches what it does in the area of sexuality. The first part is a showing of the video Unprotected: A Pope, The Pill, and the Perils

of Sexual Chaos, with a talk and discussion led by Diocesan Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli. This is followed by two talks on achieving happiness in relationships by Catholic Theologian, Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner. The presentation is for everyone, although most appropriate for those 13 years and older. Lunch is provided and it is free admission.

The ministry of the Family Life Office, including all of these valuable programs, is only made possible by contributions made to the Bishops Fund. Thank you so much for your generosity. Your contributions are making a world of difference!



The members of
Our Lady of Grace
Parish in Morristown,
Hammond and Rossie
are grateful to
Father Chris Carrara
for his ministry to us.

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for the soul, firm and secure."
Hebrews 6:19

2025 Bishop's Fund Appeal

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