

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bishop of Valleyfield visits Mission church | Page 5

Synod proposes 'Observatory on Disability' | Page 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 1, 2026

Resurrection of Jesus and humanity

Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers his reflections on Easter.

We can face most anything, if we know or believe it won't last forever, and that something better will happen. We will endure a painful operation if we believe it will make us well again. We can face the rigors of a long and miserable winter (like this one) because we know that spring will return. It's amazing what the human spirit can endure and overcome provided it is fed with the bread of hope for tomorrow.

Easter provides an enormous portion of hope for the human spirit. How voracious is our appetite for hope today?

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

CELEBRATING THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered with Bishop Terry R. LaValley for the annual Chrism Mass on March 26 in St. Mary's Cathedral. The Mass includes the renewal of priestly commitments, the blessing of holy oils and the consecration of Chrism for use around the diocese. Read Bishop LaValley's homily from the Mass on Page 3. Additional photos will be in next week's edition.

Pope discusses priesthood in catechesis

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV on March 25 said priestly ministry in the Church, entrusted only to men, is understood in light of apostolic succession and called for priests who are "ardent with evangelical charity" and "courageous missionaries."

During his catechesis dedicated to the dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium*, from the Second Vatican Council, Leo explained that the Church "is founded on the apostles, whom Christ appointed as the living pillars of his mystical body."

Speaking in St. Peter's Square, the pontiff emphasized that the Church possesses a "hierarchical structure that works in the service of the unity, mission, and sanctification of all her members," and that it is not merely an organizational structure but an institution of divine origin.

The pope recalled that the apostles, as authoritative witnesses of the Resurrection, received from Christ the mission to teach, sanctify, and guide, and that this ministry "is handed on to men who, until Christ's return, continue to sanctify, guide, and instruct the Church 'through their suc-

cessors in pastoral office.'"

This transmission, he explained, forms the basis of apostolic succession and of the sacrament of holy orders, which is structured in three degrees: the episcopate, the presbyterate, and the diaconate.

The pope quoted from chapter 3 of *Lumen Gentium*, which is about the hierarchical structure of the Church, and states that this structure "is not a human construct, functional to the internal organization of the Church as a social body," but a divine institution through which Christ's mission continues throughout history.

The essential difference of

the ministerial priesthood

In his address, the pontiff highlighted that Vatican II teaches that the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood "differs 'in essence and not only in degree' from the common priesthood of the faithful," while making clear that the latter are "nonetheless interrelated: Each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ."

Thus, the ordained ministry is conferred on men who receive "sacra potestas," or sacred power, for service in the Church, in continuity with the apostolic mission originally entrusted to the Twelve Apostles.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICPO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry
R. LaValley**
President
Rev. Joseph A. Morgan
Vice President
James D. Crowley
Secretary-Treasurer
Darcy L. Fargo
Editor &
Communications DirectorPublish
45 issues
per year:
Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-
ginning July through August
and skipping one week in
December by the
Diocese of Ogdensburg.
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Editorial Office:**
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669**Telephone:**
(315) 608-7556**E-mail:**
news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and additional
mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Wednesday prior to
publication. Paper is
printed each Friday;
dateline is Wednesday.Member, Catholic
Press Association.**POSTMASTER:**
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

Here comes the sun

"Look! The sun's rising!"

My son, Jake, recently started his first job since finishing barber school. He's cutting hair in Massena every Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Jake has a learner's permit, but he doesn't yet have a driver's license (we're working on it). Luckily, Massena is on one of the routes I can take from my home in Franklin County to my office in Ogdensburg. So, I have a commute buddy.

As we turned onto U.S. Route 11 from our little side street Monday morning, Jake made that comment about the sun being up. He had noted previously that he didn't love leaving the house when it was still dark, so we were both excited to see the sun seconds after we left our driveway.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Jake and I chatted a bit about how nice it is to see the end of winter's long nights and short days approaching.

"It makes me feel hope-

ful," I told him. "I have hope that winter's almost done. I have hope that better things are coming."

I think most of us feel that way this time of year. As the days get longer and we start to see signs of life where we recently saw mounds of snow, moods seem to improve. It seems easier to find joy when the world around us feels bright, vibrant and alive than it is when we're surrounded by darkness and gray.

It feels fitting that the sun started to illuminate our commute just as we're preparing to celebrate Holy Week and East-

ter.

While we spend time this week with sin and darkness as we journey through the Lord's suffering and death, we do so knowing that the winter of death and darkness are temporary and knowing better things - the light of the Lord's resurrection and life eternal - are coming.

That's the best reason for hope!

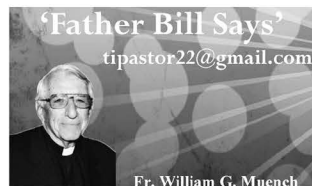
We, the staff and contributors to the North Country Catholic, hope and pray you have a blessed Holy Week and joyous Easter.

The Son is rising!

Our entrance into the Resurrection

One of the joys of Holy Week is the baptism of the catechumens at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday evening. At the same time, there are others who are welcomed into the Catholic Church. They are already baptized; now they become a member of the Church as they receive the sacrament of confirmation. They have all been part of a weekly program (OCIA) for a whole year in preparation for the reception of Easter Sacraments. Each year, the Easter Vigil welcomes so many new members into the Catholic Church.

Our celebration of Easter is all about baptism. On Easter Sunday, the Church takes the time at each Mass so that all the congregation can celebrate a renewal of their own baptism. They do this by renewing their dedication to follow the Lord. So each person is challenged to remember their baptism and renew their baptismal promises. This is an important part of the



celebration of Easter.

The celebration of Easter is a celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Our baptism is our entrance into the Resurrection of Jesus. In faith, we say that Jesus is and is always with us. Jesus is always present tense. The Letter of the Romans says this, "We were buried with Him by Baptism into his death... so that we too might live in a newness of life." Baptism is not symbolic. Baptism truly unites us to the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Easter is not just remembered; it is lived even now through our baptism.

From the earliest centuries, the Catholic Church baptized catechumens at the Easter Vigil each year. The baptismal water is solemnly blessed, baptism is celebrated,

and the faithful present are encouraged to renew their baptismal promises. St. Augustine would preach to the newly baptized, "You have become Christ. You are His body and members. It is your mystery that is placed on the Lord's table. We do not just belong to Christ; we become part of him."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem describes baptism in this way: "You go down into the water to die. You rise up to new life."

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches us that baptism incorporates us into Christ's Passion and Resurrection. Easter is the cause; baptism is the application to the soul. "Recognize, O Christian, your dignity."

So, Today, I ask you do you remember your baptism? Do you live as someone raised to new life with Jesus? Are you always ready to renew your baptism, to live your baptismal promises seriously at this Easter Season. These promises are a powerful reminder of who we are

- dedicated to the Lord Jesus, ready to live well as disciples of the Lord Jesus.

The baptismal promises: Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises? Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

Easter is not only what happened to Jesus long ago. Through baptism, Easter has happened to us. We have died to all that keeps us from loving our Lord and Savior. We have risen. And now we are called to live as Easter people. "He has risen! He has truly risen!"

FOLLOW ME

Chrism Mass: 'Let us stand by one another'

Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Chrism Mass, celebrated March 26 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Throughout the Mediterranean region and Palestine, oil was the symbol of vital strength. The fruit of the olive tree was the real fundamental food, even more than daily bread. Oil was, at the same time, also the medicine with which strength, rest and peace were restored to the body. The athletes who entered the arena anointed their bodies with oil, so that it[DF1.1] they would be soft, supple, strong, and lively, not dried out.

A special symbol of today's Chrism Mass is the sign of oil. Christ got His Name from it. As you know, Christ means "the Anointed One." Oil took on new meaning in the Christian sacraments. The Sacraments remind us of the earthly life of Jesus, of the world out of which He steps to meet us. Our understanding of Christianity, one which, Fr. Hauser so beautifully shared at his recent Lenten reflection to our diocesan staff, is the fact that the Christian is in a battle with Satan in this world. The anointing in baptism suggests that the Christian is anointed by the Lord in order to enter into the drama of history, prepared to battle the forces of evil.

When we are anointed before Baptism for the contest of life, this means that He, Who on the Cross fought the dramatic battle with the forces of hatred, evil, and despair, stands over our life as the power that carries us, that gives us life and does not allow us to dry out, that stands behind us and catches us when we grow tired and leads us through life's arena into His mercy. That's why we can be a hope-filled people. We have been anointed.

When consecrated oil is put on the forehead and the hands of a person on his or her sickbed, then it no longer expresses merely the earthly and so often vain hopes that were



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily at the Chrism Mass, celebrated March 26 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The Mass includes the renewal of priestly commitment, the blessing of holy oils and the consecration of the sacred chrism for use in all the churches of our diocese. Additional photos will be featured in next week's edition.

placed in olive oil in the ancient world; now it is to be the sign for God's true medicine. You see, with the oil comes the entrance of Jesus Christ into the very space of our suffering, our fears, and our needs. The anointing reminds us that God carries us and gives us peace and assurance that we are safe in God's hands forever.

This Mass of the Holy Oils is a feast of the Church and of her unity. Around the altar of this St. Mary's Cathedral, we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This one altar, which expresses our local Church, our Diocese of Ogdensburg in its unity and entirety, is, in turn a reference to Jesus Christ Himself, Who is simultaneously the Living Altar and the Priest. We receive from and in this one cathedral the holy oils which will be taken out of this sacred space and distributed from here to Rouses Point to Ticonderoga to Wells, to Old Forge, Cape Vincent, to Massena to Champlain and all points in between so that the sacraments celebrated in the parishes throughout this diocese will come from this one center and appear visibly as the fruit of

the sacrament of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. What happens today, in the consecration and distribution of the oils, fulfills what our psalm verses proclaim:

"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, that my hand may always be with him; and that my arm may make him strong." These words suggest the outpouring of the holy oil over the whole body of the Church in the North Country.

Pope Benedict XVI said this day is in a special way also a feast of priests, who have made this carrying, this distribution of the sacred oils, their life's work. The whole lives of our priests consists in this kind of repeatedly going out from the center, so that the oil will flow throughout Christ's Body, the Church, and will grow into the strength that comes to us from the Lord.

This is why in just a minute, my brother priests will renew their ordination promises. It is as though we enter again into the center from which all our strength and mission come. We start again with the Lord,

so that once more the life-giving oil might overcome the dryness of everyday routine and bring to life the joy of Christ's victory over sin and death, the joy of the Gospel proclaimed and lived in our families of faith back home.

We do this in the presence of the whole believing Church, for just as the priests in their way support the Church, they are supported in their ministry by you, the faithful. It is good and right that there are different charisms and different ways of understanding this ministry of distributing the oils and all that that signifies. The Church needs this because there are different sorts of people.

But let us not become divided as a result. Division is of Satan. Even so let us stand by one another. We live by a common faith, by a common mission. Yes, we must stand by one another. We keep going—we can do so through all our differences by standing by what truly support us together by our Lord, by standing by Jesus Christ. Let us love Him, let us approach Him again and again.

Praying the Breviary, personal Holy Hours, meditation on the Word—all these things are not just external, incidental habits that have grown up over the course of history; these are the signpost that show us the way to what is decisive. Brothers, only when we have in the deepest possible way this foundation of our common togetherness can we then tolerate various sorts of differences, because the essential thing behind them is never called into question, because we are all in Jesus Christ's boat.

We have all been anointed, even consecrated. May the tender love and reconciling Spirit of the Anointed One give us the vital strength to bring us the peace for which we all yearn. Christ-led, Christ-fed, we are hope-filled. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me.

And for that—May God be praised...forever may God be praised.

EASTER 2026

The resurrection of Jesus and humanity

"Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you."

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We can face most anything, if we know or believe it won't last forever, and that something better will happen. We will endure a painful operation if we believe it will make us well again. We can face the rigors of a long and miserable winter (like this one) because we know that spring will return. It's amazing what the human spirit can endure and overcome provided it is fed with the bread of hope for tomorrow.

Easter provides an enormous portion of hope for the human spirit. How voracious is our appetite for hope today? Yes, Jesus suffered much. He was cut down but rose again. The world didn't take much notice of the resurrection of Jesus. It was a

humble, hidden event. The risen Jesus did not appear in triumph at the temple in Jerusalem, humiliating those who humiliated Him. To those who loved Him and followed Him, Jesus rose as a sign of hope that God's love is stronger than death. The resurrection of Jesus cannot be separated from the resurrection of humanity saved by Him.

At Easter, we still feel the pain of the world, the pain in our families and in our hearts. But a new reality has been introduced into our lives. It doesn't remove the pain, but it sure gives it a meaning. It lights up our lives with hope. All is different because Jesus is alive! Faith in Jesus' resurrection is the basis of our hope of eternal life, a hope which enables you and me to bear patiently the trials of our lives. We experience a quiet joy and confident hope because we know that a faithful life is stron-

ger than death, love is stronger than fear and hope is stronger than despair and discouragement.

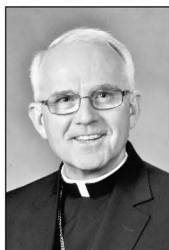
The Risen Christ is still active in our midst two millennia after that Easter morn. There is

plenty of room for hope! Easter assures you and me that God's promise of presence is fulfilled. And for that, may God be praised. Forever may God be praised! A blessed Easter to you and your family!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Bishop Terry
R. LaValley

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Weekly Newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Celebrating

80

Years of Sharing Faith

- Personal stories of faith
- Parish and Diocesan News
- Scripture Reflections
- Important messages from Bishop Terry R. LaValley
- Catholic news from around the nation and world

• Place your envelope in your parish collection

• Online at our website:
www.northcountrycatholic.org

• Call our office at 315-608-7556

• Receive your copy in print by mail or have it emailed to you!

Subscribe to or Renew the North Country Catholic Today!

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

APRIL 1, 2026



(Left) Father Alan J. Lamica and Father Jerome B. Pastores celebrates Mass with Bishop Alain Faubert of the Diocese of Valleyfield at St. Regis Mission Church. (Above) Bishop Faubert gathers with St. Regis Mission Church members for food and conversation.

Valleyfield bishop visits Mission

By Dr. Rose-Alma
"Dolly" McDonald
St. Regis Mission Church

On March 21 and 22, the St. Regis Mission Church welcomed a special pastoral visit from Bishop Alain Faubert of the Diocese of Valleyfield. His visit was a momentous occasion, bringing together parishioners, community leaders and families to celebrate faith and unity.

Over the course of

two days, Bishop Faubert led the community in prayer, celebrated Mass, and engaged warmly with members of the congregation. His homilies resonated with hope, compassion and the call to walk together in Christ's love. The bishop's presence was a source of encouragement, as he offered blessings and listened to the joys and challenges faced by the parish.

In addition to the liturgical celebrations,

Bishop Faubert met with elders and youth, fostering dialogue and strengthening the bonds between the Diocese of Valleyfield and the St. Regis Mission. Parishioners expressed deep gratitude for his wisdom and gentle leadership, noting that his visit reaffirmed their commitment to service and spiritual growth.

As the visit concluded,

the community gathered to give thanks for Bishop Faubert's ministry. His words and actions left a lasting impression, inspiring all to continue walking in faith and supporting one another.

The St. Regis Mission looks forward to future visits and ongoing collaboration with the diocese, united in the spirit of hope and renewal.

Environmental Stewardship

Quantum physics

Quantum physics and mysticism defy logic and common sense and seem impossible to understand. Despite the challenges, both provide worthwhile views of life.

Physicists researching the behavior of atoms and the structure of sub-atomic particles have discovered a realm in which logic and the practical laws of nature do not seem to apply. As researchers delve deeper into this world, they encounter more paradoxical phenomena than could be imagined.

At the heart of quantum theory is a field of existence that allows energy to be transmitted and transformed into matter. Researchers suggest this field also holds consciousness and allows it to interact with matter like energy. Consequently, your consciousness, or the "I am" sensation comes from this universal field – God – rather than from the brain. This is exactly what many mystics have concluded from their meditative or mystical experiences.

The wave-like features of energy enables it to interact with all other objects in one way or another. Although most interactions are exceptionally small, everything has some effect on everything else in the universe. This is why mystics have emphasized that we are all interconnected.

It is this principle of quantum theory that suggests that Jesus' passion and death did not only influence the culture of our planet, but it also resonated throughout the entire universe as did His Resurrection and Ascension. Our thoughts and actions, regardless of whether you believe that they are not impacting anyone else, play a role in the grand scheme of life on earth. Sending out waves of positive emotions and interacting in a pleasant manner with those you encounter always benefits the entire system to some extent.

Jesus' life was filled with many mysteries, and although quantum field theory might explain some of His actions, these responses typically are more baffling than the mysteries being considered.

Rest in Peace

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

April 1 – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002; Rev. Mark McDonald, MSC, 2018

April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005

April 3 – Msgr. Philius Garand, 1942

April 4 – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

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 Ishoen@rcdony.org

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 1 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 2 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral
10 p.m. – Night Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 3 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
3 p.m. – Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Confessions

April 4 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
4 p.m. – Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 5 – 8 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 7 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 8 – 5 p.m. – Dinner with the Diocesan Review Board followed by a Meeting at Bishop's Residence

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

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Superpowers: Safe adults have them

Editor's note: April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Catholic Church is committed to the safety of children. Throughout the month, we'll be featuring information on preventing and/or responding to abuse. Together we can make a Promise to Protect, and a Pledge to Heal.

Article by VIRTUS

Adults have tremendous power when it comes to protecting children.

Of course, we have surely heard of cases where adults have lifted vehicles to protect children or seemed to have inhuman speed to move children out of the path of a disaster. But then there are the less obvious superhero qualities... For example, when adults work together as a community, studies show that we have the superpower of being able to collectively prevent abuse from happening in the first place. But our superpowers shine more brilliantly when we recognize that we individually have great power in positively influencing a child's ability to disclose abuse. This gives us opportunities to stop abuse and influence a child's rate and pace of healing and resilience. What we do as safe adults can actually change the trajectory of a child's wellbeing over their entire lifetime.

Here is how that works:

Studies show that when children know that adults are willing to believe them, and advocate for them, they're more willing to come to adults with their problems. When children are more willing to come to

us with their problems, they are much more likely to disclose abuse. Here are the facts: Children do not actually talk about the abuse that happens to them right away, in the surrounding years or later - in fact, most children do not disclose at all. If a child is able to disclose, there is typically a delay until adulthood, and even then, the average age of someone who ultimately discloses is 52 (if ever).

When there is a disclosure in childhood, most people believe that children will go to their parents about abuse or potential abuse. However, studies show that children will first go to their peers with disclosures, but they will also go to other adults more frequently than they do their parents (though sometimes they attempt with their parents and don't get far). This shows us that safe adults in the community are extremely important in giving children a conduit to talk about their problems, and to help them when they are experiencing abuse.

Certain factors influence whether or not children are more likely to disclose, which include:

- having access to an adult whom they feel they can trust,
- recognizing what is happening to them is not normal,
- having an inability to cope with the emotional distress they're experiencing,
- wanting to do something about it,
- having the knowledge that they are going to be believed by the adult, and
- being directly asked by the adult about whether or not abuse is



happening.

When children come to us and tell us that they are being abused or that their boundaries are being violated, this allows us to put measures into place to help stop the abuse from continuing, or to help recognize signs that abuse is imminent, and we can stop it before it can start. This is one of the ways that we can actually prevent abuse or address it quickly.

We really want to address suspicions of abuse, or knowledge that comes from a child's disclosure, quickly, because there is a robust body of research that has shown that when a person has been sexually abused in their childhood, the risk of negative associated outcomes of the trauma increases over their lifetime. Child sexual abuse has been linked to poor mental health outcomes, more attempts at suicide, more likelihood of future sexual abuse and revictimization, greater likelihood of sexual assault and partner violence even into adulthood, more cognitive

deficits, lower educational attainment, more negative physiological outcomes such as earlier onset of puberty, higher rates of eating disorders and obesity, and ultimately, a reduced life expectancy, just to name a few.

Moreover, the effects of abuse for even one child can have generational impact, to the extent that the abused child's future child and future grandchild will be more likely to experience sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is a public health issue for each and every one of us. All adults are involved in the safety of children in our communities, because this issue of at least one out of every 10 children being sexually abused affects us in our day to day lives and it affects all of our future generations.

There is hope for healing, but this can depend on a lot of factors. Our healthy and positive interactions with child survivors, even when we don't know they're survivors, is a major factor in a child's wellness, recovery, healing and resil-

ience. Intervention from a safe adult can reduce the risk of many or all of the negative outcomes of abuse.

Many of us might feel uncomfortable with potentially intervening or communicating with a child about abuse or online exploitation, and then reporting it. None of us are alone in these feelings. Feeling uncomfortable with this concept is actually common. One of the important things to remember when we consider our role as protectors is that we often need to consider the most vulnerable person (the child) and their potential needs. Knowing the increased risk of all those outcomes outlined above is a factor that compels us to act in the interest of children's current and future welfare. Sometimes, this needs to be prioritized over our own possible discomfort or cultural barriers that may make it more challenging for us to respond or report.

When safe adults are willing to place the welfare of children in the center of every decision regarding safety, rather than our own worries or fears, it increases opportunities for children to talk about abuse, reduces those negative outcomes and increases opportunities for healing and wellness. This means that we have great power in our role as employees and volunteers. We never really know when a child is going to see us as a safe person they trust. Thank you for everything that you do as a safe adult, who is willing to put those superpowers to use in protecting children, safeguarding childhoods, and promoting healthy relationships.

Synod proposes Church 'Observatory on Disability'

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

The final report of the Synod on Synodality study group dedicated to the poor and the earth raises the need to create an observatory on disability and to include theologians from poor regions in consultative and governing bodies.

The text — published March 24 — emphasizes that listening to “the cry of the poor and of the earth” is not a pastoral option but a constitutive act of faith in the mission of the Church. It identifies already existing tools such as parishes, base communities, movements, charitable organizations, and ecumenical and international networks.

However, it states that social ministry cannot be delegated only to these structures, since all Christians have the responsibility to listen and respond to the needs of the poor.

The report — which is not binding and will now be reviewed by Pope Leo XIV — is part of the work carried out by 10 study groups created by Pope Francis in 2024 during the Synod on Synodality. The groups are dissolved once their reports are published.

Within the group on the poor, another subgroup was established, mostly composed of people with disabilities.

This subgroup produced the proposal to create an international “Ecclesial Observatory on Disability” that would establish similar bodies at the diocesan, national, and regional levels.

The aim, the text states, is to use this model to “create structures and processes for listening to other marginalized groups,” including “the LGBTQIA+ community.”

“The Church has many means to listen to the cries of the poor and the earth. However, the Synod learned that women, Indigenous people, Dalits, young people, people with disability, victims of class or caste discrimination and racism, LGBTQIA+ people, those made poor, and other marginalized groups, are still asking to be heard,” it states.

“We need to deepen our listening and respond with transformative ac-

tion. Synodality invites us to move from having means of listening to becoming a means of listening in the service of God’s mission,” the report says.

The document also highlights the importance of the language used for people in vulnerable situations and urges that it respect the “diversity of their experience” and reflect their dignity, for example through the use of “person first language.”

Another recommendation in the report is for dioceses and bishops’ conferences to consider creating “groups for single parents, widows, and widowers” in order to offer support and learn about their needs, and that there be deeper exploration of “effective ways of listening to those affected by war, conflicts, and violence.”

It also calls for ensuring the presence of vulnerable groups, women, and those coming from territories affected by climate change and conflicts in Church bodies.

The report also raises the need to include theologians from “poor, marginalized, or excluded” contexts in the drafting of Church statements.

“The appointment of women, people with disabilities, and people of color should be a key priority,” it says.

It proposes creating global networks connecting theologians with organizations working on the ground, strengthening dialogue with other Christian denominations and religions, and promoting collaboration among Catholic media, universities, and young people in order to translate theological reflection into concrete action.

It suggests creating “global networks” that connect the poor “with organizations closest to the reality of the world of the poor.” According to the report, the goal is to promote a theology more connected to the reality of the poor and open to intercultural dialogue and other disciplines.

This story was first published by ACI Prensa, the Spanish-language sister service of EWTN News. It has been translated and adapted by EWTN News English.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Venerable Fulton Sheen to be beatified Sept. 24 in St. Louis

The Vatican announced that Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be beatified on Sept. 24 in St. Louis. Sheen “is an inspiration not only to all of us who continue his work of prayer and support for the Church’s missionary work across the globe, but for all those whose faith has been strengthened by his preaching, broadcasting, writing, and holy Catholic life,” Monsignor Roger Landry, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies U.S., told EWTN News. Bishop Louis Tylka of the Diocese of Peoria said the Mass for the beatification of Sheen will take place at 2 p.m. CDT at The Dome at America’s Center, a stadium in St. Louis. “With anticipation of a great number of people wanting to participate, we chose this location because of availability, being indoors, and the close proximity to the Diocese of Peoria,” he said. There will be a number of other events in Peoria to celebrate the “wonderful occasion,” Tylka said.

Pope invites dialogue in message to Archbishop of Canterbury

Pope Leo XIV expressed the desire to continue dialogue with the Church of England in a message to Sarah Mullally on the occasion of her installation as archbishop of Canterbury. Mullally, formerly the bishop of London, was appointed archbishop of Canterbury in October 2025 with the approval of the King of England. She was installed March 25 in Canterbury Cathedral in east London. She the first woman to occupy the highest-ranking position in the Church of England. In his message, dated March 20 from the Vatican, Leo expressed his spiritual closeness and sent Mullally “prayerful greetings” on the occasion of her installation. The pope emphasized the responsibility of the office, noting that it is a mission “with responsibilities not only in the Diocese of Canterbury but throughout the Church of England as well as the Anglican Communion as a whole.” “In asking the Lord to strengthen you with the gift of wisdom, I pray that you may be guided by the Holy Spirit in serving your communities and draw inspiration from the example of Mary, the mother of God,” he wrote.

Military archdiocese approves change to chaplain insignia

The Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, expressed its approval of a plan for military chaplains to display insignia on their uniforms that reflects their religious faith as opposed to their military rank. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced on March 24 that he will sign a memo that directs military chaplains, all of whom are officers, “to replace the rank insignia on their uniforms with their religious insignia.” Chaplains will retain their rank, but it will not be shown. “This speaks to the difficult balance of the duality of a military chaplain,” Hegseth said in his announcement, posted on X. “A chaplain is first and foremost a chaplain and an officer second,” he said. “This change is a visual representation of that fact specifically unique to the role of a chaplain. They are first and foremost called and ordained by God, and while they will retain rank as an officer to those they serve, their rank will not be visible.”

VIRTUAL EVENTS

GOSPEL JUSTICE SERIES

The Sisters of St. Joseph Justice Promoter/Faith and Ecology Committees are sponsoring an online series, "Putting on the Lens of Gospel Justice."

Date: Wed. beginning April 15 until May 27

Time: 7 p.m. to 8

Place: online via Zoom

Features: Seven-week series on Gospel Justice as a lens to view our current reality and to consider ways to act in light of them in our daily lives, based on the Beatitudes, Matthew 25:31-46 and the Catholic Social Teachings concluding with Laudato Si. Presenters include: Msgr. Robert Aucoin, Father John Yonkovic, Deacon JB Kavanagh, Sister Debbie Blow, Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank, John Ferry and Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

Contact: Series is FREE; just need to register. To register **contact:** srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-212-6592.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: April 3

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

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

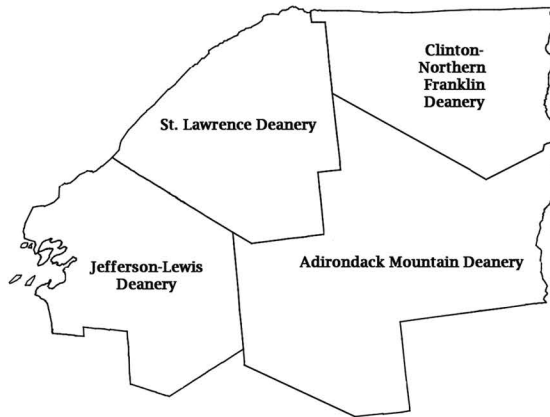
Plattsburgh – Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity the first Monday of the month.

Date: April 6, May 4 and June 1

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

Place: Newman Center

Features: Soaking prayer is surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit in a relaxed, spiritual atmosphere; being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A short introduction is given, followed by a 30 minute music worship segment to invoke the Holy Spirit. Remainder of the time is spent, listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit via scripture, readings and being open



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

to receive healing at any level: emotional, mental, psychological, physical, spiritual, or generational. This unique form of prayer allows you to call a "time out" or yourself to come into a spiritual environment, to receive an infilling of God's love, mercy, healing, forgiveness, compassion and peace. Facilitated by Eve McGill, Living Waters Healing Ministry. All are welcome!

Contact: evemcgill16@charter.net

BREAKFAST

Peru – the St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus will have a Pancake Breakfast.

Date: April 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5 to 11, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10

Menu: Pancakes, Waffles, Strawberry Sauce, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Home Fries, Real Maple Syrup, and much more.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: April 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$12; Seniors, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce or meatballs available for \$6 per quart

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake Breakfast to be held in support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage K of C Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: April 12

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children under 10, \$5; Family of 4, \$30

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

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Divine Mercy Sunday to be held.

Date: April 12

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: Be sure to start the novena to the Divine Mercy on Good Friday, April 3, at home, as there will not be a church service

to begin the novena. Continue to say the novena every day until the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday. Join us for the celebration April 12.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated.

Date: April 12

Place: St. Hedwig's

Schedule: Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will begin at 2 p.m. followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3 p.m. The program continues with a Reflection on the message of Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), Benediction, The Blessing of Holy Cards and Petitions, and the Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

Features: Celebrants Fr. Sony G. Pulickal and Fr. John Ojuok. A reception will follow in the church hall. Everyone is welcome to come and receive special graces on this day when the "Floodgates of Mercy" are opened to all.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for any questions.

ST. LAWRENCE

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: April 4

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: April 4

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

MENS GROUP

Massena – Men's group to meet the first Saturday of every month.

Date: April 4

Time: 9 a.m. Mass with meeting to follow

Place: Sacred Heart Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: April 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Camp Guggenheim registration and new staff application season is now open.

Dates: July 5 - July 10 for 11-13 year olds; July 12 - July 17 for 12-15 year olds; July 19 - July 24 for 12-15 year olds; July 26 - July 31 for 12-15 year olds; Aug 2 - Aug 7 for 16-18 year olds (space limited for week 5)

Cost: \$450 per week

Contact: Register for camp at <https://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp/registration>

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

The IHC Mystery Players will present the Way of the Cross.

Lent 2026 Prayer Schedule: March 29, 7:30 p.m. at St. James, Carthage; April 2, 8 p.m. at IHC, Watertown; April 3, 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Watertown

Contact: For mor information go to <https://www.ihcschool.org/mystery-players>

CLM WORKSHOP

Peru – Marika Donders will present a free hospitality workshop.

Date: April 11

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Theme: Hospitality: More than Coffee and Donuts

Features: A workshop for anyone and everyone who wants

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

From altar to track: Cardinal runs marathon

By Ishmael Adibuah
EWTN News

On March 23, thousands of athletes raced through the streets of Rome in the annual Rome Marathon. One of them, wearing the white habit of a Dominican friar under his jersey, was the Franco-Algerian Cardinal Jean-Paul Vesco, OP — the first cardinal to participate in the 44-year history of the event.

“Since I was a child, I have been running,” Vesco told EWTN News. “I love running and I have already run several marathons, like the New York Marathon 37 years ago.”

In a homily during Mass for participants of the Rome Marathon on March 21, the cardinal said competition teaches about the fragility of the human body and how this can be a “school of prayer” and of life.

“At some point in the race, our strength will fail, and we will have to take a leap of faith, going beyond our own strength. This is difficult. But it is precisely at this point that we can search deeper within ourselves for meaning, and perhaps it

will be a moment of prayer,” he said.

The cardinal completed the Rome Marathon with his longtime friend, Khaled Boudaoui. An Algerian Muslim, Boudaoui competed in the Rome Marathon last year and was awarded the trophy “La Coppa degli Ultimi” by the Vatican to recognize those who were “witnesses to hope” during the race.

Khaled was recently diagnosed with a tumor and began chemotherapy only 25 days before competing this year in Rome. Vesco praised his friend, saying his courage inspired him to run another public marathon.

“Khaled is my hero. He is sick, and we wanted to race and cross the finish line hand in hand. A marathon is beautiful because it’s a bit like life. In a marathon, we don’t run against each other but with each other — a race of brotherhood,” he said.

Khaled added in turn: “It was very difficult for me to run after starting chemotherapy. But I ran today thanks to my friend, Jean-Paul. I ran to show others, who may be going through similar illnesses, that they too can

run. We ran to build bridges.”

Vesco’s participation in the marathon was a highlight for Catholics already competing in the race. The Vatican’s sports team, Atletica Vaticana, has competed in the marathon since 2019, having been encouraged by Pope Francis. Giampaolo Mattei, president of Atletica Vaticana, described Francis’ impact on their mission of sports and service to others.

“We were inspired by Pope Francis’ example of inclusion,” Mattei said to EWTN News, recalling that the late pope asked them to include migrants in their team. “In our sports team, we are not looking for just Catholics. We look for core values — being together, community, and attention to the disabled and the poor.”

“La Coppa degli Ultimi” (“the Cup of the Last”) is one of several spiritual initiatives promoted by Atletica Vaticana. Another initiative was a prayer box for the participants, into which runners of all faiths were invited to place written prayer intentions before competing.

Valentina Giacometti, vice

president of Atletica Vaticana, explained the initiative: “On the day before the race, we invited all runners to submit prayer intentions. Each card began with the phrase ‘I ran for,’ and we offered all of these intentions to the Lord during the Mass with Cardinal Vesco.”

Another noteworthy initiative of Atletica Vaticana is its service to Rome’s poor. After the race, the members of Atletica Vaticana and other volunteers go to Rome’s central train station, Roma Termini, to serve food to the homeless. Sister Marié-Theo Puybareau Manaud, who competed in the race, described it as a way of expressing universal fraternity as taught by Pope Francis.

“Service to the poor might seem disconnected to the idea of running. But I believe that connection is precisely that of universal brotherhood — ‘fratelli tutti,’” she said, alluding to the 2020 encyclical by Pope Francis. “In this race, we are not competitors but brothers. Sport and service together make up a movement of life, especially alongside the poorest, for whom we can offer hope.”

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

to create a more hospitable and inviting environment where ALL can encounter the love of Christ in Word and Sacrament, in Community, and in each other.

Contact: RSVP by April 1st at www.rcdony.org/clm-event

PUBLISHERS DAY

Plattsburgh/Brownville — All Catechetical Leaders and Catechists are invited to Publishers’ Day. Attend in person or virtually.

Date: April 25

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact: For more information Asoltero@rcdony.org for details. To register go to www.rcdony.org/publisherday

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

Massena — New location and save

the date! Highway to Heaven

Date: May 16

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: Featuring the Shroud of Turin replica exhibit, Father Jonathan Meyer, National Preacher of the Eucharistic Revival, Award-winning musician Sarah Kroger. The event will include Holy Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, a Eucharistic Procession with Bishop LaValley, the Eucharistic Miracles exhibit, films, vendors and more. There will be time for fellowship and service. It will be an awesome day for the whole family!

Contact: Space is limited and registration is required. To view the schedule and register, please visit: <https://www.rcdony.org/h2h> For more information contact, Mary Beth Bracy at marybethbracy@gmail.com

marybethbracy@gmail.com

DYING WITH CHRIST, LIVING WITH HOPE

Plattsburgh - When we make a commitment to die with Christ, we can truly live with hope. Learn about NYS Assisted Suicide Legislation and Canada’s MAID.

Date: May 30

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

Place: St. John Newman Center

Cost: \$10 donation, includes lunch

Features: Discussions feature theologians and healthcare professionals giving perspectives on suffering, grief, dying and our Christian duty to care.

Contact: Registration online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/living-withhope>

MEN’S RETREAT

Saranac Lake — The Diocesan Catholic Men’s Retreat to be held.

Date: June 12 to 14

Place: Guggenheim Dorm

Cost: \$125 and includes meals and lodging

Features: This year Fr. Leagon Carlin will speak about G. K. Chesterton. The retreat is open to men 18 years of age or older. Outdoor activities will include canoeing and hiking.

Contact: To register go to <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life.html> and then the bottom of the page. For more information, contact Stephen Tartaglia at sttartaglia@rcdony.org

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Utica - The Life-Giving Wounds retreat, for adults whose parents

separated or divorced to be held.

Date: June 26-28

Place: Good News Center

Cost: \$80-150 for commuter, shared room or single room. Retreat price includes overnight lodging, meals, and all retreat materials.

Contact: Register now at <https://solgw26.eventbrite.com/> If you have any questions, contact Steve Tartaglia at sttartaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

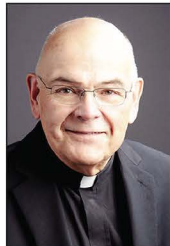
Finding something unexpected

Hardware stores provide lots of fun. The wide variety stuff there looks so interesting. Usually, when I go, I have in mind a particular item. However, since I don't know what it is called, I hope that no one in the store will ask what I am looking for since I do not want to display publicly my ignorance. Either I know what I am looking for, or I'll know it when I see it.

Well, reading the gospels is like going to the hardware store. There is just so much there. We read the scriptures because we are looking for something without knowing exactly what we are looking for just like wandering the aisles of the hardware store. Since they have existed for centuries, we hope that wisdom fills those pages or that solutions to our problems might be there or that those printed words might fill the emptiness in life.

Look at gospel narratives

about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. They never tell us why people went to the tomb or what they were seeking. Instead of finding a stone in front of the tomb, instead of finding a body wrapped in burial cloths, instead of finding just a tomb, they found something way beyond their wildest expectations: Jesus had risen from the dead.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

In other words, those early disciples were totally surprised by what they found. They were surprised. Jesus was not there. Others claimed that he had risen; they saw evidence that he had risen. Above all, they were totally surprised when he appeared to them after the resurrection.

Back to the hardware store, sometimes I find something much better than what I was originally looking for. So, too, what those early disciples

April 5

The Resurrection of the Lord

READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10

or Luke 24:13-35

found something way beyond what they had expected. They were surprised beyond their wildest dreams.

So, today we find ourselves in church, Easter Sunday. We may have come here with certain expectations and hopes. We may have come with doubts because we are not sure what to expect. We may be angry with God or in love with God or not sure what to think about God much less about His Son Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, like those disciples who came to the tomb, we come at least curious in some way. We have unfulfilled dreams. We have been touched in some way by God even if we

cannot identify that touch. All of us have been given a tremendous gift from God. That gift is the treasure that we call life.

But, as in the gospels, Jesus never forces, pushes, or makes us do anything. Rather, he always invites, always is there, always waiting for us. When we truly respond to this invitation, there will be a surprise - a life better than we could ever imagine, a fullness that does not go away, and a hope that will lead us to eternal life.

Even though I can get lost and confused in the hardware store, here in church there is no confusion. As we worship together, as we share faith, and as we receive the body and blood of Christ, there can be no confusion because Christ clearly told us that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

Respond to Jesus' invitation. Join with him on the journey of life, and above all, truly believe that Jesus is risen, and we shall rise with him. Alleluia.

CALLED TO SERVE

The Easter Vigil: Long but worth the time

There was a kid on my street in Queens when I was growing up who was an altar boy. He was serving in the Russian Orthodox Church.

I don't remember his name or where the church was located. I do recall him telling us one time during a shower that interrupted a pickup baseball game that the regular weekly service at his church was two to two and a half hours from beginning to end.

That seemed to us like a long time to be dressed in a cassock and surplice!

The rest of the guys on the block were Roman Catholic. Most of us were servers too. We shook

our heads in unison and individually uttered a "wow" or "no way" etc. in sympathy for the length of our friend's service. Our Mass on Sunday was about an hour, usually less by a few minutes.

Except the Easter Vigil. It was a long service for good reasons.

All the Roman Catholic kids who were servers hoped to get picked to assist at the Easter Vigil. It was the high point of the liturgical year.

The Mass included things we still find in the Vigil today. The priest would light the Paschal Candle, the celebrant would chant the Exsultet, the Easter Proclamation in Latin, baptize catechumens, we would

hear multiple scripture readings and the Gospel, all were read in Latin, and listen to the sermon, which was in English. The Mass was a celebration, with solemnity and joy, marking the Resurrection of Jesus.

Everyone was dressed "to the nines." That was an old expression that meant people were dressed elegantly or fashionably for this special occasion. Most outdid their Sunday finest. Women, even young girls, were in dresses and usually donned a new bonnet.

Men were in suit and

tie.

The Easter Vigil today is much the same today. I found this description online. Of this night's Vigil, which is the greatest and most noble of



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

all solemnities, there is to be only one celebration in each church. It is arranged in such a way that after the Lucernarium and Easter Proclamation (which constitutes the first part of this Vigil), holy Church meditates on the

wonders the Lord God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise (the second

part, the Liturgy of the Word, is in English) until with new members reborn in Baptism (the third part), the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people, the memorial of his Death and Resurrection until he comes again (the fourth part).

God and his Church have called me to be a deacon now. I still look forward to this night, as I did when I was an altar boy. It is a long service, but worth every minute as we worship God and thank him for the Resurrection of his Son.

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



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

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

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

Lenten appeal

It can be troubling to read about the persecution of our fellow Catholics in Nigeria — including churches burned and bombed, schoolchildren kidnapped and more than 8,000 Catholics killed last year for practicing their faith. But there is something more about Nigeria that you should know: Our faith is growing fast there.

Ninety-three percent of Nigerian Catholics attend Mass on Sunday. That's the highest rate in the world. They have welcomed the Lord into their lives, and nothing — not even the threat of death — will keep them away!

This Lent, please pray for Catholics in Nigeria and all who risk their lives to practice our faith and please consider giving again to The Pontifical Mission Societies. Your generous donation can support our fellow Catholics in Nigeria and other countries, help millions to know God's love, as we have known, and support Pope Leo's 1,130 missions around the globe.

Recently, Msgr. Landry, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, spoke to Father Solomon Zaku. Father Zaku shared not only the harrowing story of his home parish being bombed just five minutes after he stepped out the door but also spoke with great fervor about the joy he experiences being a priest in the country where Catholicism is growing fastest in the world.

"It really is divine," he told Msgr. Landry. "The more the church is persecuted, the stronger our faith becomes. We are convinced of what we are doing. On any occasion you visit one of our churches, you will see the vitality and the joy of the people."

Father Zaku also expressed his gratitude to The Pontifical Mission Societies and to partners like you in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. "We realize we're not alone."

That includes the U.S. Today, about one-quarter of Catholic priests serving in America were born in other countries. Many come from places like Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, India, Latin America, Vietnam and Korea, where faith is strong and the Church is growing — but where the Church is still young and resources are limited. Of the 201,000 seminarians around the world, fully 40% are in missionary territories supported by The Pontifical Mission Societies, thanks to American Catholics like you.

Your Lenten almsgiving supports the proclamation of the Gospel, the building of churches and schools, and the formation and support of priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay pastoral leaders in missionary dioceses across the world.

Please also join me in praying this holy season for our Nigerian brothers and sisters and other persecuted Catholics around the world who refuse to sacrifice faith to fear.

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.

OBITUARIES

Champlain — S. Marie (Glaude) Dupee, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain — Alfred L. Matott, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Gouverneur — Laura A. (Lamar) Swem, 64; Funeral Services March 25, 2026 at French Funeral Home; burial in Spragueville Cemetery.

Lowville — Joan M. (Haley) Hlad, 94; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in West Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone — Kimberly M. Russell, 43; Funeral Services April 11, 2026 at Frary Funeral Home.

Massena — Shirley E. (Rogers) Kenney, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher.

Massena — Janet St. Germain, 93; Mass of Christian Burial in summer at Sacred Heart Church.

Ogdensburg — Patricia M. (Wells) Amo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2026 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg — John H. Reed, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Plattsburgh — Dorothy L. (Ryan) Carr, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2026 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh — Mary Angela (LaDuke) Denton, 83; Memorial Services April 4, 2026 at Brown Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh — Judith L. (McGrogan) Garrow, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2026 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh — Harlan R. Spooner, 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Lottie Marie (Macy) Moody, 86; Funeral Services April 25, 2026 at Fortune-Ke-

ough Funeral Home.

Ticonderoga — John Edmund Morette, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Waddington — Barbara (Post) Patnode, 98; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown — Louis Eusace Tucci, 96; Graveside services at St. Mary's, Syracuse.

Willboro — Joan Evelyn (Morgan) Martin, 78; Funeral Services March 28, 2026 at M.B. Kilmer Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, South Glens Falls.



D.L. CALARCO
Funeral Home, Inc.
135 Keyes Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

Service Available

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Subscription Campaign

Please Check Appropriate Box(es):
 New Renew Check Enclosed \$ _____

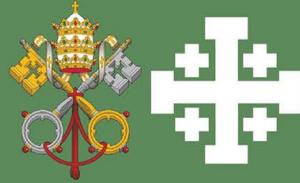
Annual Subscription Cost/Level
 Regular Subscription, \$27
 Outside of the Diocese, \$30
 Patron Subscription, \$35
 Special Patron Subscription, \$50
 Sustaining Patron Subscription, \$100
 Extraordinary Patron Subscription, \$250

Place in your parish collection or
Mail Payment to:
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

Parish _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Please e-mail me my copy of the NCC in place of a paper copy
 E-Mail: _____

If you would like to subscribe by credit card please visit our website: www.northcountrycatholic.org



Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Friday
April 3
2026



BUILDING HOPE AND A FUTURE IN THE HOLY LAND

YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS TO PROVIDE:

- 288 FRIARS IN COUNTRIES
- 65 SANCTUARIES AND 24 PARISHES
- 6 GUEST HOUSES FOR PILGRIMS
- 540 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS
- 1,050 EMPLOYEES
- 64 FRIARS PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD
- 18 SCHOOLS WITH MORE THAN 10,000 STUDENTS
- 28 YOUTH SERVED BY BETHLEHEM BOYS' HOME
- +1000 HOUSING UNITS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

AND HOPE TO OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE HOLY LAND

Commissariat of the Holy Land 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017 www.MyFranciscan.org