

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Designed by God,
guided by love, open
to life | Page 3

Respect Life collection
funds local pro-life
charities | Page 6

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 13

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 1, 2026

No NCC next week

The *North Country Catholic* is on summer schedule. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be dated July 15.

Follow Me:
Whoever
receives you,
receives me

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shares his homily for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 28.

No one would claim that there is a simple solution to the issue of mass migration; yet few of us can remain unmoved by the desperation that leads people to leave their homes and take their families on such perilous journeys.

The question of just how welcoming to be is one which many host nations, including our own, grapple with.

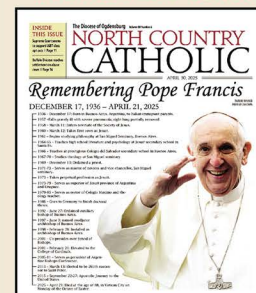
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) gathered June 16 to celebrate Father John L. "Jack" Downs for his birthday. Father Downs turned 97 on June 17.

AND THE WINNER IS...



The *North Country Catholic* was awarded a second place prize in the Catholic Media Awards (formerly Catholic Press Awards) in the category "Hot Topic - Pope Francis." The award was announced on June 19 at the Catholic Media Conference in Atlantic City, NJ.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope Leo: Eucharist is antidote to division

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV said June 24 that the Eucharist is a "powerful antidote" to division in the world, calling on Catholics to "draw with faith from this source of divine life" and to allow themselves "to be transformed by the mystery we celebrate."

"Thus, by incorporating us into Christ, the Eucharist teaches us to adopt the very style of life of the Lord Jesus, which was marked by the free gift of Himself," the pope said during

his general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"This gift draws us into the dynamic of unity, offering a powerful antidote to the forces of division that undermine our world, our communities, our families, and our hearts," he said.

The pope continued his catechesis on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, focusing on the Constitution "Sacrosanctum Concilium" on the sacred liturgy.

Leo highlighted the liturgical reform called for by the council fathers, especially the creation

of the Lectionary, the book containing the biblical readings for liturgical celebrations.

"The liturgical reform translated this request into the treasure that is the Lectionary, the book that gathers all the biblical readings for liturgical celebrations," he said.

"This richness has been drawn from the purest source of the living Tradition, which combines fidelity with tradition; with openness to legitimate progress," the pope added, citing "Sacrosanctum Concilium."

Reflecting on the Mass, Leo said the faithful are invited "to

listen to the Word of God and to be nourished at the Lord's table, where He offers Himself to the Father."

The two parts of the Mass — the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist — "are so closely connected with each other that they form but one single act of worship," he said.

"The Eucharist opens us to an understanding of Scripture, just as Scripture for its part illumines and explains the mystery of the Eucharist," the pope said, quoting Benedict XVI's apostolic exhortation "Verbum Domini."

NORTH
COUNTRY
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Fresh eyes of faith

While I love sports and have been loosely following the World Cup, I'm practically obsessed with the news coverage and social media photos and videos showing visitors from other nations enjoying various aspects of life in the United States.

Some of the visitors seem amazed by the size of our big box stores. Others are fascinated by our highways, school buses, drink refills or the portions at our restaurants.

As I watched a few of those videos, I found my-

self thinking, "Really? That's the thing that impressed you?"

Then it occurred to me: These visitors are seeing what's normal to us with fresh eyes. They are amazed by things I barely notice anymore because I've seen them all my life - no fresh eyes here.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Similarly, I think it's easy to become so familiar with our faith that we stop seeing how remarkable it is.

Many of us have heard the Gospel stories hundreds of times. We've prayed the same prayers for years. We know the re-

sponses at Mass. We know when to stand, sit and kneel. We know what happens next.

Those are good things. Familiarity means our faith has become part of our lives. But familiarity can also make us take things for granted.

We hear that God became man and lived among us. We hear that Christ died for us and rose from the dead. We hear that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. We hear that the Creator of the universe knows us, loves us and wants a relationship with us.

Those are extraordinary realities, yet I know there are times when I hear them without really hear-

ing them.

I wonder what it would be like to experience our faith with the perspective of someone encountering it for the first time.

What would surprise us? What would amaze us? What would leave us in awe?

We might finally see the gifts we've overlooked and remember the worth of those we take for granted.

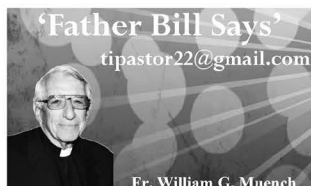
As I've watched World Cup visitors experience things that seem ordinary to me, I've been praying for that same kind of fresh perspective. I've been praying for fresh eyes of faith.

Because Jesus is worth following closely.

'Don't be afraid'

A few Sundays past, the Gospel reading at Mass described Jesus' efforts to prepare His apostles for the challenge of building the Church, the building of our Church that would continue until you and I came along. Among other things Jesus said to them "Don't be afraid." Jesus knew there would be difficult times for them - times of persecutions. So, Jesus says to them, "Don't be afraid." Jesus wanted them to be bold and unafraid in forming communities of believers. There would be parishes formed through the centuries - parishes in every country on this planet.

On that Sunday, in my homily I decided to share with the people the story of my experience when I was learning how to snow ski. It seemed to be a good example. I didn't take up snow skiing until I was in my thirties. In those days, in our diocese - the Diocese of Ogdensburg - many of the priests each January joined together for a ski trip to Mont-



Tremblant, an area north of Montreal. So, I decided to join them and take up snow skiing. I decided to join the ski school, and the others would head out to ski the mountain.

In that class, we first learned all the basics. Then, later, the instructor had each one of us take turns following right behind him - close - wherever he took us. He wanted to make us ready to ski - and to get over any fears we might have. He asked us to trust him. He knew new skiers, and he wanted us not to be afraid. I do remember that he led me to places I considered rather challenging. He certainly helped me to become more confident on my skis and not be afraid to ski freely. Gradually, I became more confident.

It proved to be a good

exercise. It was the beginning of many enjoyable skiing experiences for me. Now I realize that this story was like how Jesus prepared his apostles, how the Lord continues to prepare his followers even now. Jesus encourages us all to walk with him - to walk close to him, to follow close to him trusting our Lord and conquering our fears as we bring Jesus and his message to our part of this world - as we live our Christian life. In this way, we establish a good and powerful relationship with God, walking with him, being with him. This our time to know God and to become close to our God - to love our God and to become bold enough to share with others Jesus and his message.

Now, I do know this skiing experience is not the same as finding Jesus. But I want you to know that that young instructor taught me a great deal about trusting and how to conquer fears just as Jesus teaches us. Walking with the Lord in prayer

and adoration makes my faith stronger and more alive. I draw so much closer to the Lord.

That skiing experience was a rather long time ago. I still remember it well. I wonder where that instructor is now. I pray he is well and happy. His message still rings clear with me: "Don't be afraid, you can do it." Jesus continues to tell me, "Don't be afraid." Jesus wants me to be bold enough to make this a better world.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we again are asked to remember the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of those gifts is "fear of the Lord." This is a gift for us to realize how great our God is - how amazing. The gift of fear of the Lord is to recognize the wonder and greatness of God's presence that can infuse honesty into our relationship with God, that places us always in awe before the majesty of God. This gift also imparts an attitude of grateful wonder that God loves us and that we can actually share in His life.

FOLLOW ME

'Whoever receives you, receives me'

The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, June 28.

It seems like the whole world is on the move. In recent years we have seen huge numbers of people fleeing warfare, terror and violence in the Middle East and others seeking to escape poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. In the Americas, peoples from many countries head northwards, seeking a better life in the United States, trying to escape from drug and gang violence that tears families apart. Even people up north move in droves to the south to escape the rigors of our winters. It seems that everybody is moving somewhere!

Sometimes migrant people are welcomed and find refuge; sometimes they are turned away or encounter hostility when they reach the land of their dreams; sometimes, tragically they find death, drowning in the waters of the rivers and seas they try to cross. Last year, I met a grandmother, her daughter and her grandson who had walked, walked from Venezuela to Plattsburgh. Their story was one of tremendous fear, courage, and inspiring faith.

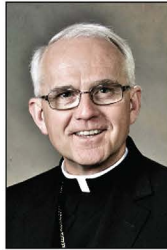
No one would claim that there is a simple solution to the issue of mass migration; yet few of us can remain unmoved by the desperation that leads people to leave their homes and take their families on such perilous journeys. Criminals take advantage of the plight of the destitute. The question of just

how welcoming to be is one which many host nations, including our own, grapple with. We have a right to protect our borders. But how do we, as Catholic Christians, do that justly?

The scale of mass migration is especially challenging for countries that pride themselves on being democracies with a

long tradition of welcoming people who are poor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Designed by God, guided by love, open to life

The natural beauty of creation has the power to draw us into the mystery of God. We can see, feel, smell, and sense God's creative handiwork in so many ways. Consider when we pause to savor the burst of colors in a sunset or the rhythmic sound of waves rolling upon a beach. It might be in the playful antics of a kitten or a child's first step. Everything reflects and proclaims God's glory and love. The Church teaches that through natural revelation, "even before revealing Himself to man in words of truth, God reveals Himself ... in the universal language of creation, the work of His word, of His wisdom" (CCC, 2500).

The Church teaches that through "natural reason, man can know God... on the basis of His works" (CCC, 50).

When we allow ourselves to be attentive to the wonder of creation, we begin to see that creation is not random or accidental, but ordered and purposeful. God has established laws within creation on which humanity can rely with confidence, laws that are to be respected by the stewardship of men and women (see CCC, 346).

Designed by God

In creating man and woman in His image and likeness, God enables us to share in His own life (see CCC, 225). Human dignity flows from this divine design. And, because God is love, divine love is inscribed in the human body itself. St. John Paul II taught that the body has a "spousal meaning" (see General Audience, April 14, 1982),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

**Designed by God
Guided by Love
Open to Life**

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And the award goes to...

North Country Catholic

"Another among many entries about encounters with Pope Francis, but this was moving and poignant. The encounters gave a picture of the pope through the eyes of the person who met him, and each was impacted in some way."

That's how a Catholic Media Association judge described the *North Country Catholic's* April 30, 2025, edition, "Remembering Pope Francis." The newspaper, along with Editor Darcy Fargo and Bishop Terry R. LaValley, were awarded second place in the "Hot Topic - Pope Francis" category in the 2025 Catholic Media Awards (formerly Catholic Press Awards). The award was announced at the Catholic Media Association Conference in Atlantic City on June 19.

First place honors in the category went to *The Georgia Bulletin* for "Atlantans Remember Pope Francis for Mercy, Bold Initiatives and Art of Encounter." Third place was awarded to *National Catholic Reporter* for "For Pope Francis, Beauty was Revolutionary. It Was the Face of God." Honorable mentions were awarded to *The Tablet* and *National Catholic Reporter*.

"It's truly an honor to be recognized by the Catholic Media Association," said Bishop LaValley. "While I've always

believed our *North Country Catholic* is an outstanding publication, it's always nice to know our esteemed colleagues in the publishing and media industry agree. Our small newspaper consistently punches above its weight, winning awards in categories dominated by large market and national publications, and I'm incredibly proud of the work our team does to create such a newspaper worthy of such recognition. While we were all saddened by the passing of Pope Francis, it seems fitting that he was remembered in an edition that represents some of our best work as a newspaper. It is with much gratitude that we offer congratulations to our editor, Darcy Fargo, and editorial assistant, Christine Ward, in recognition of their hard work in producing our awarding winning *North Country Catholic*."

"It never gets old seeing our little newspaper holding its own along with much, much larger publications," added Fargo. "The judge's inclusion of the term 'another among many entries' in the award description is a testament to the fact that it was a competitive category, and it makes it that much more heartwarming to know our newspaper and our reflections stood out."

This is the newspaper's ninth Catholic Press/Media Award since 2016.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Supreme Court seems to support LGBT class opt outs | Page 11

Buffalo Diocese reaches settlement on abuse cases | Page 16

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 60 Number 6

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 30, 2025

Remembering Pope Francis

DECEMBER 17, 1936 – APRIL 21, 2025

THOMAS BRENNER
PHOTO BY CHAUNTA



- 1936 - December 17: Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Italian immigrant parents.
- 1957 - Falls gravely ill with severe pneumonia; right lung partially removed.
- 1958 - March 11: Enters novitiate of the Society of Jesus.
- 1960 - March 12: Takes first vows as Jesuit.
- 1961 - Begins studying philosophy at San Miguel Seminary, Buenos Aires.
- 1964-65 - Teaches high school literature and psychology at Jesuit secondary school in Santa Fe.
- 1966 - Teaches at prestigious Colegio del Salvador secondary school in Buenos Aires.
- 1967-70 - Studies theology at San Miguel seminary.
- 1969 - December 13: Ordained a priest.
- 1971-73 - Serves as master of novices and vice chancellor, San Miguel seminary.
- 1973 - Takes perpetual profession as Jesuit.
- 1973-79 - Serves as superior of Jesuit province of Argentina and Uruguay.
- 1979-85 - Serves as rector of Colegio Maximo and theology teacher.
- 1986 - Goes to Germany to finish doctoral thesis.
- 1992 - June 27: Ordained auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires.
- 1997 - June 3: named coadjutor archbishop of Buenos Aires.
- 1998 - February 28: Installed as archbishop of Buenos Aires.
- 2001 - Co-presides over Synod of Bishops.
- 2001 - February 21: Elevated to the College of Cardinals.
- 2005-11 - Serves as president of Argentine Bishops Conference.
- 2013 - March 13: Elected to be 265th successor to Saint Peter.
- 2015 - September 22-27: Apostolic Journey to the United States.
- 2025 - April 21: Died at the age of 88, in Vatican City on Monday of the Octave of Easter.

The North Country Catholic received second place in the category Hot Topic - Pope Francis at the Catholic Media Awards on June 19.

Whoever receives you

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and oppressed. Noting the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our nation's bishops, a couple of weeks ago, consecrated this Land of the Free and Home of the Brave to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - a tender, loving, a welcoming Heart. The quality of our welcome, or our lack of welcome, is making many of us take a hard look at our core values, human decency and our very self-understanding. Is our welcome seen through the lens of our faith or our politics?

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us: "remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it." From Abraham and Sarah onwards, the scriptures

show how people who extend hospitality to strangers are often the ones who actually end up receiving the hospitality of God. In our First Reading today, the prophet Elisha wants to give some kind of payment to the unnamed woman who is so generous in her welcome to him. She declines his offer, saying that she has everything she needs. Her generosity is not given for any hope of reward but simply is an expression of her kindness, reflecting the sort of person that she is.

However, Elisha does promise her the one thing that she truly desires: the gift of a son. In the Gospel, Jesus intensifies this teaching on the importance of welcome and hospitality. Christ identifies so closely with His disciples that He says

that anything done to help them will be regarded as done to Him personally - even something as trivial as offering a cup of water.

God is never outdone in hospitality. We give different names to that hospitality: salvation, eternal life, healing, mercy, forgiveness, holiness. These are the ways in which we experience the hospitality of God. It never, never fails, always when we welcome God into our lives - in our prayer, in our service to others, in faithfulness to our calling - we find ourselves blessed, enriched by that encounter.

I remember that during the pandemic, we saw countless individuals who went out of their way to be hospitable, extending themselves to neighbor in need - making face

protection - even for total strangers, sanitizing our churches, health care workers, teachers, volunteers doing social outreach, food pantries, pastors, seminarians, parish staffs, and the list goes on.

In many small and countless ways, it is God's very self who is the visitor in our daily lives. For when we welcome strangers, feed people who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, visit those who are sick or imprisoned - then it is Christ Himself whom we are welcoming. And we are inevitably changed by that encounter.

We become more compassionate, more willing to serve, more ready to turn away from our sin, more gentle, more open to life, more able to listen, to pray, to love. In

short, we become more like the God we welcome. Such hospitality is not simply sacred - it is life-saving and life-giving both for us and for those we welcome.

The challenge of mass migration is forcing many countries, many individuals, including you and me, to examine our values and our heart condition. Clearly, we should not pretend that there is an easy answer, but our attitude to how we respond reveals the kind of persons - and society - we are. As we celebrate the 4th of July this coming Saturday, let us remember Jesus' words to each of us: "Whoever receives you, receives Me." My sisters and brothers, through what we do and say, May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

Designed by God, guided by love, open to life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

as God has written into human nature the vocation and responsibility of love and communion (see FC, 14). It is found in every man and woman, expressed in sexuality and fertility, marriage, and procreation. And here is where the modern methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) stand ready to help. NFP supports the Creator's sublime design for marriage, guided by love, and open to life. God's creation of male and female is not incidental but intentional. Sexuality, therefore, is purposeful. It draws people out of isolation and toward communion. It affects "every aspect of the human person" and it allows man and woman to unite in the unique communion of persons called marriage (see CCC, 371-372; 2332-2335). Flowing from this reality of community, marriage reflects God's own inner life – a communion of love that is both life-giving and faithful.

GUIDED BY LOVE

Guided by love means to be directed toward the good of the other. Love, by its nature, is relational. St. John Paul II powerfully expressed this truth when he wrote that man cannot live without love; without it, life becomes senseless and incomprehensible (see RH, 10).

Of all creatures, only human beings can know and love God and consciously participate in His life. St. Paul teaches, "we are created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance" (Ephesians 2:11). To be guided by love is to participate in God's creative plan and to help build a culture of life and love (see EV, 77).

Marriage is neither a social invention nor a product of chance. "It is ... the wise...institution of God

the Creator, whose purpose was to effect in man His loving design" (HV, 8). Because of this divine origin, the Church teaches that married love is freely given, faithful, permanent, and fruitful (see HV, 9). Marital love reflects God's own love!

When a man and a woman freely exchange consent, they establish a covenant for "the whole of life" that is "ordered by its very nature to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education" of children (see Canon 1055). God Himself is present within this union. When the spouses are baptized Christians, marriage becomes a sacrament, receiving its strength and permanence from Christ Himself.

OPEN TO LIFE

A unique gift and responsibility contained in the marital vocation is stewardship over the powers of life. God calls husband and wife to embrace their shared fertility as a gift. The Lord God created marriage to be the home of the family. Spouses give "themselves to one another" and at the same time give beyond themselves to the reality of "children, who are a living reflection of their love, a permanent sign of conjugal unity" (see FC, 14).

As stewards of the gift of fertility, married couples are invited to seek God's will together in a spirit of trust and humility. It is in this spirit that God helps them make prudent decisions about welcoming children. It is within this discernment that NFP finds its proper place.

NFP methods are evidence-based approaches to fertility education that can assist couples in identifying when fertility is at its peak so that couples can attempt to achieve or postpone pregnancy.

When avoiding pregnancy, no drugs or devices are used that can harm God's gifts. NFP differs fundamentally from contraception. Rather than interfering with God's design for married couples, NFP respects the integrity of married love and the gift of life.

When pregnancy has been attempted and a child is conceived, parents speak of the great joy and gratitude that they have. They also say that the time of childbirth is one of the most meaningful moments in their lives. Mothers will speak of God's presence when first holding their newborn baby. Fathers proudly admit they finally understand the meaning of fatherhood when looking into their newborn's eyes. This self-realization is due to the natural and "the fundamental task of family," which is "to serve life, to actualize... the original blessing of the Creator...of transmitting by procreation the divine image from person to person" (see FC, 28).

The fruitfulness of spousal love is not limited to the gift of children. Some couples, despite their desires, are unable to conceive. In this case, a married couple's openness to life can be expressed in other ways through adoption, foster care, or generous service to the Church and community. The vocation of marriage is wide – it calls all married couples to create homes where love is shared and others are nurtured. They are all called to mirror God's love.

All of creation proclaims the glory of God and the handiwork of His love! Whether single or married, every person is created in God's image and likeness, given the capacity to love, and invited to share in His life.

Within the arms of God's love, marriage stands as a unique gift to humanity – a sacred communion in which husband and wife live the fullness of human sexuality and become stewards of life. Marriage is not merely for the good of husband and wife, but for the good of the world. Truly, marriage is designed by God, guided by love, and open to life!

REFERENCE GUIDE

CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church (<https://usccb.cld.bz/Catechism-of-the-Catholic-Church2>)

EV: Evangelium vitae, St. John Paul II, 1995 (https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jpii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html)

FC: Familiaris consortio, St. John Paul II, 1980 (https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/

documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html)

HV: Humanae vitae, St. Pope Paul VI, 1968 (https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html)

RH: Redemptio hominis, St. John Paul II, 1979 (https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jpii_enc_04031979-redemptio-hominis.html)

To learn about married love, the gift of life and the ethical methods of NFP, see www.usccb.org/nfp Questions? Contact nfp@usccb.org

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DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE PICNIC

Saturday, July 18 • Noon to 5:00 pm
Camp Guggenheim

All youth who serve from across the Diocese for an afternoon of faith, friendship, and fun! Whether you're an altar server, musician, lector, greeter, or parish helper of any kind, this day is for you

- Cookout lunch begins at noon
 - Games, music & classic camp activities
 - Vocation Q&A with young adults & clergy
- Parents and siblings are welcome!**

4:00 PM Mass with Bishop LaValley
Giving thanks for youth serving our parishes

REGISTER TODAY:

www.rcdony.org/ya

QUESTIONS?

Contact Deacon Garry Stevens:

gstevens@rcdony.org

315-393-2920 (ext. 1345)

Environmental Stewardship**Fireflies**

During the first few weeks of summer, in unspoiled meadows one of the regions, a most popular insect emerges. Shortly after dusk, in places where grasses and weeds grow tall, the fireflies make their annual appearance and add a glowing charm to the air.

Older people may confirm what many ecologists state about fireflies. Over the past half century, the numbers of these flashing beetles have decreased. Fireflies reside in meadows overgrown with tall succulent plants. Since these wild, open spaces have decreased in abundance over the decades, firefly numbers have likewise dwindled.

Additionally, the use of pesticides has harmed these beetles and the various creatures in the soil on which their larvae depend for food. Climate change is also partly responsible for their dwindling numbers, as wild fluctuations in rainfall patterns create soil conditions unfavorable to their larvae.

There are several actions that firefly researchers suggest to help these bugs. Limiting the amount of property you mow can increase the amount of habitat favorable to them. Avoiding pesticides, fireflies have an improved chance for success. Limiting outdoor lighting is also said to improve numbers. Artificial light reduces the effectiveness of their beacon, and it lowers the chances for successful mating. Lastly, by trying to reduce your overall carbon footprint, fireflies might eventually experience a more stable weather pattern.

Seeing hundreds to thousands of these flashing signals used to attract a mate is a sight that uplifts the spirits of even the most hard-hearted of individuals. Currently, younger people are poorer for the absence of this early summer light display, which can be just as awe inspiring as a fireworks spectacle or viewing the northern lights. If we try, we may be able to recover this favorite outdoor show that occurs as June transitions into July.

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 lshoen@rcdony.org

Rest in Peace

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

July 1 – Rev. Norbert Callahan, M.S.C., 1909; Rev. William A. O'Connor, 1922; Rev. P. Leon Legault, 1991

July 2 – Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993; Rev. John M. Crable, 2012; Deacon Francis F. Bateman, 2019

July 3 – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954, Rev. Peter M. Berg, 2022

July 4 – Rev. Joseph L. St. Jacques, 1952

July 5 – Rev. Paul F. Lederman, 2016

July 6 – Rev. Armand Baron, O.M.I., 1936

July 7 – Rev. Felician Fehlner, O.F.M. Conv, 1952

July 9 – Rev. John Rogers, 1887; Rev. Joseph H. Emard, O.M.I., 1924

July 10 – Rev. Mary Ignatius Grom, 1936; Rev. John F. McNamara, 1971; Deacon Victor Fisher, 1999; Rev. James A. Delbel, 2013

July 12 – Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881; Most Rev. Albert Pascal, O.M.I., 1920

July 13 – Rev. George Garand, 1941

Bishop's Public Schedule

July 5 – 11:15 a.m. – Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake

July 6 – 12:30 p.m. – Mass at Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone

July 7 – 9 a.m. – Mass at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility in Cape Vincent

4:15 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

July 9 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

July 11 – 11 a.m. – Sisters of St. Joseph Jubilee Mass at The Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown followed by a luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn

July 12 – 12:15 p.m. – Mass at the 78th Annual New York State Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage at St. Anne's Shrine at Isle La Motte in Vermont

July 14 – 4:15 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

July 15 – 10 a.m. – Diocesan Prison Chaplain Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne 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

Respect Life

Collection funds pro-life programs

By Colleen Miner

Diocesan Respect Life Co-Director

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has approved the suggested amounts for the 2026 Respect Life second collection grants.

This year's collection totaled \$60,048. Thirteen grant applications were received. Of those applications, five Gabriel Projects were awarded grants. According to the grant reports, the five Gabriel Projects (Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh and Ogdensburg) have a total of 220 mothers currently in the program. The one-time assistance to mothers tallied 725 in 2025. One-time assistance is most often for diapers, wipes and clothing.

Birthright of Plattsburgh also received a grant. They gave 76 layettes to new babies in 2025. Other grant recipients include Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Catholic Charities in Malone and Liferight of Watertown. Lewis County Right to Life received a grant to assist with their prolife county fair booth, and Light of Truth radio received funds for their pro-life programing. Heartwell Homestead, a new pregnancy home in Plattsburgh also received a grant. They hope to open their doors in 2027. And Ascentcare's new mobile medical unit that serves both Malone and Plattsburgh received a grant. The outreach van is equipped offer testing and treatment of STDs, pregnancy testing, free ultrasounds and offer abortion pill reversal.

Thank you to all who generously donate to the Respect Life second collection. You make a difference in hundreds of lives by offering life-affirming help, education and support to those in need.



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Four years after Dobbs, pro-life leaders warn about abortion pill

By Katherine Matt
EWTN News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Four years after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, Catholic bishops and pro-life leaders are reflecting on the impact of the historic Dobbs ruling, citing progress in protecting unborn children while raising concerns about the increasing availability of chemical abortions.

In a statement released on the anniversary of the landmark Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, praised the ruling as a historic turning point while urging Catholics to remain engaged in the pro-life cause.

"On this Anniversary of the Dobbs decision, we praise God for the historic overturning of *Roe v. Wade*," Bishop Thomas said. "And we beg the intercession of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in building a culture of life."

Dobbs overturned *Roe* and eliminated federal constitutional protection for abortion, shifting authority back to the states. Since then, any laws restricting or expanding abortion have been carried out by the individual states.

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, recalled learning of the decision while standing outside the Supreme Court.

"As the opinion was put into my hand, I started reading it, and it said, 'The Constitution does not confer the right to abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled,'" Hawkins spoke during an interview with EWTN News Nightly. "This decision that came down four years ago today gave states and gave legislators across the country ... the ability to regulate or end abortion."

Hawkins described the post-Dobbs landscape as a new phase in the pro-life movement's efforts, with legislative battles now taking place in state capitals across the nation.

"The decision of abortion is now returned to the people and their representatives," she said. "We have 51 playing fields in our country where we're attempting every single day to pass laws to either outright end abortion or to severely restrict abortion."

Several pro-life leaders criticized

leaving abortion policies entirely in the hands of the states, arguing that abortion regulations should also come from the federal level.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, told reporters in a June 23 press call with Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO of FAMIly Leader, an Iowa-based evangelical political advocacy organization "that whole state's-only experiment is a failure. It has been tried and failed."

Dannenfelser said permissive abortion pill policies in states such as California and New York are undermining pro-life laws elsewhere, allowing abortion drugs to be shipped across state lines into states that have enacted abortion restrictions.

"We used to say there's going to be abortion destination places," Vander Plaats said. "In Iowa, we were concerned about a state like Illinois being an abortion destination. Now the abortion destination is in your mailbox."

Both the bishops and pro-life advocates raised growing use of chemical abortion drugs as a concern.

"Now with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing. The victory of the Dobbs decision risks being undone by the massive influx of abortion pills," Bishop Thomas said in the statement.

Pro-life leaders said changes made by federal regulators have enabled abortion pills to be prescribed through telehealth appointments and distributed through pharmacies and the mail, despite restrictions enacted by pro-life states.

Hawkins likewise criticized the federal government's handling of abortion pills and called for further action from the Trump administration.

"While we're excited and we're still celebrating the win of *Roe* being reversed, something that many people told us was impossible, we have not won the war," she said. "We're going to be celebrating the victory of the Dobbs decision. And we're going to be praying for our future success to see abortion completely abolished in our land."

Bishop Thomas urged the faithful to pray for women facing unplanned pregnancies, share information about abortion pills, and advocate for policies that protect both mothers and unborn children.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

English edition of pope's early writings set for release

Pope Leo XIV's early writings as a friar and prior general of the Augustinians are set to be released in September 2026, the Vatican announced this week. According to Vatican News, the writings will be published in the volume *Freedom Under Grace: Reflections on the Spiritual Tradition That Formed Me*. The volume will include homilies, speeches, and letters from then-Father Robert Prevost. It was originally published in Italian on May 6 by the Vatican Publishing House under the title *Liberi sotto la Grazia*. The English edition will be published by Image Books, a division of Penguin Random House Christian Publishing Group. *Freedom Under Grace* offers insights into Leo's Augustinian spirituality and his preoccupation with themes such as unity, servant leadership, social justice, and constant spiritual renewal.

SSPX issues declaration of faith to Pope Leo, cardinals

The traditionalist Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) issued an open letter and a declaration of faith to Pope Leo XIV and the College of Cardinals on June 24. Ahead of the extraordinary consistory of the cardinals at the Vatican on June 26-27 and the SSPX's upcoming episcopal consecrations on July 1 without papal approval, the group issued the letter as well as the declaration reaffirming their attachment to Church tradition. "We are convinced that Tradition contains all the remedies for the deepest ills afflicting the Church and the world, for which solutions are sought in vain outside of it," the SSPX stated in their open letter. The accompanying declaration contains 154 statements defending traditional Church teachings, including on the sacraments, divine revelation, the Virgin Mary, the rejection of ecumenism, and fidelity to the Traditional Latin Mass. These documents from the SSPX mark the latest development in a series of public disagreements with the Holy See over the SSPX's planned episcopal consecrations without papal approval. The Vatican stated on May 13 that the consecrations would be a schismatic act, resulting in automatic excommunication for the consecrating bishops and those consecrated.

International coalition calls for moratorium on surrogacy

On June 22, the Government of Italy, in collaboration with the Holy See, Chile, and Cameroon, convened a high-level side event on surrogacy at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. Representatives of the participating states presented a joint declaration calling for an international moratorium on surrogacy as a step toward its eventual global abolition. In this context, a moratorium refers to a temporary suspension of surrogacy arrangements pending further legal, ethical, and human rights review. The event, titled "Building Momentum Towards a Moratorium on Surrogacy," was motivated by concerns over the increasing physical, psychological, medical, and ethical harms associated with surrogacy. The rapid growth of the surrogacy industry, projected to hit nearly \$100 billion by 2033, was another cause of concern.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

BROWNBAG DISCUSSION

Join us online to read and discuss Pope Leo's Encyclical Letter Magnifica Humanitas.

Date: Wednesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Time: Noon

Place: Online

Contact: Register at www.rcd-ony.org/brownbag. A link will be sent to participants. The document can be downloaded from the registration site. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

CHICKEN BBQ

Indian Lake – The Knights of Columbus will be having a Chicken BBQ.

Date: July 19

Time: Noon to 5 p.m. or until all are sold

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$15, half a chicken, corn on the cob, roll, and coleslaw, lemonade or iced tea.

RETREAT DAY

Saranac Lake – The Sisters of St. Joseph Justice Promoter/Faith and Ecology Committee are inviting you to a retreat day.

Date: July 25

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; registration begins at 9:30

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: \$25 as a suggested offering

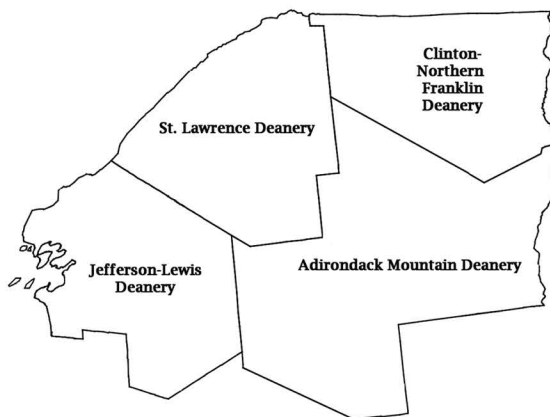
Features: An invitation to come aside amid the beauty of the Adirondack Mts. and Saranac Lake to ponder the mystery of God's creation and our role in His Plan. Facilitator: Aileen O'Donoghue, Astronomer and SLU Professor and Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

Contact: Wanda Kavanaugh sewwom59@gmail.com, 315-489-6733 Space is limited; Deadline to register is July 21. For more information, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, srbethssj@gmail.com

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FIRST FRIDAY

Champlain – St. Mary's to have



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.

Mass, Exposition and Benediction every first Friday of the month.

Date: July 3

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Malone – Chip in for charity at St. André's Parish Golf Tournament.

Date: July 24

Time: 12 p.m.

Place: 79 Golf Course Road

Cost: MGC Members \$65 / Non-Members \$100; Includes: green fees, Cart, Dinner & Prizes

Features: Fundraiser for St. André's Outreach Center. Men, Women, Mixed Divisions

Contact: Call Sue at St. André's Church Office at 518-483-1300 or malonemb@rcdony.org.

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity at two different locations.

Plattsburgh: Newman Center, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30; July 6 Aug. 3 Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

Ellenburg Center: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (please bring a bag lunch); July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8; session includes recitation of the rosary.

Features: Soaking Prayer is

done in a relaxed spiritual atmosphere wherein you surrender yourself to receive an outpouring and infilling of the Holy Spirit enabling you to be immersed in God's love, mercy, healing, compassion and peace. Each session begins with a short introduction followed by praise, worship and soaking prayer for an extended period of time as guided by the Holy Spirit. Remainder of time is spent listening to scripture readings and remaining receptive to receive healing at any level: emotional, psychological, mental, physical, spiritual or generational.

Contact: All sessions are facilitated by Eve McGill, Living Waters Healing Ministry 518-645-2648, evemcgill16@charter.net

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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: July 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SUMMER SOCIAL

Constableville – St. Mary's to have their annual Summer Social.

Date: July 10

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Hall

Features: A la carte menu available includes a choice between hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage, salt potatoes, drinks, Stewart's ice cream, and milkshakes. Prices are being kept at 2025 prices. There will be a cakewalk (always a favorite with a variety of homemade delights and bakery delights), games, a basket raffle, and finally a money raffle. The money raffle tickets can be purchased from any Council member or at the social. Chances are one ticket for \$1 or six tickets for \$5. First prize: \$100, second prize: \$75, and third prize: \$25.

HEALING WORKSHOP

Cape Vincent – Save the date for a breakthrough healing workshop.

Schedule: Aug. 6-7, 5:30 p.m. to 9; Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Vincent of Paul

Features: Are you longing for deeper healing, freedom, and peace in your life? Join Patrick and Joy Campbell, Benedictine Oblates, from the Cross of St. Benedict Society and Joyful Hope. The Breakthrough Healing Workshop is a powerful time of testimony, teaching, and prayer ministry to help you overcome spiritual obstacles. Heals past wounds and encounter God's restoring love. Feel free to invite a friend and seek healing and hope.

Contact: For more information contact bhwjhdioogd@gmail.com 315-486-7967

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

Clayton – Join St. Mary's music ministry and youth choir for an evening of sacred choral music, scripture readings, and solo performances.

Date: Aug. 9

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: This concert is a free event, but a goodwill offering to support our music ministry will be available at the door.

Contact: For more information 315 686 3398 or email corrinefwil-lis@gmail.com

ST. LAWRENCE

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Ogdensburg – There will be a Patriotic Rosary celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary and praying for each state and citizen of each state.

Date: July 12

Time: Noon, following the 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

MLB admits error over Bible verse warning

By Tyler Arnold
EWTN News

Major League Baseball (MLB) will not punish the three San Francisco Giants players who wrote Bible verses on their caps during the team's gay pride celebrations and blamed the incident on poor communication from the franchise, according to Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri.

Hawley posted a letter on X, which he said he received from MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred after the senator accused the league of discrimination and the Department of Justice (DOJ) opened an investigation into the matter.

The incident stemmed from the Giants' June 12 "Pride Night," in which most players wore caps that infused a gay pride rainbow into the team logo. Three players inscribed Bible verses on the caps, with one referencing Genesis 9:12-16, in which God tells Noah the rainbow is "the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and ev-

ery living creature with you for all ages to come" and promises to never flood the entire Earth again.

After the game, the Giants apologized for the players causing "pain and anger to many in the LGBTQ+ community" and the MLB issued warnings, which Manfred said was simply enforcing its content-neutral prohibition on writing messages on uniforms.

In the letter Hawley posted, Manfred said players cannot be forced to wear the pride-inspired uniform, but blamed the Giants for not properly communicating to players that it is optional.

He said "the Giants' communication with players was inadequate and not clear" but the MLB warnings to the players were delivered before the league became aware of that.

"Some players apparently did not understand that they had the option to wear their normal uniform and elected to add messages to their hats bearing the pride logo as a result," the com-

missioner added.

He said the players "were neither fined nor disciplined, nor will they ever be." He said the MLB "believes in the right of our players and fans to express their religious beliefs and at the same time supports the communities in this country that are fans of our clubs, including the LGBTQ community."

"We believe that a policy permitting our clubs to celebrate or honor segments of its fanbase, yet does not require players or other on-field personnel to directly participate in the celebration in ways that makes them uncomfortable, strikes the right balance," he wrote.

Neither the MLB nor the Giants responded to requests for comment from EWTN News about the letter.

Harmeet Dhillon, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ, sent a letter to Manfred last week to inform him that the DOJ will use all available means to hold employers accountable for any

discrimination against Christians and that the incident was referred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

In spite of the MLB's position that the policy banning written messages is content-neutral, the DOJ letter contends that the league has a "double standard" when it comes to enforcement, noting that players were allowed to wear "Black Lives Matter" messages in spite of the general prohibition.

This incident came less than a month after the Washington Nationals fired Sean Hudson, its former director of community relations, for saying the team tries to avoid the inclusion of pitcher Trevor Williams in promotional materials because of his Catholic faith.

Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo- rado, urged the Justice Department to reexamine the MLB's antitrust exemption because of the incident and to investigate potential patterns of discriminatory actions.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

DIOCESAN EVENTS

GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

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

Dates: 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 (waitlist only for week 5)

Cost: \$450 per week

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

YOUTH SERVICE PICNIC

Saranac Lake - The Diocesan Youth Service Picnic to be held for all youth in parish ministry.

Date: July 18

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: Join us for a diocesan wide celebration of the young people who serve our parishes as altar servers, musicians, lectors,

greeters, and more. Enjoy an afternoon at Camp Guggenheim with great food, high energy activities, music, time with peers from across the Diocese, and Mass with Bishop LaValley. A joyful summer gathering to honor the youth who help lead our parish communities.

Contact: Register at <https://rcdony.org/ya>

CATECHIST WORKSHOP

All parish catechists are invited to attend our Annual Summer Workshop Bonanza with 2 locations and dates to choose from.

Schedule: Aug. 8 at Immaculate Conception, Brownville or Aug. 15 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena.

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Features: Continue working toward certification and deepen your faith life. Travel money available for early registration.

Contact: For more information and to register please go to www.rcdony.org/certworkshops. Anita

Soltero 518-310-3669 asoltero@rcdony.org

DYING WITH CHRIST, LIVING WITH HOPE

Plattsburgh - When we make a commitment to die with Christ, we can truly live with hope. Learn about the new Physician Assisted Suicide law and how MAID has progressed throughout Canada.

Date: Sept. 29

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

Place: St. Peter's Emmaus Room

Cost: \$10 donation, includes lunch

Features: Discussions feature theologians and healthcare professionals giving perspectives on suffering, grief, dying and our Christian duty to care. The day will include guest speaker Jessica Rodgers, coalition director of Patients Rights Action Fund.

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

contact cminer@rcdony.org

RACHELS VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - Are you or a friend suffering after abortion? You aren't alone. Join others for a weekend of hope and healing.

Date: Oct. 9-11

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: \$150 includes lodging, food and all retreat materials. Scholarships available.

Contact: Confidential online registration at www.rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat For more information: Colleen Miner Email: cminer@rcdony.org Phone Number: 518-524-0774

HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg - This year's Annual Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat will have the theme of Love Heals.

Date: Oct. 8-11

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: The Presenter will be Sonja Corbitt. Do not waste another

day. Stop the pain. Love heals. John Paul the Great said, "Suffering unleashes love," because we only ever find Jesus and His love in our wounds. Sonja Corbitt has been teaching people how to acknowledge and open their woundedness to God's love for over 17 years as a leader in the Catholic Church and Scripture teaching space. You may know her as the Catholic Evangelista through her speaking, writing, and podcasting.

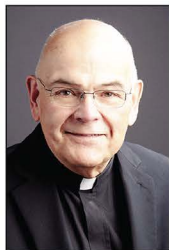
Contact: Space is limited and Register today: <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>. For more information contact Kathleen Nichols kmsnichols1163@gmail.com



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'We are always seeking something in life'

A man went for his annual physical. After a thorough examination, the doctor asked if his wife would be present to hear the results. The husband agreed. The doctor hardly began explaining the results when the woman started chatting about her ailments, her mother's, their children's and her neighbors. The doctor managed to squeeze in a few words about the husband's overall good physical condition. Afterward, in a private meeting with the wife, the doctor advised her that her husband needed rest, relaxation and peace. He



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

gave her sleeping pills as a suggestion. The wife asked when to give them to her husband. The doctor replied, "These sleeping pills are not for your husband. They are for you."

This weekend's Gospel is quite intriguing. Jesus invites people to come to him for rest and relaxation. The husband in today's story is burdened by a noisy partner. In life, we all carry some form of burden. Jesus' invitation is to set aside these burdens and embrace his way of life which is easy and light.

We are always seeking something in life. In

July 5

**Fourteenth Sunday
of Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

a sense, God created us with a happiness hole in our hearts, a hole that only God can fill. Money, fame and power cannot fill this hole; only God himself can.

That's why in the beginning of the Gospel, Jesus says, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have revealed to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned." Jesus here refers to the secret to

happiness. This secret is not found on a mountain peak, in the ground, in the sky or even on the Internet. It lies within each of us in the human heart, specifically in that happiness hole that I mentioned earlier.

Happiness resides in the human heart when it is filled with God. This happiness is precisely God himself, the one to whom we turn over all our cares and concerns. In a way, God made the human heart restless until we find Him. Our hearts will become even more restless when we try to fill our happiness hole with something other than God.

This weekend, we celebrate our nation and our great spirit of freedom.

Unfortunately, as a country, we sometimes try to replace our "happiness hole" without including God. We were founded as a God-believing nation, but some would have us forget the God of our foundation and replace Him with mere mortals. St. Augustine said it plainly: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you." That applies to each individual, but it also applies to our country.

This summer, we find rest and relaxation in our many family and community gatherings, especially in the many vacation spots in our country. May we remember, as individuals and as a nation, that we will not find true rest and relaxation until we rest in God.

CALLED TO SERVE

Imagine life without a bulletin

The Holy Spirit inspires me to write about bulletins this week.

I must admit, the inspiration was no doubt assisted by the fact that this humble servant has been our parish editor of the bulletin for a few weeks while the usual volunteer editor, my wife, recovers from a medical scare. The unsolicited experience has humbled me, again, and gave me new admiration for the volunteers or staff or parochial vicars or pastors who produce a bulletin almost every week. The weekly bulletin can be and is a rewarding experience. It is also a thankless job.

Every Catholic parish I know of distributes a bulletin each week to parishioners and visitors. It serves as one of the primary communication

tools within Catholic parish communities, often including inspirational messages or reflections from the pastor.

I borrowed some language from an on-line source for this definition.

"A typical bulletin contains essential information to parishioners like Mass schedules, Mass intentions, parish activities, classes, programs, recent sacramental events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals, financial updates like weekly offerings and other announcements."

The bulletin might be in color, might contain pictures and graphics, it might be a single sheet or a multipage production.

Traditionally printed for distribution at Mass, bulletins are frequently made available online on

a parish website, sometimes earlier than the print version. Our parish emails the bulletin to about five hundred parishioner addresses on the Friday before the Sunday printed date.

Many bulletins also feature advertisements from parishioners or local businesses to help offset production costs.

Bulletins might be produced in-house or sent out for printing. In the former case, bulletins might be "run off" on the copy device within a few days of publication and distribution.

In the latter case, parishes submit a finished product for printing and then the printer ships the finished bulletins back

to the parish office for distribution. That adds five to eight days to the printer's deadline. That means the local bulletin for a particular date has been created a week to ten days before it is read.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

And that creates deadline issues for the clubs, organizations, and ministers who count on the parish bulletin to publicize their event. "Get your information to us as far in advance as possible," is the usual cry of local editors. "If

you don't, there may not be room or the deadline might have passed for your event."

While bulletins traditionally focus on administrative and liturgical details, some parishes use

them to support evangelization efforts by incorporating content that reflects broader Church teachings and outreach to the unchurched or marginally engaged.

Greeters or usher distribute the bulletin when the pastor has decided it is appropriate at weekend Masses. Some pastors prefer you to receive a copy when you enter for Mass; some pastors prefer to distribute the bulletin as you leave.

Here's to the unsung heroine (hero) of the parish: The weekly bulletin editor. Think of her or him the next time you read your bulletin.

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

Saint Peter Apostle 2026

Many of us have been inspired by Archbishop Sheen — by his radio and television programs, writing, preaching, teaching and holy life. But the biggest impact Archbishop Sheen made is his promotion of the Church's missions. He repeated often, "My greatest love has always been for the missions of the Church."

During his years as National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies (1950-1966), he transformed missionary awareness. He also helped to raise \$200 million for the missions — \$2.1 billion in today's money — which sustained thousands of dioceses, built tens of thousands of churches, formed millions of seminarians and religious, and educated hundreds of millions of children in the faith.

He also gave his personal earnings to the missions, and after God called him home, he gave The Pontifical Mission Societies all the royalties for his books and audio, which still support the missions to this day.

It's essential for us to continue that work.

His beatification on September 24 is a time for all of us to thank God for Archbishop Sheen and to ask God to inspire in us his same love for the missions.

Last year, through your support of The Pontifical Mission Societies, we helped to build 751 Catholic Churches around the world. We educated two out of five future priests across the globe.

One of the biggest priorities of Archbishop Sheen, was to help the missions build seminaries and convents where future leaders of the Church can be formed. Missionaries come to plant the Gospel, but the real growth of the Church in missionary lands happens when native priests and religious are able to support themselves.

When Msgr. Landry was recently in Nigeria, he visited several seminaries and convents Archbishop Sheen helped to build. One of them, Bigard Seminary — named after Jeanne Bigard, the foundress of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies — has become the largest seminary in the world, with 714 seminarians! Their dormitories, classrooms, chapel, and grounds were all built in the 1950s when Archbishop Sheen was National Director.

But Bigard Seminary and other seminaries and convents in Nigeria and across the missionary world, while rich in vocations, are very poor and need help to maintain their facilities, and to train and feed future priests and religious. They look to us with hope and are praying through Fulton Sheen's intercession that we will be as generous as our parents and grandparents were during Archbishop Sheen's time.

I would be grateful for any gift you choose to share today. Thank you. And as Archbishop Sheen used to say: "God love you!"

Together in Mission, Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

OBITUARIES

Carthage — Gina Marie (Ashcroft) Lawton, 54; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2026 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, West Carthage.

Carthage — Dorine L. Grosse Miterko, 97; Funeral Services June 26, 2026 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Carthage — Josefa (Leiss) Montgomery, 98; private services held.

Champlain — Norma M. (Dermers) LaLonde, 91; Mass of Christian Burial in summer.

Champlain — Dale Edward Phaneuf, 60; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Chazy — Nilah A. (Belair) West, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 17, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Clayton — Robert S. Heffernan, 92; Graveside Services June 20, 2026 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Colton — Thomas M. Smith, 76; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Constable — John "Jack" Fleury, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

Croghan — Marcia Ellen Campany, 74; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2026 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan — Thomas H. Paté, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2026 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Cumberland Head — Samuel D.

Kleinman, 92; Graveside services July 21, 2026 at St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Carloine C. (McDonald) Tarbell, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2026 at Kateri Hall.

Lake Placid — Joseph Conrad Beneshan Sr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 20 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lyons Falls — Frances May Boshart, 89; Graveside services June 29, 2026 at Wildwood Cemetery.

Malone — Carolyn Bashaw Wagner, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena — Viola G. Boisvert, 81; Services to be held at a later date.

Massena — Pauline G. (Montembeault) Mailhot, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church.

Massena — Margaret A. (Cook) Tyo, 72; Graveside services to be held July 6, 2026 at Pine Grove Cemetery.

Mooers Forks — Olivette Annunciale (LaValley) Duprey, 95; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2026 at St. Ann's Church.

Mooers Forks — Philip G. Miller, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2026 at St. Ann's Church.

Norwood — Deanna L. (Bressee) McGinnis, 81; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2026 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood — Robert E. Radell, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 17, 2026 at St. Andrew's Church;

burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Ronnie M. Rogers, 66; Graveside Services June 19, 2026 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Margaret (Eells) Jackson, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Potsdam — James Thomas Freer, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Eric T. Merrill, 56; Funeral Services June 20, 2026 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Union Cemetery, Vermontville.

Tupper Lake — Janet Rita (Bombard) Roberts, 77; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2026 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Geradine (Van Nortwick) Walsh, 74; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2026 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Waddington — Maureen (Murnen) Condlin, 86; Funeral Services June 16, 2026 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown — Verna J. (Jackson) Crabb, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

Watertown — Thomas P. DeLosh, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2026 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Michael F. Peck, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2026 Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Meet the Camp Guggenheim Staff

It's almost time for the start of the Camp Guggenheim season! Session 1 (ages 11-13) starts July 5! Week 2 (ages 12-15) and Week 5 (ages 16-18) are waiting list only, and other weeks are filling fast. Register today at rcdony.org/youth/camp/registration to secure a spot for your child/grandchild!

The following is the third installment of our annual "Meet the Camp Guggenheim Staff" series.

The final group of 2026 camp staffers will be featured in the next edition



MaryCatherine "MC" Izzo
Nurse

Hometown: Lake Placid

Bio/Welcome: Hey, My name is Angela Dwyer! I'm so excited for my second year on staff this summer! I'm a junior at Plattsburgh state studying speech pathology! I've known Guggenheim my entire life, and I just want everyone to experience a week here at a camp! We do so many fun things at camp, there's something for everyone! At the heart of it all it will strengthen your faith and bring you closer to God, and you get to do it all surrounded by the amazing friends you'll meet here! Praying for you all as we prepare for an amazing summer!



Lucia Bird Matarazzo
Counselor

Hometown: Charlotte, VT

Bio/Welcome: Hi everyone! My name is Lucia and I cannot wait to be back at camp for my second summer on staff, and my seventh summer at camp! I just wrapped up my sophomore year at Butler University in Indianapolis as a Dance Performance, Psychological Neuroscience, and Religious Leadership major. Some things I love are bike rides with my friends, playing praise and worship music, the leaves in the fall, and random adventures with friends and family. Camp is my absolute favorite place to be, and I cannot wait to share it with you all this summer. There is so much joy to experience here as you grow in your faith, and you will meet people that stick with you for life! I cannot wait to meet everyone and see faces new and old! Keeping you all in my prayers!



Anna Ulager
Counselor

Hometown: Hinesburg, VT

Bio/Welcome: Hi! My name is Anna Ulager and I am so excited for camp! This will be my first year at Guggenheim! I just finished up my first year at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame Indiana as a Speech Language Pathology major and Religious Studies and Theology minor. Some of my favorite things to do are listening to music, swimming, kayaking, hiking, and hanging out outside with my family and friends. Since this is my first year at camp, I don't know what my favorite part will be yet but I am so excited to share the summer with you! I can't wait to meet you all and I am keeping you all in my prayers! God Bless!



Jacob Crawford
Counselor

Hometown: Peru

Bio/Welcome: Hey everybody! My name is Jacob Crawford and I cannot wait for camp this year! This summer will be my 7th year at camp and my second on staff! I'm currently studying to be a math teacher at SUNY Plattsburgh and am going into my junior year. I absolutely love music, the beach and soup. This year I'll be directing Teen Vision with Katie and am so excited for this summer! I just know this summer will be amazing and can't wait to see all of you there!



Nick Marshall
Cook

Hometown: Malone

Bio/Welcome: Hi everyone! My name is Nick and this will be my second year at camp and as the cook! I love the outdoors and camping, I'm very interested in permaculture food forests and Catholic distributism. These interests shape my goal to build sustainable food producing eco systems and decentralized, off grid natural buildings that express God's order and the Church's teaching of subsidiarity. Camp is such a great place and im soooooo excited for all the fun and meaningful moments we will experience this summer!

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