

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Director reflects
on impact of
Sr. Cindy | Page 4

NY Catholic mother
denied vaccine
exemption | Page 13

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 21

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Outreach to move to school building

St. Peter's Outreach, a ministry of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, will be moving from its location on Main Street in the village to the former Trinity Catholic School building.

The move will be a gradual process.

The decision to relocate the outreach is similar to a move made at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, which now houses a large outreach and other not-for-profit organizations in the former Holy Family School.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

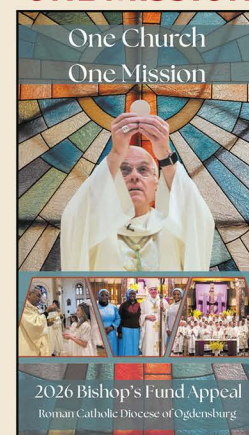
PONTIFICAL CASSOCK RECEIVED



PHOTO BY THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

New Discipleship and Configuration Stage seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, including seminarian Ladouceur Flarissaint from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, received their pontifical cassocks during Evening Prayer tonight. In keeping with the centuries-old tradition of pontifical seminaries, these distinctive cassocks are a visible reminder of the Josephinum's history and its special relationship with the Holy See. Wearing them on solemnities and other special occasions is one way the seminarians embrace that heritage and participate in the life and traditions of the Josephinum. Flarissaint is pictured with Msgr. Steven Beseau, seminary rector/president.

ONE CHURCH, ONE MISSION



The 2026 Bishop's Fund Appeal, One Church, One Mission, launches in parishes Sept. 19 & 20. The fund supports numerous ministries and provides assistance to individuals in need.

LEARN MORE, PAGES 6-9

Pope: Take responsibility for human dignity

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV at his Wednesday general audience urged people to take responsibility for the dignity of each human person and to embrace an identity centered on gift of self.

"This dignity is entrusted to the responsibility of each person: at the same time, it also demands solidarity and mutual care, overcoming the many falsifications and manipulations that still disfigure our perception of it and hinder its realization," the pontiff said on Sept. 9.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, the pope continued his catechetical cycle dedicated to the Second Vatican Council's constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, whose first chapter addresses the dignity of the human person.

In particular, the Church's magisterial document underscores that human dignity is the foundation and condition for "those values which are most highly prized today," while warning that these must not lose sight of their "divine source," in order to avoid possible distortions arising from the "taint in man's human heart."

The pontiff noted that "the path ahead is not yet complete

and must address the contradictions, both old and new, which prevent its full realization."

He also recalled that the Church offers a clear contribution in this area by reaffirming that human dignity arises from the very being of the person, citing in this context his recent encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*.

He explained that the infinite dignity of the human being is rooted in his identity as a creature made "to God's image" ... capable of knowing and loving his Creator" and noted that "the person always implies relationship, communion, and participation in relation to God and to

others."

He also emphasized that the dignity of the person "excludes self-centered isolation. To be a person means to perceive oneself as a gift to be shared, growing and maturing through acceptance, reciprocity, and service."

The Holy Father presented decisions contrary to human dignity throughout history as one of the causes of humanity's "inner division."

"All of human life, whether individual or collective, shows itself to be a dramatic struggle between good and evil, between light and darkness," he said, quoting *Gaudium et Spes*.

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 Director



Publish

45 issues

per year:

Weekly except

skipping every

other week be-

ginning July through August

and skipping one week in

December by the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

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

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and additional mailing

offices as

Periodical Postage.

Subscription:**For one year:**

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Wednesday prior to

publication. Paper is

printed each Friday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic

Press Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

I couldn't handle it alone

I needed help.

I was in the gym attempting a heavy (for me) lift. The same weight had moved pretty easily for several repetitions another day, so I didn't think I needed a safety spotter.

The first time I lowered the weight and pushed it back up, it moved slowly, and the lift felt harder than I expected. Not one to think things through, I still went for another attempt.

I got the weight down to my chest and started to push it up. Despite summing all my strength, the bar wasn't moving.

My brain started racing,

trying to figure out how to escape being crushed by the barbell. Just as I was preparing to attempt to raise one hand higher than

**Darcy L. Fargo**

the other to dump the weights off the bar, a gym regular – a man I had never spoken to – grabbed the bar, got it off my chest and put it back on the rack where it started.

I started thanking him profusely for watching out for me and for helping.

"We're all in this together," he responded. "We're all just trying to be the strongest or healthiest we can be, and it's easier if we do it together."

I thought of that as I re-

flected on the importance of the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

We're all in this – this effort to follow Christ and allow Him to give us eternal life – together. We're truly One Church, One Mission.

We're all called to share in Jesus' ministry and to reflect His love, drawing others to Him. Sometimes we participate directly in ministries and evangelization. But there are also ministries in which we may not be able to participate directly, but that we recognize are vital. For example, I'm certainly not qualified to serve as a seminary instructor, but I know we need men to attend seminary and follow God's call to the priesthood. And I'm not able to spend five

weeks in the summer working at Camp Guggenheim, but I know we need to give our youth meaningful opportunities to encounter Christ and form friendships centered on Him.

The Bishop's Fund allows us to participate in those ministries. Recognizing – like the gym guy – that we're all in this together, we can participate in the work of educating our seminarians and deacon candidates, educating and forming youth and adults, and serving those in dire need.

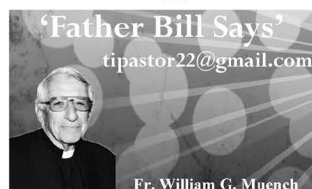
Please consider supporting this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal. If you're unable to give financially, please support the effort with your prayers.

We all can help.

The responsorial Psalms

As a retired priest, my only ministry is to celebrate the Mass in this parish. There are no other real demands, and that is okay with me. I do continue to notice the power and glory of each Mass – the prayers and Scriptures of each Mass. However, I am constantly amazed at the unique surprises of our Catholic liturgy. No matter how many times I celebrate Mass, I must tell you that I discover something new in each Mass.

Today, I want to call your attention to the unique prayer that is the response for the Responsorial Psalm at each Mass. Every Mass, Sunday and daily Mass, after the First Scripture reading, a Psalm is sung or read. The Book of Psalms is in the Old Testament. There are 150 Psalms; they are actually songs that were written to be sung at religious services. Each time the Psalm is sung at Mass, there is a response for the congregation to sing after each verse of the Psalm. I think of these responses

**Fr. William G. Muench**

as terrific and powerful prayers. The message of the response is so good that I often think I should take a moment and comment about its message for the congregation.

Today, I would like to consider with you the Psalm Response at the last few Sundays this month. At the Mass, for the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – the Psalm Response was, "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." I believe that God reaches out to us often with his word. He reaches out to us each day – during prayer and even during an ordinary day – with His words of support and encouragement. We, followers of the Lord, must be open and ready to listen to each word of prayer. The Lord challenges us

to open our hearts to listen. Never hardening our hearts with distractions or worries or such. We repeat the Psalm Response several times. May we recognize the Lord's call that we keep our hearts open and attentive.

The next Sunday, the Psalm Response to Psalm 103, we were to say, "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." Our prayer is a moment to remind God just who He is. And we pray this to remind ourselves who our God is for us. Each time we stand before our God – especially in repentance – that our God is kind and merciful. We remember that our God is slow to anger. He is always deeply compassionate toward us. We are a loved people. We are a forgiven people. Each time we respond this prayer, we remember that God cares for us.

Then on the Twenty Fifth Sunday, the Psalm Response is "The Lord is near to all who call upon

Him." We respond to remind ourselves that our God is always near to us. We can call upon him to walk with us, to be closer to us right now. When we join in participating at Mass, as we respond to the Psalm, we call the Lord to stay near to all that we are doing at this Mass. Each day – in our ordinary day – we may realize that there is a time when we truly need the Lord's presence. Jesus says, "Call upon me." Our response tells us that Jesus will stand with us now. He will be with us. Never forget to call upon the Lord.

So, I encourage you to notice this little prayer at each Mass. Listen and pray these simple Psalm Responses. They are so great – a magnificent prayer; they are truly the Lord's message for today. This Psalm Response reminds us of who God is and who we are as His people. And I guarantee to you that often there will be magnificent surprises, surprises that will truly transform us.

Outreach to move to former school building

By Bob Beckstead
Watertown Daily Times

Plans are underway to move St. Peter's Outreach Ministry, formerly St. Vincent de Paul, from its 128 Main St., Massena, location to the former Trinity Catholic School building.

Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, said the village's zoning board approved a variance to allow them to move the operation to the school building.

"We went before the zoning board and got a zoning variance. We obtained that just last week to make use of Trinity Catholic School for the purposes of St. Peter's Outreach," he said.

Reilly said leadership from St. Peter's Parish and St. Peter's Outreach began discussions about a potential move a few months ago. They began to investigate the possibility of transferring some, most, or all of the St. Peter's Outreach operations to the school building, which closed its doors at the end of the 2023-24 aca-



St. Peter's Outreach will move from its current location on Main Street in Massena to the former Trinity Catholic School.

demic year.

"Lots of different moving parts to that. Here is what's not happening — an overnight, dark of the night move and expecting the volunteers of St. Peter's Outreach to grab your stuff and hurry up. That's not what's happening," he said.

He said they had a "huge, for the most part unused building" at Trinity Catholic School, which could provide a "landing zone" for the ministry's Christmas program.

Reilly said any move would not happen overnight.

"I'm not even certain

exactly what it looks like. We're still working those things out. We did have a number of meetings and planning and kind of thinking through what this would look like," he said.

However, he said, some movement has already taken place.

"We are going to have to go ahead and use it for the Christmas program, and a good amount of furniture barn furniture is being stored in the front on the basement level. That's happening now because the reality is, St. Peter's Outreach is bursting at the seams

where it is. They really don't have any place else to go," Reilly said.

He said they measured the square footage in the Trinity cafeteria, which is already used for Saturday table tennis games, Zumba and other occasional activities.

"The cafeteria alone at Trinity Catholic School has more square foot space than the whole thrift store, all floors of it. And that doesn't count going up with the shelving and such," he said.

The one issue is accessibility for those who need assistance getting up a stairway to the cafeteria.

"That is a big consideration. Right now people have to climb steps to get into the thrift store. If you want to shop throughout the thrift store, you have to

climb stairs to the second floor in the thrift store. But, that would be a thing that would have to be dealt with," he said.

Any move to the school building would happen in phases, Reilly said.

"There's the Christmas program. There's the thrift store. There's the food pantry. There's the Gabriel Project. There's the furniture barn. There's a lot of different aspects and moving parts to St. Peter's Outreach, and could we envision a phase move in which one part goes at a time and settles in and we work that out," he said.

This article is courtesy of the Watertown Daily Times/Johnson News Services. It is reprinted with permission and thanks.

Supporting the 2026 Bishop Fund Appeal Insert

*Serving the insurance needs of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
New York, Inc.**

Supporting the 2026 Bishop Fund Insert

Director reflects on impact of Sister Cindy

Seeing Sister Cindy Sullivan's picture on the cover page of the North Country Catholic with the words above it "Farewell Sister Cindy" slowed me down to ponder the gift she has been to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Sister Cindy has visited every classroom in the Catholic Schools and many parish religious education programs.

She always arrived enthusiastically, bringing videos and photos showing the unique landscape and mission assistance her community provided to Quito, Ecuador, including a center to hold classes to learn sewing, cooking, barbering, hair-dressing and other life skills to earn money so families can earn money. She would ask the students to pray for these families and



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

other families across Asia, Africa, Peru, Pacific Islands, Middle East and Latin America that would be supported by their fundraising.

Sister Cindy was well prepared and equipped with answers to the students' questions, and they enjoyed watching and listening to learn how they could help children around the world like them.

Likewise, Sister moved adult hearts about mission life in Ecuador. Each summer she shared her missionary experiences in parishes as part of the missionary co-op program, a summer appeal for

missionaries to raise money to support their ministry back home.

Each year when Sister Cindy spoke about how she had been in training to be a professional golfer, everyone sat up and listened eagerly to learn how she went from golfer to missionary. What a delight it was to see hands in pockets and purses waiting for the collection basket after her talk- showing her gratitude for sharing her mission story.

From the bottom of our hearts, I would like to thank Sister Cindy for her service to the missions. Her joy in



Students from Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown pose for a photo after a presentation and request from Sister Cindy Sullivan in 2025. Sister Cindy, with the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, left the Diocese of Ogdensburg Sept. 12 to return to her community's motherhouse in Iowa.

her chosen vocation has always brought students, teachers, parents and all of us happiness. Thinking of her in the future will bring smiles to our faces and prayers to our lips and we wish her well.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

SWEETS & SOUNDS



The Altar & Rosary Society of St. Andrew's Church in Norwood held an ice cream social with the Norwood Brass Firemen in the Norwood Village Park on Aug. 6. Stewart's Shops donated ice cream for the event. The Brass Firemen and Altar & Rosary Society are pictured with Father Ray Moreau, pastor.



Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. Signs will be provided.

LOCATIONS

Gouverneur - St. James Church Line up along Main Street, 12 p.m. Contact: Brandy, prinnnygrl@aol.com

Massena - Main Street & Rt. 37, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 Contact: Fr. Mark Reilly, mreilly@rcdony.org

Plattsburgh - Smithfield Blvd., 1 p.m. to 2 Contact: Deacon Lushia, lushiak@gmail.com

Potsdam - Pick up signs in St. Mary's Community Room. Gather for prayer at 12:50 in public parking lot across from Roxy Theatre, Line up along Main Street. 1 p.m. to 2. Contact: Hattie, campusministriesm@gmail.com

Saranac Lake - Meet at Bandshell/Riverside Park, line up along River Street 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 Contact: Colleen, cminer@rcdony.org

Watertown - Public Square, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. (please note this location will be held on Oct. 3) Contact: BetiAnn Honan, bhonan51@gmail.com

For more information: www.lifechain.org

A KNIGHT'S REFLECTION

The grace that leads us home

A few years ago, feeling nostalgic, I visited St. Joseph's Church in rural West Chazy, the parish where I was baptized. It is a short drive from my childhood home. As I sat in the sanctuary of my patron saint, picturing my family gathered around the font decades ago, I realized I had taken the grace of my baptism for granted. Only recently, after a wrong turn led me to a small-town church in New Hampshire, did I come to understand the richness of my Catholic heritage.

What caught my attention was a state historical marker designating the site of "the first Roman Catholic edifice in New Hampshire" - a stately 1823 brick structure erected by a former Episcopal minister named Virgil Horace Barber. Born into a prominent New England Protestant family, Barber was an influential clergyman in an intensely anti-Catholic era. Yet, in 1814, divine grace interrupted his comfortable life.

For Barber, it was the question of apostolic authority that led to a rigorous study of Catholic doctrine. He sought counsel from Bishop John Cheverus of Boston and was deeply moved after discovering a St. Francis Xavier novena that belonged to an Irish servant girl in his home. His intellectual pride gave way to surrender, and in 1816, he formally entered the Catholic Church in New York City.

What followed was remarkable. Barber's conversion quickly led his father, wife and five children into the Catholic Church. Though the ex-

act number is unknown, as many as 20 others outside the family also converted within the next few years. With the Church's permission, Virgil and his wife ultimately separated so he could become a Jesuit priest, taking the title Reverend

Barber, SJ, and she joined the Visitation Order to become a nun. All five of their children later entered religious life.

As I stood before the former Catholic church and school - the fruit of Barber's conversion - I considered the

"call to conversion" in Holy Rosary's third Luminous Mystery. This marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry of mercy, calling believers to turn away from sin and transform their hearts. Specifically, He was offering humanity a pathway out of sin through the grace of conversion.

I could see a connection between the grace of my early baptism, the dramatic grace of Barber's adult conversion and the conversions happening in our modern world. In a culture filled with noise, constant connectivity and secular distractions, the decision by individuals to seek God today is just as remarkable as my own infant baptism or the awakening of the former Protestant minister two centuries ago.

When someone decides to seek the truth today, it begins with a quiet stirring in the soul. The Holy Spirit, our promised Advocate, senses a small, receptive spot in a warming heart where Jesus' teachings can take root. In our parishes, this receptiveness to the

Holy Spirit takes tangible form in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). Whether unbaptized catechumens preparing for the full Easter sacraments or baptized candidates making their profession of faith, cradle Catholics rarely see the courage of this commitment. For nearly a year, these individuals meet weekly, learning the foundational doctrines, rich traditions and moral teachings of the Catholic faith. Initially, a candidate meets with parish members and clergy in an informal setting to ask questions, share doubts and voice desires. In these quiet rooms, far removed from the noise of the modern world, the same miracle of conversion that captivated Barber comes alive once again.

In an era when convenience is worshipped, these seekers make a counter-cultural commitment. Like Barber, they are not searching for an easier path or a social gathering. Instead, they grapple with profound questions of truth and are willing to set aside misconceptions in their pursuit of a better life, anchored in the One who declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

The planned trip to West Chazy, along with my unexpected discovery in West Claremont, helped me realize that the journey of conversion is a tremendous grace. Whether through a quiet baptism as an infant or the kindled spirit of an adult in a local parish meeting room, the call of the Luminous Mystery remains unchanged. We are all invited to step out of the noise, answer the Advocate's call, and allow the grace of conversion

to lead us home.

Mike Langlois is the Faith Formation Director for St. Augustine Knights of Columbus Council 7273 in Peru, New York. He is also the Upstate Conference Coordinator for Evangelization and Faith Formation for the New York State Knights of

Columbus, which encompasses the Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Ogdensburg dioceses. Local Knights of Columbus councils interested in fortifying the faith of their memberships, or offering column topic ideas, can contact him at mjlang67@gmail.com.



Mike Langlois

Meet the Catholic Charities staff

Editor's note: The following is an installment of an ongoing series to introduce the staff and programs of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



William LaPage

William LaPage is administrative assistant for Catholic Charities based in Malone. LaPage is responsible for the operations of Baby World, Furniture Ministry, and the Essential Connectivity Program, as well as for the supervision of volunteers. He works as a liaison with the Franklin County Department of Social Services, including but not limited to their homeless, adult protective, foster care, and preventive caseworker units, to provide clothing, furniture and other essential household items to vulnerable populations in our community. The Essential Connectivity Program is a one-time

service designed to support people in self-sustainability so that they can make, track and connect with services and programs which demand their participation.

LaPage also assists with strategic planning, program development and grant writing, responds to property management concerns and provides case management as needed.

He can be reached at 518-651-2946 or wla-page@cathcharities.org.

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BUICK

PONTIAC

GMC

SUBARU

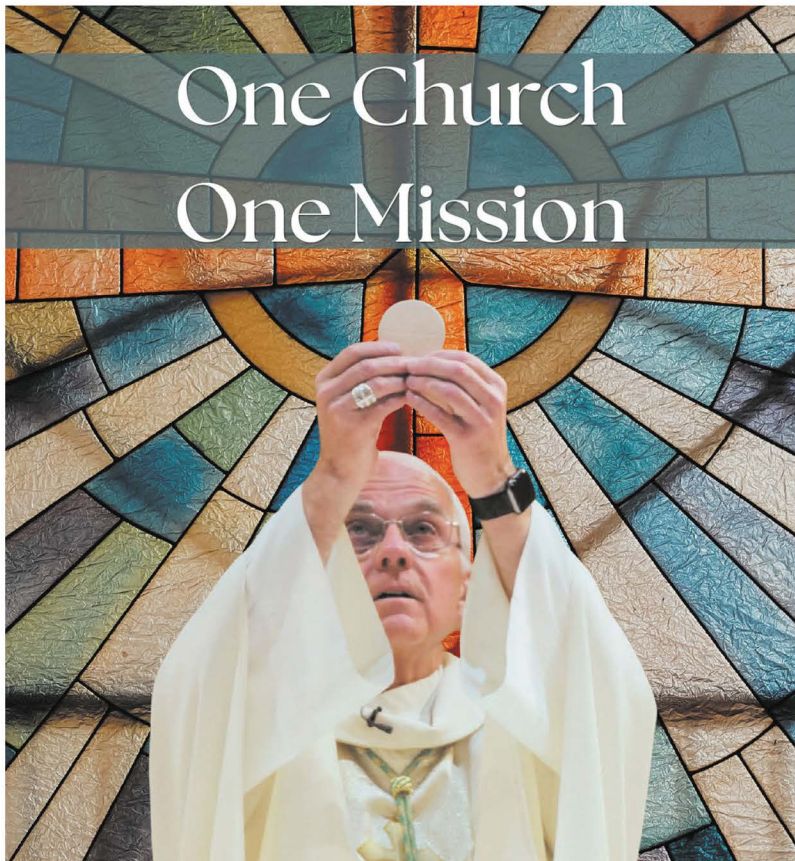
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"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

One Church One Mission



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17:20-21

In the hours before His crucifixion, Jesus called upon the Father to make all believers one; profoundly united as witnesses to Christ’s mission to proclaim the gospel message to all. One Church, One Mission.

Through the ministries and programs it funds, the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal provides each of us the opportunity to become one with Christ, to be One Church, One Mission as we:

- Educate our current and future priests, deacons and commissioned lay ministers who will minister and share the gospel message to parishioners across the diocese;
- Provide programs for children, teens, adults, and families in which they can deepen their faith, develop leadership skills, and form a servant’s heart through Faith Formation and Evangelization efforts in parishes throughout the diocese;
- Assist parents who choose a Catholic School education for their children with financial aid from the Tuition Assistance Program;
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth to our young people and families at our beautiful Camp Guggenheim;
- Provide Christ’s hope to those who need it most, those who are experiencing unexpected challenges due to: job loss, sudden or chronic illnesses, house fires, home repairs, and other tragedies through grants from the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

It is through your prayers and generous support of the Bishop’s Fund Appeal that we are able to provide these vital ministries and programs each year. Our goal is to raise \$1,370,000 this year. Gifts received beyond our goal will be designated for additional grants through the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

I am deeply grateful for your past support and generosity. I invite you and your family to prayerfully consider renewing your support to this year’s Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Together, we are One Church with One Mission.

With the promise of prayers for you and your loved ones, I am
Gratefully yours in Christ

† Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



2026 Bishop’s Fund Appeal

Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

For more information and to view the
2026 Bishop’s Fund video, please visit

www.rcdony.org/bfa



One Church, One Mission: Bishop's Fund Appeal

By Valerie Mathews

Director, Bishop's Fund Appeal

"Ever since I was very small, the call to the priesthood has been in my heart. It has always been a steadfast, quiet whisper. As I grew older and grew in my faith, the call became even louder. The priesthood has always been part of my heart and always will be," shared Father Tyler Fitzgerald, a newly ordained priest serving at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. "I am very grateful for everything the Bishop's Fund has done to help fund vocations, helping offset costs: tuition, books, and supplies, as well as funding discernment gatherings, which I attended when I was in high school."

Through the generous support of those who contribute to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, the diocese provided education to Father Fitzgerald and the priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg so that they may serve parishioners throughout the North Country.

"The mission of the Church is to bring all into one, one into Christ, together on a journey of faith toward heaven and

our salvation," Father Fitzgerald explained. "It is the beautiful role of the priest to be there as a father figure, to offer the sacraments, to pray, but ultimately, to walk with our brothers and sisters on the journey we make together. One thing I am most excited for in my own priesthood is how my life is going to help lead others to Christ. My ordination day was the happiest day of my life, and because of donors like you, it was possible."

Father encourages all who are considering donating to the Bishop's Fund to please do so.

"Your gifts helped me respond to God's call to be a priest," he said. "I am so thankful to those who donate, whether your gift is large or small, every little bit helps fuel and fund our journey of faith together in the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Along with the education of our seminarians and priests, the Bishop's Fund Appeal provides education for our Deacons and Commissioned Lay Ministers who serve in parishes throughout the diocese.

The 2026 Bishop's Fund Appeal - **One Church, One Mission** will begin in

parishes across the Diocese of Ogdensburg the weekend of September 19 and 20. This year, it is our hope to reach a goal of \$1,370,000 with any gifts collected over our goal to be used as additional grants through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund provides emergency assistance to those who are experiencing urgent challenges due to medical issues, job loss, house fires and unexpected home repairs.

"It was the latter part of October; I turned around and there was smoke coming out of my old furnace," shared Ann, a parishioner of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid. "The old furnace was original to the house and was 45 years old. I immediately turned it off and tried to get help. A company came in to put in a new furnace. I had gone 28 days without real heat in my home. I had a little box heater in my living room and a little heater in my bedroom, and that is how I kept warm. I want to thank the people who give to the Bishop's Fund. The grant from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund was a big help in re-

placing my furnace. I encourage people to donate whatever they can to the Bishop's Fund because it helps many people." Through your support, Bishop LaValley was able to provide hope and support to Ann and to others, like Ann, who are facing similar situations.

Along with vocations, education of seminarians, and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, your gift supports these additional essential ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg: Youth Ministry, Camp Guggenheim, Family Life Ministry, Natural Family Planning, Respect Life Ministry, Formation for Ministry Program, Office of the New Evangelization, Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Priests' Graduate Studies, Vocation Office, Permanent Deacons, Deacon Formation, Tuition Assistance Program, Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools,

Department of Faith Formation, Campus Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Department of Worship. These ministries strengthen our parishioners, our parishes, our communities and our diocese as we are **One Church** sent on **One Mission**.

Please take a moment to prayerfully consider a pledge or a one-time gift to the 2026 Bishop's Fund Appeal. Every gift is important; every gift makes a difference! Donations can be mailed to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, New York 13669 or made online at www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund.

To learn more about the Appeal and to view the 2026 Bishop's Fund video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa.

Thank you for the faith you live and the support you share.

One Church One Mission

Loving Father, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, drew His disciples to Himself.

He shared His Word with them,
He performed miracles for them,
He shared His life with them.

Only after they experienced the unity of His love did He send his disciples out to the world to do likewise.

Lord, help us today here in our beloved Diocese of Ogdensburg to do the same.

May we who know the warmth of the Sacred Heart of Jesus share the fire of His love with all those we meet.

Bless our 2026 Bishop's Fund Appeal.
Through it may each of us be reminded that we are vital members of your One Church sent on One Mission.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

2026 Bishop's Fund Appeal



YES! I WANT TO MAKE MY GIFT TO THE 2026 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PARISH _____

SEND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **Bishop's Fund Appeal**
OR FILL IN CREDIT CARD INFO.

☐ CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD FOR ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
\$ _____

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE ____/____/____

SIGNATURE _____ PHONE _____

☐ SINGLE GIFT ☐ PLEDGE ☐ MATCHING GIFT TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TOTAL GIFT \$ _____
NOW PAYING \$ _____
PLEDGE AMT DUE \$ _____

MAIL TO:
BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL
PO BOX 150
OGDENSBURG, NY 13669

OR PLACE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION



It was the latter part of October; I turned around and there was smoke coming out of my old furnace. The old furnace was original to the house and was 45 years old. I immediately turned it off and tried to get help. A company came in to put in a new furnace. I had gone 28 days without real heat in my home. I had a little box heater in my living room and a little heater in my bedroom, and that is how I kept warm. I want to thank the people who give to the Bishop's Fund. The grant from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund was a big help in replacing my furnace. I encourage people to donate whatever they can to the Bishop's Fund because it helps many people.

– Ann of Lake Placid, New York

The Bishop's Fund had an antecedent called the Diocesan Development Fund. I was a newly ordained priest and was there for the very first meeting when Bishop Navagh started it in 1959. In the beginning, the Diocesan Development Fund was established to build a nursing home in Ogdensburg and other locations, as well as Wadhams Hall, and other buildings. Now so many ministries that the parishes could not provide for alone are supported through the Bishop's Fund. Guggenheim has been a tremendous blessing for our diocese along with great support for Catholic Schools and a lot of charity. It is my hope that we continue building futures that will educate religious, holy people, welcome the stranger, and continue the good foundation of people who are active in the church and get their faith enlarged with the programs that we are able to access through the Bishop's Fund. Let us continue the good work that has been going on these 67 years with the Bishop's Fund and the antecedent Diocesan Development Fund.

– Father Philip Allen of Schroon Lake, New York



As a child, I attended St. John's Academy in Plattsburgh and then Seton Catholic for high school. I am now the Office Manager for Seton. At Seton, we are educating the whole person and focusing on how our students can be good people in the future. Along with academics, our students participate in a community service day where they work at the soup kitchen, help clean the churches, and do lawn work in the cemeteries. They are learning that they are a part of our community and learning to give back to our community. With the Bishop's Fund Tuition Assistance program, we can give many more students a Catholic Education who would not be able to afford it otherwise. We have students who are from many different walks of life and come from different economic statuses, and the Tuition Assistance program allows everyone to be on an even playing field. Thank you for

considering making your donation to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. The Tuition Assistance Program and all the other programs included help change the lives of people in our area more than you may know.

– Maura of Plattsburgh, New York

Ever since I was very small, the call to the priesthood has been in my heart. It has always been a steadfast, quiet whisper. As I grew older and grew in my faith, the call became even louder. The priesthood has always been part of my heart and always will be. I am very grateful for everything the Bishop's Fund has done to help fund vocations, helping offset costs: tuition, books, and supplies, as well as funding discernment gatherings, which I attended when I was in high school. The mission of the Church is to bring all into one, one into Christ, together on a journey of faith toward heaven and our salvation. It is the beautiful role of the priest to be there as a father figure, to offer the sacraments, to pray, but ultimately, to walk with our brothers and sisters on the journey we make together. One thing I am most excited for in my own priesthood is how my life is going to help lead others to Christ. My ordination day was the happiest day of my life, and because of donors like you, it was possible. I encourage all who are considering donating to the Bishop's Fund to please do so. Your gifts helped me respond to God's call to be a priest. I am so thankful to those who donate, whether your gift is large or small, every little bit helps fuel and fund our journey of faith together in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



– **Father Tyler Fitzgerald of Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh, New York**



Our world is very divided. It is important for us to recognize that we are all here for the good of each other and to help each other find Christ. The most wonderful thing we can do with our lives is to help others find Jesus! No matter what your role is in the Church or as part of the body of Christ, we are all on the same mission to bring others to Christ. Camp Guggenheim is an incredible place because when you come here, there is just a peace and joy that you cannot explain. Here at Guggenheim, campers experience a community of people leading joyful, Christ-filled lives. When they leave camp, they bring that joy home to their families and parishes and make impactful differences there. We both share the common mission in our lives of wanting to share our faith, so being able to come to Guggenheim and say "Jesus loves you" is an absolute blessing.

Your donations to the Bishop's Fund Appeal truly make a difference in the lives of the youth and people all over our diocese! We can attest to what it has done for camp and for so many teens who have come here. Thank you so much for giving to the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

– **Gabriel & Madonna, Camp Guggenheim Staff**

The mission of the Church is to unite people, to make people feel safe and comfortable, and to give them an opportunity to praise God. It is so important to bring our faith to the next generation because they are the ones who are going to keep our Church united. We first learned about the Bishop's Fund Appeal about 25 years ago from our pastor at the time. The Bishop's Fund Appeal is important because it supports our youth at Camp Guggenheim, helps people in need through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, children in Catholic Education, and helps in the training of our future priests. It is very important that everybody supports the Bishop's Fund in whatever way they can, with whatever size gift they can offer.

– **Dave and Nora of Indian Lake, New York**



THE BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following ministries are supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

WAYS TO GIVE

- **Gifts of Cash:** Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."
- **Pledge:** A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February, and April.
- **Online Giving:** The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund. If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.
- **Automatic Pledge Payments:** To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920.
- **Matching Gifts:** Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.
- **Gifts of Securities:** Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property, especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.
- **Qualified IRA Contributions:** For those who are 70 ½ or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.
- **Bequests:** When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate; or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.
- **Mailing Your Gift:** Please feel free to mail your donation to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

SEASON OF CREATION

Fish Creek – The Faith and Ecology Group of Northern NY will host a Season of Creation Celebration with the theme “Immersed in Living Waters” (see Ezekiel 47:9, 12).

Date: Sept. 26

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

Place: Day Use Pavilion of the Fish Creek Campgrounds just south of Saranac Inn

Features: Invitation to pray and enjoy the beauties of Creation, and to reflect on the gift of WATER; Guest presenters: Blake Lavia and Tzintzun Aguilar-Izzo, environmental scholars, artists, advocates and protectors of rivers and watersheds in northern New York; time to share thoughts and ideas facilitated discussion, music and autumn snacks. Connect more deeply with Creation, especially with water, and learn how to be a better steward of the precious gift of water. This is a free event.

Contact: Tom Kalinoski 518-891-1876

ALPHA

Lake Placid – Alpha program to be held.

Date: Sundays, Sept. 20 to Dec. 6

Time: 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Alpha offers a welcoming place to gather with others for conversation, friendship, and discovery. Each session includes a shared meal, an engaging video, and honest, respectful discussion in a relaxed and hospitable environment. Whether your faith is strong, you're returning after time away, or you're simply seeking more, you'll find that every question and every person is welcome.

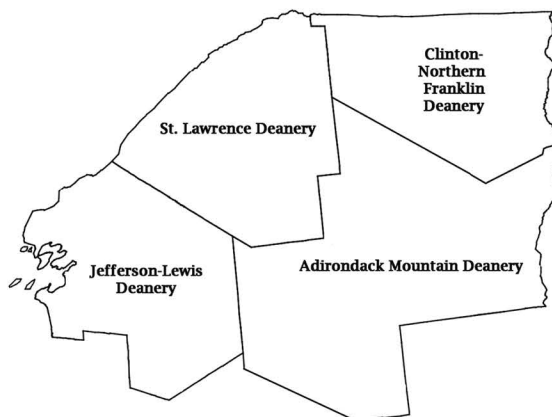
Contact: Deb Lennon for more information: lennondebra26@gmail.com or 518-524-4388

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

APPLEFEST

Peru – Join your family and friends at the 48th Annual St. Augustine's Applefest.

Date: Sept. 19



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.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Schedule: Activities at St. Augustine's Parish Center begin at 10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., the community parade begins its route down Main Street, from Peru Elementary to St. Augustine's Parish. People look forward to the apple fritters, chicken BBQ, fried dough, caramelized apples, michigans, sweet sausages, burgers, games, train ride, face painting, bounce house, Pipes and Drums of Plattsburgh, and the On Three Band. Roger's House and St. Vincent DePaul have sales throughout the day. The Grand Raffle drawing takes place at 4 p.m. People from near and far enjoy the community parade, craft fair, thrift store sales, food treats, live music, chicken BBQ, games, and raffles. Rev. Alan Shnob is Parade Grand Marshal.

CHARISMATIC MASS

Malone – St. Andres Parish to have Charismatic Masses and Healing services.

Dates: Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15

Place: Notre Dame Church

Time: Worship to prepare for Mass starts at 1:45 p.m., Mass starts at 2 p.m.

Features: Following Mass, prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

Contact: For more information call 518-483-1300 or sseymour@rcdony.org

rcdony.org

HARVEST DINNER

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

Date: Sept. 20

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

Place: Holy Angel's Hall

Cost: Adults, \$18; Children 6-12, \$10; 5 and under, \$Free

Features: Turkey and all the trimmings, Apple and Pumpkin desserts. There will be a bake sale, themed basket raffles and a Lottery Ticket Raffle.

TALK AND REFLECTION

Ellenburg – Join Marika Donders at the House of Prayer for a beautiful talk in the morning, followed by a light luncheon and a prayerful Conversation in the Spirit in the early afternoon.

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack's House of Prayer
Theme: Fruitful Parish Life Begins in Communion with Christ. “Ministry begins, not with efficiency, programs or plans but with the living encounter with Christ.”

Contact: Please call 518-534-9976 (Sarah) to register.

TURKEY DINNER

St. Regis Falls – St. Ann's Society will be hosting a Turkey Dinner

with all of the fixings.

Date: Sept. 27

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 5-12, \$10; under 5, Free

HARVEST DINNER

Ellenburg – The Catholic Daughters of America to have a Ham and Roast Beef dinner with all the trimmings and homemade desserts.

Date: Sept. 27

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

Place: St. Edmund's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$17; Children 6-12, \$8; 5 and under, Free

Contact: Take-outs available by calling 518-536-2442

HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish is having their Turkey Harvest Dinner with all of the trimmings.

Date: Sept. 27

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

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$18; Children 6-12, \$10; All Take-outs, \$18

Features: Visit our “Sinner's Den” for sinfully delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes. Please join us!! We are handicapped accessible.

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

PURGATORY PRAYER DEVOTION

Ellenburg – The House of Prayer welcomes a new house sitter, Gary Phifer will be teaching the Purgatory Prayer devotion.

Date: Oct. 13, 20 and 27 (Please note there is no event on Sept. 22)

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer

Features: You are warmly invited to drop by and learn this beautiful prayer from Gary Phifer, a Commissioned Lay Minister from Plattsburgh, made even more awesome by praying together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. As we enter the fall season, we move through the great season of remembrance and with hearts renewed pray for those who have gone before.

Contact: Please call 518-534-9976 (Sarah) for more information.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

CHICKEN DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church will have a drive-thru chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: Sept. 22

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$13

Menu: Chicken and homemade biscuit, mashed potato, gravy, green bean casserole, and dessert.

Contact: To ensure your dinner, please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577. Deliveries are also available!

ST. LAWRENCE

ALPHA

Gouverneur – You are invited to Alpha.

Date: Mon. Sept 14 to Nov. 22

Place: St. James School

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Features: Alpha offers a welcoming place to gather with others for conversation, friendship, and discovery. Each session includes a shared meal, an engaging video, and honest, respectful discussion in a relaxed and hospitable environment. Whether your faith is strong, you're returning after time away, or you're simply seeking more, you'll find that every question and every person is welcome. Many people find that Alpha becomes a place where faith comes alive, relationships are formed, and hearts are opened to what God is doing. It's completely FREE and includes a home cooked dinner each week.

Contact: For more information call 315-287-0114

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is encouraging the promotion of the centuries-old devotion of 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the diocese of Ogdensburg for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The Highway to Heaven team is sponsoring this traditional “forty-hour period” commemorating our Lord's burial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

until His resurrection at parishes throughout our diocese. Individuals, families, and groups are invited to join us on the Highway to Heaven!

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: During the 40 Hours Devotion, individuals sign up to spend an hour with Jesus, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. It provides a wonderful opportunity to hear God speaking to your heart, through quiet and community prayers, and unleashes His blessings upon parishes.

Contact: To sign up for a Holy Hour as an individual, family, or group, contact Deacon Bill O'Brien at 315-528-0461 or billob315@gmail.com

DAY OF MERCY

Canton – St. Mary's Church will be offering All Day Confessions.

Date: Sept. 23

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

Place: St. Mary's Divine Mercy Chapel

Features: A schedule of confessions will be made available closer to the date at cantoncatholics.com/events

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DISCERNMENT GROUPS

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is launching Men's Discernment Groups beginning this September. These gatherings are an opportunity for men who are feeling called to explore the possibility of priesthood, deepen their prayer life and walk with others who are discerning God's will.

Place: Plattsburgh – led by Father Doug Schirmer; Canton – led by Father Scott Belina; Watertown – led by Father Carter Pierce

Features: Whether you are actively discerning a vocation to the priesthood or simply seeking clarity in your spiritual life, you are warmly invited to participate. More information will follow soon.

Contact: For more information contact Deacon Garry Stevens, gstevens@rcdony.org or 315-854-6158

SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

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

Schedule: Sept. 20 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Evans Mills from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Contact: If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or call 315-393-6511 or Sister Bethany srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-405-4058.

MARRIAGE CELEBRATION MASS

Ogdensburg - We invite all married couples and their families to join us at the annual Celebration of Love and Marriage Mass.

Date: Sept. 20

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Bishop LaValley will be presiding. Whether you have been married for less than 1 year, over 50 years or anywhere in between, we want to acknowledge your commitment and celebrate with you. There will be a gathering after the Mass.

Contact: For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

DOVS EVENT

Norfolk - The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) is sponsoring an event that will include a Mass, a free luncheon and talk.

Date: Sept. 22

Time: Mass begins at 11 a.m. with lunch and talk to follow

Place: Church of the Visitation Parish

Features: Talk by diocesan vocation director, Father Matthew Conger entitled "Promoting Vocations Is Everyone's Business: What Can I Do?" All are welcome!

Contact: Let Connie know by email at connierandall47@yahoo.com or by phone at 315-783-0574 no later than Sept. 17th if you wish to attend.

LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake – High school Leadership weekend to be held for teens entering 9th to 12th grade.

Date: Sept. 25 – 27

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$150, Financial Aid available

Features: Spend an unforgettable weekend growing in faith, building friendships, enjoying outdoor adventure, and learning from inspiring Catholic leaders.

Contact: To register and find out more information go to www.rcdony.org/leadership

BLUE MASS

Black River – Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all Police, Corrections, Fire and EMS Personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 27

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Paul's Church

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

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

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKEND

Saranac Lake - Join us for an exciting weekend at Camp Guggenheim designed just for middle school students, entering 6th to 8th grade.

Date: Oct. 2 to 4

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$100, Financial Aid Available

Features: Experience fun outdoor activities, high-energy games, inspiring talks, praise and worship, prayer, and new friendships—all while discovering how much God loves you. Whether you're coming with friends or meeting new ones, Middle School Impact Weekend is the perfect opportunity to grow in faith, have an amazing time, and make memories that will last long after the weekend ends.

Contact: To register and find out more information go to www.rcdony.org/msleadership

WIN

A 2026 Subaru Forester*



*Or \$20,000 Cash

Drawing Sunday, October 11, 2026

Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

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

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

Tickets available by phone: (518) 523-3771

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____

Winner need not be present to win.

Environmental Stewardship**Beyond appearances**

Bodies of water come in many forms. Some, like mountain lakes, support crystal clear water that sparkles when the sun shines. Others hold a high concentration of suspended organic matter that gives the water an unappealing brown tint and a foul odor.

These brown waterways tend to be shallow and support an array of aquatic plants. By early summer, marshes and swamps become choked with vegetation that results in a jungle-like underwater setting, and the surface becomes clogged with floating leaves and vine-like stalks that aggravate paddlers.

Because of the waters' dark color, they can more readily absorb the sun's heat, warming them quicker than other waterways. This thermal advantage, along with abundant sources of food, enables these waterways to sustain insects and invertebrates, fish, frogs, turtles, salamanders, birds and mammals.

Preserving wetlands has become a priority for many individuals and organizations. It is easy to focus on protecting pristine lakes, ponds and rivers because of their beauty over a mosquito laden, leech infested expanse of muck. This is why many marshes and swamps were drained and filled years ago and converted into land that could be developed.

While these settings may not be appealing, they are vitally important to the health and well-being of the environment. Also, because of difficulty in accessing them, marshes and swamps are a challenge to care for, as plastic and trash easily becomes entangled in the dense vegetation above and just below the surface and remain in place for years. It often takes organized efforts to help these wetlands become free of foreign material.

Some naturalists say marshes and swamps are the cornerstones of our natural world. These patches of concentrated life are gems God has placed here for us and should be cared for as such.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 16 & 17 – New York State Prison Chaplain's Retreat in Canandaigua

Sept. 18 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 19 – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 20 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – A Life of Love – Celebrating Marriage Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a reception in Brzana Hall

Sept. 21 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 23 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Lunch with the Consecrated Religious Leaders at Bishop's Residence

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 16 – Rev. Henri Victor Lecompte, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Alphonse Nolin, O.M.I., 1936; Deacon Marvin M. Connor, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Protecting God's Children

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

Sept. 16 – 3 p.m. – St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Sept. 17 – 7 p.m. – Augustinian Academy, Carthage

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; terriannyanulavich@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

Celebrate your favorite priest in the**NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE**

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life.

The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Oct. 7th issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 27

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a photo please email them to cward@rcdony.org. DO NOT MAIL PHOTOS

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The North Country Catholic provides design services)

Must be received in the NCC Office by Sept. 25, 2026

Questions? Email cward@rcdony.org or call 315-608-7556

Please cut out the entire ad when you send in your request.

☐ **YES! I/We would like to honor a priest in the North Country Catholic**

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

Ad Size:

☐ **\$20 Special Message only** ☐ **\$40 2x2**

☐ **\$135 Quarter Page** ☐ **\$250 Half Page**

☐ **\$475 Full Page** ☐ **\$25 Extra for color**

Message as it will appear in the ad (please print)

Feel free to use your own paper.

NAME OF PRIEST: _____

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

NY Catholic mother denied vaccine exemption

By Amira Abuzeid
EWTN News

The U.S. Supreme Court this week denied an emergency request that would have allowed a Catholic mother in New York to send her 5-year-old son to kindergarten without the vaccinations required by state law.

The mother, identified in court papers as Jane Doe, wanted her son, C.F., to start at Waverly School in Eastchester this month and is seeking a religious exemption to required vaccines. New York dropped religious exemptions from school vaccine rules in 2019 after a measles outbreak, however, though medical exemptions remain.

Doe had asked the Supreme Court for a temporary injunction so C.F. could start school as the fight continues in court.

Two other courts had already denied her request for a temporary injunction. A federal judge in New York and then a three-judge U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit panel turned her down. The application was then presented to Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the circuit justice for the 2nd Circuit, who referred it to the full Supreme Court, which denied it. Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch said they would have granted it.

The unsigned order does not address the case's merits, and Doe's underlying appeal remains pending in the 2nd Circuit.

State officials have said a religious carve-out would undercut efforts to keep disease from spreading among children, pointing to an earlier appeals court ruling that left the vaccine law in place.

Doe, who is Catholic, says the state policy puts her faith and her child's schooling at odds. In an April statement she gave the school, she wrote that her beliefs now "require me to categorically refuse vaccination for myself and for my children."

Referring to the abortions from which fetal cells were taken to produce the original vaccines, she said: "The taking of an innocent human life is a grave sin. My Catholic beliefs have always held this." She said that for her and her son, vaccination would be "a genuine, serious sin."

"I will not do it," she stated.

She also expressed serious reservations about other aspects of vaccine development: "Defiling the blood by

mixing it with the blood of animals, with the remains of aborted human beings, or with foreign biological material, violates God's Word," she said, according to her statement of religious beliefs filed in the case. "Vaccination injects biological material derived from unclean sources directly into the bloodstream. My faith forbids this."

While the Church does not teach that the use of biological materials from nonhuman animals is categorically wrong, it absolutely condemns abortion and the use of tissue from aborted fetuses used to create the original cell lines. It teaches that a parent may receive or give a child a vaccine developed with those cell lines when there is no alternative and there is a serious health reason. The vaccine recipient's participation in the evil act of abortion, the Church teaches, is "remote," and therefore permitted.

However, in the 2008 instruction *Dignitas Personae*, the Church said that Catholics utilizing vaccines have "a duty" to let drugmakers and their healthcare providers know they oppose the way the vaccines were developed and demand vaccines created without the use of aborted fetal cells.

A 2020 note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith says vaccination "is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary." Those who refuse for reasons of conscience, it adds, should take other steps so they do not spread disease.

New York law has a provision that children unvaccinated for medical reasons must stay at home during outbreaks, and Doe agreed to abide by that if granted an exemption.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a person must not be forced to act against a conscience formed well through Scripture, reason, and Church teaching, even when others would make a different choice. Forcing one to act against his or her conscience could be a sin against charity, which calls for others to respect the consciences of others.

The catechism also teaches that "[m]an has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishops urge Supreme Court to allow local firearm regulations

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging the U.S. Supreme Court to allow local communities to regulate firearm ownership, weighing in on a high-profile federal case that could significantly reshape the nation's gun laws. The case before the high court, *Viramontes v. Cook County*, concerns a regulation enacted by Cook County, Illinois, banning more than 100 types of semiautomatic weapons, including the popular AR-15 platform. Two plaintiffs, Cutberto Viramontes and Christopher Khaya, sued to dispute the regulations under the Second and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The lawsuit argues that the Supreme Court should rule on the case "to guarantee fundamental Second Amendment rights and to address the confusion in the lower courts" regarding Supreme Court precedent. In their amicus brief regarding the legal dispute, the U.S. bishops urge the court to "[preserve] the traditional authority of political communities to regulate weapons."

'The Bible in a Year' podcast returns with new family edition

"The Bible in a Year" podcast hosted by Father Mike Schmitz became a global sensation after its debut in 2021, helping millions around the world encounter the word of God. Now, the popular podcast from Ascension is back — but with a twist: "The Bible in a Year: Family Edition," hosted by Father Josh Johnson, launches on Jan. 1, 2027. The new podcast is designed for families with children ranging in age from 7 to 12. Using both video and audio, families will be guided through the story of salvation in 365 daily episodes using readings from Ascension's upcoming "The Great Adventure Catholic Bible for Beginners." The new podcast will follow a similar format as the original "The Bible in a Year" podcast. Each episode will include a Scripture reading, age-appropriate reflections from Johnson, time for prayer, and answers to a variety of Bible questions from children.

U.S. bishops offer guidance on faithful citizenship

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published a guide for dioceses that outlines how they can train priests to better assist members of their congregation to be "faithful citizens." It comes about two months before the midterm elections, which will decide control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It does not instruct people how to vote, but does note principles of Catholic teaching that should be considered when making that decision. Faithful citizenship, the guide explains, embraces "the fullness of the Church's teachings and is a way of living the Gospel in attending to specific duties in the public square, which sit alongside a wide array of other duties." It emphasizes that faith must come before politics. The guide, titled "Outlines for Clergy Formation on Faithful Citizenship," offers sample outlines for clergy formation sessions, which includes the options of a 3-5 hour session and a concise 1-hour session.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

No matter how early or late

This weekend's Gospel might annoy you. A property owner pays the same wages to those who worked only a few hours as those who worked all day long. You may think, "why didn't the union rep step in and straighten out the owner of the vineyard?"

If you think that way, you thought exactly as those who had been hired

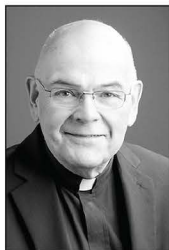
at the beginning of the day. Of course, you would expect to be paid more because you worked longer.

Remember, our Gospel is a parable teach-

ing a lesson, in Matthew's words, about the kingdom.

If you lived your whole life very faithfully, would you expect a reward in heaven greater than the good thief that hung on the cross and slipped into heaven at the last moment. If you've done more, don't you deserve more in return?

The early workers responded to the owner's call as did the other workers hired during the day. Let's look at it in a different way. If you receive a last-minute invitation



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

September 20

Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matthew 20:1-16a

to a party, should you receive less food than those who were invited two weeks earlier? Of course not.

The early hires are working away; why does the owner go out later in the day to find more workers? Were those first workers not working as hard as they should that he had to find more? Was the owner grateful because the early hires were not

as resourceful as they should be?

The landowner admits his own generosity. The early hires couch their jealousy in terms of justice, like school kids who are jealous because another student who put in no effort on a project got the same "A" as someone who worked assiduously on the project.

The famous Winston Churchill once said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." In today's parable, the workers, no matter when they were hired, are trying to make a living. At the same time, the land-

owner is trying to bring peace and justice into his life through his generosity in what he gives the workers.

We should see ourselves in today's parable. We have been called early in the day, and we have responded. We need to ensure that we are making a living and making a life for ourselves. We do not need to be in the business of judging others. We only need to make sure that we help others to respond to the invitation that God makes to all - the invitation is certain, we need to encourage others to respond no matter how early or late in the day it is.

CALLED TO SERVE

From black and white TV to blessed

When I was a kid, *The Ed Sullivan Show* was appointment television in the late 1950s at my house in Queens, New York. It aired Sunday night at 8 p.m. on CBS-TV. Ed Sullivan was the host. He was a newspaper entertainment columnist who found his calling as a TV host. Wikipedia describes the program this way: "Virtually every type of entertainment appeared on the show; regularly featured were classical musicians, opera singers, popular recording artists, songwriters, comedians, ballet dancers, dramatic actors performing monologues from plays and circus acts."

I can't remember if *Life Is Worth Living* had the same weekly com-

mitment at my house. The host was a Catholic auxiliary bishop from the New York Archdiocese, Bishop Fulton Sheen.

Sheen had a radio talk show in the early 1950s, so he had that going for him. *Life Is Worth Living* was aired on ABC-TV on Tuesday night at 8 p.m. *The Milton Berle Show* aired at the same time on a competing network. Berle was a well known and loved comedian. The basic format of Berle's show was modeled after a vaudeville variety hour, spotlighting Berle's jokes, sight gags and costumes.

Life Is Worth Living had something those variety shows, Sullivan's and Berle's, could not offer. "A bishop in full

clerical dress, armed with little more than a blackboard, a wonderfully expressive face, and an extraordinary ability to talk directly to the person sitting at home." That is how a columnist for *Aleteia* described the half-hour show. "Somehow, it worked spectacularly well." Bishop Sheen's program had up to 30 million viewers depending on the episode.

He was among the first TV Evangelists.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be beatified September 24 in a ceremony to be held in St. Louis.

Several places claim Archbishop Sheen as

their own: Illinois, where he was born, ordained a priest, and became a parish priest; Belgium, where he studied and was recognized as a gifted theologian; Catholic University, where he taught theology and philosophy; the New York Archdiocese, where he worked as auxiliary bishop; Rochester, New York, where he was Bishop for a few years; or Newport, Wales, where he was titular archbishop until his death.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

I remember him for his on-air stature, his ability to engage - perhaps captivate is the right word - his viewers with his logic, and his cape. As

a kid, I marveled at his ability to keep that cape on his shoulders.

Cerith Gardiner wrote the *Aleteia* article about Bishop Sheen's beatification. I thought the essence of Bishop Sheen was captured in this paragraph: "In 1953, the bishop won an Emmy, giving an acceptance speech that contained a one-liner modern social-media managers would probably have snapped up themselves. Sheen thanked his four writers: 'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.'"

Blessed Bishop Sheen, pray for us.

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

Series shows the birthplace of Christianity

EWTN News

Beginning Sept. 17, a new travel show by EWTN Studios will take viewers on a journey to key places where Christianity began. The series, "The Road Less Traveled," is hosted by Dave Stotts and its first season takes place in Turkey.

Viewers will get a unique look into places like Antioch, the birthplace of Christianity, the underground cities of Cappadocia, Ephesus, Constantinople (present-day Istanbul), and other key spots where the early Church was formed.

Stotts is a longtime on-location storyteller who has spent more than 20 years exploring the world, most notably in his series "Drive Thru History" aired on TBN. With a deep passion for the story of Christianity and how it has spread across the world, he brings viewers face-to-face with the places that have shaped the faith and invites audiences to rediscover the important figures and saints who impacted

modern Christianity.

In an interview with EWTN News, Stotts explained that during his time doing "Drive Thru History" he "experienced firsthand the impact that Christian history can have."

"In 'The Road Less Traveled,' we go even further — down forgotten roads and off the beaten path — to come face-to-face with the lives of saints, martyrs, and heroes of the Catholic past. Seeing their witness has the power to ignite our own faith in powerful ways today," he said. "We wanted to explore this history on location and inspire viewers through a fast-paced, adventurous learning experience."

The travel-show host explained that the first season of "The Road Less Traveled" begins "where the Gospel first spread — Syrian Antioch, where believers were first called 'Christians' and where the Cave Church of St. Peter still stands."

"From there, we follow the roads to the underground

churches of Cappadocia, then to the breathtaking ruins of ancient Ephesus, where St. Paul's preaching turned the city's paganism upside down. Next, we travel to the seven churches of Revelation and explore each of the letters St. John wrote to them in the Book of Revelation," Stotts explained.

While in ancient Myra, the show uncovers the story of St. Nicholas, the fourth-century bishop whose legacy lives on today as Santa Claus.

Viewers are then taken to ancient Nicaea, where the Church formulated Christianity's most foundational creed.

"Finally, we end the series in ancient Constantinople — present-day Istanbul — where we stand in the breathtaking Hagia Sophia and discover how the Christian faith helped shape history itself," Stotts said.

Recalling one of the most impactful moments he had while recording the series, Stotts spoke about descending nearly 200 feet to the lowest level of

Derinkuyu in ancient Cappadocia.

"There we explored what was once a hidden, rock-hewn, cross-shaped church— carved entirely out of volcanic rock," he recalled. "It was inspiring to see the lengths, and depths, that persecuted Christians were willing to go to practice their faith. I came away challenged to live my own faith with that same kind of courage today."

He added: "It can be easy to take the faith we've inherited for granted. But exploring history has the power to give us a fresh appreciation for the faith we practice today."

Stotts said he hopes viewers "will not only see the world-shaping impact of the early Christians but also be inspired to pattern our own lives after their courageous witness."

"The Road Less Traveled" debuts on Sept. 17 and can be watched for free on EWTN+ and on EWTN.com.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — Robert Cioffi, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2026 at Holy Name Church; burial in Haselton Cemetery, Wilmington.

Canton — Rose (Falk) White, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton — Theodore G. Streets, 78; Private burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Constable — Ethel M. (Tucker) Debyah, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Constable — Ernest P. Fleury, 99; Services to be held at a later date at St. Francis of Assisi.

Constable — Charlotte Mary (Conto) Gokey, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Hogansburg — John "Jack" Leaf, 102; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2026 at St. Regis Church.

Houseville — Richard Paul Loven-duski, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2026 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Louisville — Michael S. Hammill, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2026 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Massena — Philip J. Fenton, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2026 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — James Charles Bice Jr., 65; Graveside Services Sept. 10, 2026 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Ann M. (Colaes) Lalonde, 61; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2026 at the Fox & Murray Funer-

al Home.

Peru — Joseph A. Gonyea, 72; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2026 at Brown's Funeral Home, Plattsburgh.

Plattsburgh — Mary Gay (Darling) Penfield, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 18, 2026 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry — Joseph "Ralph" Rodriguez, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Moriah.



Ticonderoga — Ronald T. Drinkwine, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Willsboro — Justin Cardarelli, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11,

2026 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Willsboro — Thomas Spierto, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 29, 2026 at St. Philip of Jesus Church.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



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

Funeral Mass for Sr. Eileen Murray is Sept. 16

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Eileen Murray, GNSH, age 102, formerly of Ogdensburg and most recently a resident of St. Joseph's Manor in Pennsylvania, will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 16, at Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg, with her nephew, Father Steven Murray, celebrating the Mass. Burial will follow at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Sister Eileen passed away peacefully on September 5, 2026, after a remarkable life dedicated to God, education, and compassionate service to others.

She is survived by her brother, John Murray and his wife, Helen, of Massena; along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, and many cherished friends whose lives she touched.

She was predeceased by her parents, Frank and Eva (Shattuck) Murray; her sister, Margaret Austin; and her five brothers, Paul, Thomas, Robert, James and Donald Murray.

Sister Eileen was born on October 4, 1923, the daughter of the late Frank and Eva (Shattuck)



Sister Eileen Murray, GNSH

Murray. A native of Ogdensburg, she was raised in a close-knit family and community and received her education from the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart at St. Mary's Academy.

Inspired by the sisters who had taught and guided her, she entered the Congregation of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1941 following her graduation from St. Mary's Academy. She continued her education at D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1947. Like many religious women of her generation, she willingly embraced whatever work was needed. Although education became her life's

ministry, she could also be found driving tractors, painting and making repairs whenever the need arose.

Sister Eileen devoted nearly seven decades to Catholic education and ministry. She taught at almost every grade level, serving students in Buffalo and Jackson Heights, New York; Lowell, Massachusetts; and Atlanta, Georgia. A gifted educator with an infectious enthusiasm for science, she inspired generations of students through lessons on ecology, space exploration and the wonders of the natural world. Her energy, kindness, and passion for learning left lasting memories in the hearts of those she taught.

Among all her ministries, Sister Eileen often said her greatest joy came from serving as a group mother at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg from 1945 to 1960. For many of the boys entrusted to her care, she became the only mother they had ever known. One former resident faithfully continued to send her flowers every Mother's Day throughout her life - a touching tribute to the love, stability

and compassion she had given him. She always described those years as some of the most marvelous and rewarding of her religious life.

Following the closing of St. Joseph's Home, Sister Eileen returned to teaching in Atlanta, a city that became her second home. There, she continued to touch countless lives through her warmth, generosity, and unwavering faith.

From 1986 until her retirement in 2009, Sister Eileen served in the pastoral ministry at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Atlanta. She faithfully brought the Eucharist, companionship, encouragement and hope to the elderly, the homebound and residents of nursing homes. Her gentle presence and caring spirit became a blessing to many. In recognition of her extraordinary dedication and loving service, she was honored by the par-

ish as its "Woman of the Year" in 1991.

Sister Eileen will be remembered as a devoted Grey Nun whose faith was evident not only in her words but in her actions. She possessed a generous heart, a tireless work ethic and a joyful spirit that inspired everyone who knew her. Whether in the classroom, caring for children, visiting the sick or simply offering a listening ear, she reflected Christ's love with humility and grace. Her legacy lives on in the countless students, parishioners, children, family members and friends whose lives were enriched by her kindness and selfless service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 928 Jaymor Road, Suite C-120, Southampton, PA 18966. Condolences and fond memories can be shared online at foxandmurrayfuneralhome.com.

Our team assembles the assets you need to win...

... in an increasingly complex world.

Plan. Innovate. Execute.

Insurance Risk Management · Employee Benefits
Retirement Plans and Financial Asset Management
Human Resources · Income and Estate Tax Strategies
Business Valuation and Succession Planning
Serving the needs of the Diocese since 1997



108 Buchmans Close Circle, Fayetteville, NY 13066

877-872-3615 | 315-370-9965 | assist@pointguardadvisors.com

PointGuard Advisors Network does not provide legal, financial or tax advice. These services are provided directly by PointGuard Advisors Network Members.

118 Hammond Lane
Plattsburgh, NY
(518) 561-2990
www.williamjmurray.com

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

WILLIAM J. MURRAY
INC.
EST. 1931
PLATTSBURGH, N.Y.

Specializing in
HEALTHCARE
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL

Working with Industry Leaders

Supporting the 2026 Bishop Fund Insert