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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 20

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Update on Chapter 11 settlement

Bishop Terry R. LaValley updates the Diocese of Ogdensburg on the Chapter 11 settlement.

Under this settlement, the details of which will be set out in the diocese's Plan of Reorganization ("Plan"), the Catholic Family will contribute \$45 million to a survivor trust to be established under the Plan. Every member of the Catholic Family will contribute. The trustee of that Trust will determine how the funds will be disbursed to resolve all the claims of the survivors. I will give you updates on the Plan as the details are worked out.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

HONORED FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



At the annual Knights of Columbus parish picnic at St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake, Jean Pomerville was acknowledged for over 40 years of volunteer service as music liturgist, and she received a papal blessing. Pictured with Pomerville (holding the papal blessing) are Deacon Phil Giardino, Father James "Jay" Seymour, pastor, Father Lawrence Marullo and Deborah Norman.

HELPING YOUTH



A week 3 camper at Camp Guggenheim enjoys fun in the sun on the lake. Camp Guggenheim is a program of the Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is one of the many ministries supported by the annual Bishop's Fund appeal.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope calls for 'unmasking' contradictions

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV called for "unmasking the contradictions" of the contemporary world and said that believers are called to take on "the burdens of their brothers and sisters, especially those who are crushed by injustice, discrimination, and violence."

The pontiff made this appeal during his general audience in St. Peter's Square on Sept. 2, during which he inaugurated a new series of catecheses dedicated to the pastoral constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, one of the Church's most significant

responses to the challenges and expectations of the modern world.

The document of the Second Vatican Council, approved and promulgated on Dec. 7, 1965, highlights, as Leo explained, the essentially pastoral nature of the Church, born of "a renewed fidelity to the mystery of Christ who, by becoming incarnate, chooses to share our life."

For this reason, he recalled that the conciliar constitution *Gaudium et Spes* opens with the famous statement that the Church makes her own "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or

in any way afflicted."

This commitment, the pontiff added, calls Christians "to leave behind all passivity and indifference in the face of current events, history, and people's lives, especially in the face of the rapid and profound changes we are experiencing today."

He emphasized that closeness to humanity allows for a deeper understanding both of historical events and of revelation itself. From that perspective, he noted that *Gaudium et Spes* recalls that "the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel."

The Holy Father clarified that this attitude does not stem solely from a "merely moral imperative." To explain this, he cited the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, considered the roadmap of Pope Francis' pontificate, which reminds us that for the Church "the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political, or philosophical one."

"Christian solidarity commits us to engaging with reality and also to unmasking the contradictions that characterize personal and social life in the contemporary world," the pope said.

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Where credit is due

I gave God the blame and gave myself the credit.

Over the last handful of years, I've experienced major life changes, health issues and the need to overcome some significant habitual sins that were negatively impacting my life and my efforts to be the person God calls me to be.

I recall times - lots and lots of times - when I blamed God for what I was experiencing. I cried out in despair, asking God, "why is this happening to me?" or "why did you give me

this cross to carry?" Similarly, I remember begging God to heal me.

While it wasn't the immediate, miraculous healing I wanted, I was able to make significant progress in my battles against those sins, wounds and struggles through time, medical assistance, therapies and programs, and by encountering the right people and opportunities and developing new skills.

It occurred to me recently that when I talk or think about those battles, I give myself the credit

for getting through them and overcoming them. It's easy for me to talk about the hours and hours of work I did, the tough decisions I made and the resilience and willpower I displayed.

It occurred to me that I gave God the blame and gave myself the credit.

I think God is showing me that pride is the major habitual sin I still battle.

I think God called me to spend some time trying to view the last few years through a specific lens - the lens that shows me the amazing ways He controlled it all.

I've been reflecting on the things I did and the decisions I made that con-

tributed to my struggles. I've been reflecting on how God led me to healing by putting the right people - the medical providers, therapists, friends, family members, mentors and supports - in my life. I've been reflecting on the opportunities God put in my path and the fact that He made me ready to seize them when I wasn't ready the numerous times He presented them in the past. I've been reflecting on the fortitude and hope God gave me when I was feeling pretty powerless and hopeless.

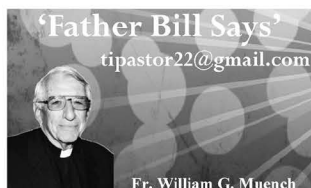
I've been working on giving God the praise and credit and checking my pride.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Celebrating Mass in English

Each week, this North Country Catholic prints an item from Pope Leo XIV from his weekly audience. Recently, Pope Leo has been presenting a series of talks about the Second Vatican Council. In last week's item Pope Leo talked about the reform of the Catholic Church's Mass liturgy by the Council. Pope Leo's message spoke of these reforms which he considered did so much to promote participation for the people at Mass with the priest celebrant. Pope Leo said this, "The need arose for the faithful to celebrate the liturgies more consciously and actively, not as strangers and silent spectators but participating fully in the salvific mystery."

This was when I was a young priest. I was involved then. So, today, I want to share with you my personal experience. I was ordained a priest and began to minister five years before the Second Vatican Council. I remember well, shortly after ordination, that Pope John XXIII

**Fr. William G. Muench**

was planning to convene an Ecumenical Council. Of course, we wondered what was going to happen. During those years before the Council, I celebrated Mass in Latin; we all did. I remember one of my very first activities as a young priest were teaching the new altar servers the Latin responses for Mass.

Pope Leo says the people in those days attended Mass just like spectators. I do agree with him, but what could we do? Many simply said their Rosary during Mass. In those days, we, priests, celebrated Mass with our backs to the congregation. The people really couldn't see what I was doing at the altar. But I want to assure you that I believed then, as I do now, that ordination gave me the spiritual power to consecrate the bread and wine

to the Body and Blood of Jesus. It was just that the people couldn't see much in those days and, I believe, they couldn't participate fully. There were the bells to tell them when the consecration of the Mass took place, and we elevated the host and chalice. The Mass seemed only for the priest. I remember that I didn't even see them at all, not even at weddings or funerals.

Then came Vatican II and the reform of the liturgy. I must tell you I rejoiced. I have loved celebrating Mass ever since. First, the prayers were now in the vernacular - for us, English. The people could now join with me in the prayers of Mass. They knew what was happening; they could truly participate with me, the celebrant. We were all better united with Our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

There were so many other changes and lots to prepare for. We had to build or find an altar of sacrifice to place in the sanctuary. I remember that I

was assigned to St. Mary's in Massena in those days, and we found a great carpenter to make that altar. And, of course, then the celebrant priest faced the people for Mass. Thinking back, it was very different; I tried hard to resist staring at people during Mass. I suppose even now I have to resist any distractions.

These reforms transformed the Mass for me. I knew the people were truly with me, participating with me in all I was doing. They were part of the celebration of the Mass.

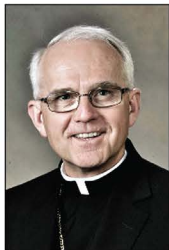
Today, I hope you notice that as you pray at Mass. I hope you realize that you can and should unite yourself with the priest and with the Lord Jesus who is truly present. We are all united in prayer and Spirit with Our Lord. So, you see, I continue to thank God for the Council and its reforms. I love how we celebrate Mass; at each Mass, I feel so united with you - the People of God. We are together as one, being formed and being sent to live well in God's love.

FOLLOW ME:

Update on Chapter 11 settlement

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to share an update on our Chapter 11 reorganization proceedings. As I shared in May, the diocese, parishes, schools and other Catholic entities ("Catholic Family") in the diocese, had reached a settlement in principle with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors ("Committee"), which represents the interest of survivors in the Chapter 11 case.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Under this settlement, the details of which will be set out in the diocese's Plan of Reorganization ("Plan"), the Catholic Family will contribute \$45 million to a survivor trust to be established under the Plan. Every member of the Catholic Family will contribute. The trustee of that Trust will determine how the funds will be disbursed to resolve all the claims of the survivors. I will give you updates on the Plan as the details are worked out.

The Plan is a pathway to comprehensive resolution of all claims against the diocese, parishes, and other Catholic entities. Success of the Plan and the contributions to the survivors Trust is critical not only to the diocese, but also to the parishes and other Catholic entities.

In June 2024, the US Supreme Court issued a decision that changed a bankruptcy strategy that was the pathway to confirmation of plans in Diocesan Chapter 11

cases.

The solution that has emerged to protect the diocese, parishes and other entities is a "Rapid Pre-Pack Chapter 11" case for each parish. We are advised it is the only viable and realistic way to obtain comprehensive relief for the entire Catholic Family. This approach has been successful in the Diocese of Rockville Centre and the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Each of our parishes will file a Chapter 11 case at the very last moment, after we know whether we have sufficient votes to confirm the Plan. We expect our parishes will be in bankruptcy approximately 48 hours. Cases will remain open for a period of time, but parishes will emerge from bankruptcy quickly. The only claims addressed in these bankruptcies will be abuse claims. All other creditors and vendors will be paid in the ordinary course of business.

The result is that the Diocese and parishes will receive a bankruptcy discharge of all alleged abuse claims as of the date of the parish's pre-packed bankruptcy is filed. Going forward, no abuse claims may be brought against parishes from prior to that date. This gives parishes maximum protection from future litigation.

The Catholic Family contribution will come from three sources. Parishes and schools will pay approximately \$28.6 million, the di-

Visit website for info

For more information, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, visit the Reorganization page on the diocesan website at rcdony.org/reorganization.

cese and other entities will pay approximately \$6.47 million, and the diocese will borrow an additional \$10 million to contribute to the settlement.

You may ask why the parishes, and other entities should join in the settlement. The majority of our parishes (or their predecessors, by way of merger or consolidation) and some entities are named defendants in already-filed abuse cases, placing them at significant risk of direct liability in State Court actions. The litigation costs, settlements or jury awards would far exceed the resources available. By contributing to the survivors Trust, parishes and other entities will have their claims settled under the Plan.

Most importantly, as a Catholic Family, it is our moral obligation to provide reparation and share a role in the healing to the survivors. As in 1 Corinthians 12:26, if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it.

I know I have included a lot of information, and it will take time to reflect on it. We will continue to provide information as we move forward. For the past decade we have attempted to achieve justice for the survivors while maintaining the mission of the Church. Resolving of abuse

claims and coming out of Chapter 11 is at hand. We are hopeful our Plan will be approved in the next few months and that we may be able to move forward with great hope, free from the threat of continued litigation.

Please keep the survivors in your prayers. Also, please keep me and my advisors, and every member of the Catholic Family in your prayers. With the grace of God, we will support

and encourage each other throughout the Diocese as we continue the mission of sharing the Gospel with our lives.

Asking God to bless you, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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ONE CHURCH, ONE MISSION

Helping young people encounter Christ

By Patrick Looby

Youth Ministry Director

There are few things more encouraging than watching a young person discover that Church is not simply a place they go, but a family to which they belong.

Throughout the year, the Office of Youth Ministry works to create opportunities for the young people of our diocese to encounter Jesus Christ, grow in their Catholic faith and build friendships with other young Catholics.

Whether it happens during a week at Camp Guggenheim, at a Leadership Weekend or through the work of youth ministry in our parishes, the goal remains the same: to help young people know that Christ is calling them and that there is a place for them in His Church.

This past summer, Camp Guggenheim welcomed record numbers of young people from across the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

For many, camp becomes much more than a week away from home; it is a place where faith becomes personal. It is where prayer, friendship, recreation and the faithful witness of an incredible staff of Catholic young adults come together in a way that has changed lives for over 50 years!

The comments we received from parents after camp tell that story better than we ever could:

• “My son came home yesterday and asked me to pray with him before



Campers jump into the fun during Week 1 at Camp Guggenheim. The diocesan teen camp is one of the Youth Ministry programs supported by the annual Bishop's Fund.

bed. This brought me to tears!”

• “When I picked her up, she was on fire, and I could see that she was infused with her faith. She has asked to pray more, and there is less resistance to going to Mass.”

• “My son came home asking to go to church on Sunday with me. We are Catholic but haven't been to Mass in a few years. Very inspiring and transformative! It is hard to reach teenagers these days, and you succeeded.”

These are not simply stories about individual campers. The impact of camp follows young people home and begins to spread through their families. One parent wrote that her daughter's experience had been shared not only with her parents and siblings but also with aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends who were learn-

ing about Camp Guggenheim for the first time.

That has always been part of the mission of Camp Guggenheim: to send young people back into the world better equipped to bring Christ into their families, parishes, schools and communities.

But it is possible only because of the generous support of the Bishop's Fund.

This year, almost 40% of our campers came from families that had never before sent a young person to Camp Guggenheim.

When we asked families what had kept them from attending in the past, the answer was most often financial hardship. In their eyes, summer camp is a luxury that many families in our diocese simply cannot afford. But Guggenheim is not just “summer camp.” It is vital outreach to our young

Church.

This is where the generosity of those who support Bishop Terry R. LaValley's annual Bishop's Fund makes a very real difference.

Thanks to Bishop's Fund donors, we were able to provide more than \$13,000 in financial assistance to families this summer. For some families, just \$50 or \$100 made the difference.

Many were hesitant to ask for help and had simply assumed that camp was financially out of reach. Your generosity changed that.

As a result, we welcomed numbers of campers that we have not seen since before COVID.

We never want finances to stand between a young person and the life-changing experience of Camp Guggenheim. The Bishop's Fund helps make that commitment possible.

But our ministry to young people cannot end when summer does.

Throughout the year, the Office of Youth Ministry works to bring young people together, strengthen parish youth ministry, form young leaders, support those who minister to them and give young people opportunities to explore their questions about faith and life.

In a diocese as large and rural as ours, this work requires cooperation across many miles and many communities.

The Bishop's Fund helps make it possible.

Through your generosity, you help the Diocese of Ogdensburg invest in its young people, not simply by providing programs but by giving them opportunities to encounter Christ, experience the larger Church and meet other young Catholics who remind them that they are not alone in living their faith.

Young people are not merely the future of the Church. They are an important part of the Church today. They have gifts to offer, questions worth hearing and a vocation from God that is already beginning to unfold.

Thank you for being part of this mission and making these opportunities possible.

Through your support of the Bishop's Fund, you help young people throughout the North Country discover the joy of following Jesus Christ and find their place in the life of His Church.



Sister Kathleen Murphy, OSF

Celebrating 70 years as a sister

Formerly the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Sister Kathleen Murphy celebrates 70 years as a Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities this year.

Her jubilee will be celebrated at a service planned for 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 19, at Our Lady of Peace Church in Clarence, New York.

Sister Kathleen began her years of ministry as a teacher at St. Leo's School in Amherst, New York, in 1959.

For the next 30 years, she served as a teacher and principal at various schools throughout western New York. In 1989, Sister Kathleen became district superintendent for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester. Seven years later, she became the superintendent of schools in Ogdensburg.

Sister Kathleen left education to help establish and serve on the faculty of the Haden Institute, home of the Mt. Carmel Spiritual Direction Program in Ontario, Canada.

Today, Sister Kathleen resides at Fredonia Place of Williamsville, New York, a suburb of Buffalo.

She serves her fellow sisters as the chair of the continuing Franciscan formation committee, continues to facilitate retreats in Franciscan spirituality, and serves as a spiritual direction to individuals seeking to develop a closer relationship with God.

Meet the staff, programs of your Catholic Charities



Melody Ransom

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

Melody Ransom is the coordinator of Helpful Haven RESPITE Program and parenting educator with the Nurturing Parenting Program.
HELPFUL HAVEN RESPITE PROGRAM-

A caregiver's respite program provides rest to caregivers by providing an environment where all participants can find joy in the moment through a series of activities, a shared meal, music, exercise, crafting and a connection with others.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

To learn more about the programs of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, or to make a donation, visit www.cathcharities.org. Donations can also be mailed to Catholic Charities at 12 Homestead Park, Malone, NY 12953 or dropped off at any Catholic Charities office.

Catholic Charities offices:

- Clinton County – 1349 Military Turnpike, Plattsburgh
- Franklin & Hamilton Counties – 80 Park Street, Suite 2 (PO Box 701), Tupper Lake
- Franklin County – 12 Homestead Park, Malone
- St. Lawrence County – Ogdensburg Seaway House, 212 Caroline Street
- Jefferson & Lewis Counties – 44 Public Square, Watertown

tion with others.

Respite does not deal with the medical side of anyone's situation but rather seeks to provide a period of respite for all by offering participants support comfort, socialization and friendship away from their primary caregiver.

NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM

The Nurturing Parent Program uses the evidence-based Nurturing Parenting curriculum, a 12-week certificate program, as well as one-to-one parenting classes or group parenting classes.

Discussions cover topics relevant to parents

from prenatal through teenage stages and include information about available support and milestones.

The program also provide support and agency referrals, and advocacy and support to tackle the challenges of pregnancy and parenthood.

The program connects parents with valuable resources within the community and provides an opportunity to join with other parents to build healthy support systems.

For more information about either program, contact mransom@catholiccharities.org or 518-651-2945.



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Environmental Stewardship**The power of water**

Viewing a landscape from any elevated place in the North Country will reveal a remarkable scene of various geographic shapes and features only the Divine could fashion. Geologists tell us that this patchwork of ridges, valleys, hillsides and plains was formed on the earth's rocky crust over thousands of years mainly by the power of water.

It is hard to comprehend how anything as benign as water could shape and transform the rocky exterior of our planet. However, when enough water accumulates in one place, it has enough power to scar the land. News programs commonly report on the incredible devastation caused by the power of flash flooding or tsunamis around the world.

Miraculously, water also has the power to chemically act on seeds in soil to trigger the process of life. It's when seeds react with water that the dormant embryo inside awakens and begins to convert stored nutrients into new cells that form a seedling.

Water also works its way upward into leaves, where it chemically combines with carbon dioxide, using the energy of sunlight, to produce simple sugars that form the basis of the food pyramid.

Water is perhaps tool God uses most to shape and maintain life on this planet. As stewards of creation, we must act in ways that preserve the purity of this vital resource. All too often, we add pollutants to the air which become dissolved in the tiny droplets suspended by the atmosphere. We also live a lifestyle that causes the atmosphere to hold more water than it held prior to the industrial era. This now allows for more intense precipitation and more severe flooding.

While it is nearly impossible for us to adopt a way of life that will heal our climate and repair the damage already done, we are believers in miracles, and we know God can direct water to do anything.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 9 – 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

5 p.m. – Mass with the Adirondack, Franklin and St. Lawrence Commissioned Lay Ministers Association followed by dinner at St. Mary's Church in Brushton

Sept. 10 – 10:30 a.m. – Investment Advisory Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

Sept. 11 – 9:40 a.m. – Mass with the students at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown followed by classroom visits

Sept. 12 – 7 a.m. – Morning Prayer followed by Mass at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Sept. 13 – 11 a.m. – Mass for Special Religious Education Students at the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown

Sept. 14 – 10 a.m. – Mass with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavand for their Patronal Feast Day, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, at St. James Church in Cadyville

Sept. 15 – 6 p.m. – Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Foundation 53rd Annual Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown

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

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 9 – Rev. Michael Olivetti, 1863; Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald, 1914; Rev. Antonio Audet, 1957

Sept. 11 – Rev. J. A. Langlois, 1872; Rev. Hyacinth Rueberg, 1913

Sept. 12 – Rev. Abraham T. Guertin, 1933; Rev. Vincent Skiba, 1984

Sept. 13 – Deacon Edward A. Wight, 2021

Sept. 14 – Rev. Russell Charles O'Neil, 1951

Sept. 15 – Rev. George Lessard, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto, 2004; Deacon William S. Raven, 2023

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; terrienneyanulavich@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg 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. 9 – 9 a.m. – St. James Major Church, Carthage

Sept. 10 – 6 p.m. – Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph, Morrisonville

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

Sept. 17 – 7 p.m. – Augustini-an Academy Carthage

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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.

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Bishops from Mexico, U.S., Canada see need to speak 'with one voice'

By David Ramos
EWTN News

"It is increasingly urgent that the Catholic Church in the Americas speak with one voice," stated Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, Texas, vice president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), following the Mass celebrated Aug. 30 at the cathedral in Cuernavaca, Mexico, which marked the beginning of a meeting among Mexican, U.S., and Canadian bishops.

Bishop Ramón Castro of Cuernavaca, president of the Mexican Bishops' Conference (CEM, by its Spanish acronym) was the main celebrant of the Mass. Concelebrating alongside various priests, along with Flores, were Bishop Oscar Cantú of San José, California, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on Hispanic/Latino Affairs; and Bishop Pierre Goudreault of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In a brief message, Flores expressed gratitude for "Bishop Ramón's inspiration in inviting us to this gathering to strengthen this ecclesial communion."

"In the times we are living through, it will become increasingly important — indeed, urgent — for the Catholic Church in the Americas to speak with one voice, defending the honor of Our Lord and the dignity of the human person — especially the poor and immigrants, who often have nowhere to lay their heads, just like the Lord Jesus himself," he said.

"We need to preach together and united as one Church, under the guidance of our Holy Father, Pope Leo, and in communion with all the bishops of the world," he added.

In his homily, Castro highlighted that this meeting of leaders from North American episcopal conferences is "the first of its kind in our history."

"We are three distinct countries. We are three Churches with different histories and realities, yet we share one and the same faith, one baptism, one Eucharist, and one mission," the Mex-

ican prelate affirmed.

Regarding the role of bishops, Castro emphasized that "before being leaders, we are disciples," and "before having responsibilities, we are men called by the Lord."

"Perhaps this can be the profound spirit of this gathering of the Church in North America: for all of us to place ourselves once again behind Jesus."

The president of the CEM emphasized that "our peoples face enormous challenges, particularly Mexico," and pointed to issues such as "violence, demagoguery, corruption, loneliness, secularization, individualism, materialism, polarization, wounded families, and young people seeking reasons for hope."

He further noted that "perhaps one of the most common themes among the three of us as countries and conferences is migration."

"Over the coming days, we will have the opportunity to share our perspectives on these realities, not in a spirit of judgment or confrontation but rather out of the pastoral responsibility that falls to us as shepherds," the bishop of Cuernavaca said.

"We want to better understand the lives of our people. To what end? To be able to serve them better," he stated.

Castro emphasized that "migration must not be reduced to statistics, public policies, or economic obligations," because "behind every migrant there is a face, a story, a family, a hope, and, unfortunately, often many wounds."

"The Church must view these people as brothers and sisters whose dignity must be recognized and protected," he said.

The Mexican bishop also expressed his wish "that from Cuernavaca we might send a simple yet powerful sign to our churches, churches on pilgrimage in Canada, the United States, and Mexico."

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

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Abortion pill review delayed until after midterm elections

A federal judge on Aug. 30 agreed to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's request to pause a lawsuit over the safety of the mifepristone pill and the drug's mail-order distribution. Judge Reed O'Connor of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas ordered that the lawsuit would be delayed until either Dec. 1 or the completion of the FDA's safety review of mifepristone, whichever comes first. In the lawsuit, Texas and Florida asked the court to revoke the FDA's approval of the abortion-inducing pill, saying the agency didn't adequately evaluate its safety when it approved the drug in 2000. The lawsuit also challenged mail-order distribution of the pill. The FDA first announced it would review mifepristone in September 2025. "This shift in timing for the lawsuit and their 'promised' review indicates that they are prioritizing politics over the safety of American women and children," said Noah Brandt, spokesman for Live Action.

Quebec's Cardinal Ouellet vindicated in abuse lawsuit

A judge has found sexual misconduct accusations against Quebec's Cardinal Marc Ouellet to be unfounded and ordered his accuser to pay him 100,000 Canadian dollars (about \$72,000). The cardinal, retired since April 2024, had been under a cloud of suspicion since Pamela Groleau accused him of touching her without consent on three occasions between 2008 and 2010 while she was training or working as a lay pastoral agent. She also told the court she felt "hunted" at another event, saying Ouellet came from across the room to sit next to her. "The court finds that the allegations describing the four events cited by Ms. Groleau in the context of the class action are false," Superior Court Justice Martin Castonguay wrote in a decision released Aug. 31. Castonguay concluded that Groleau's testimony against the now-82-year-old Ouellet "was neither credible nor reliable," noting in his judgment that she had changed her story several times.

Pope Leo names third Chinese bishop in three months

Father Paolo Liu Honggang was ordained bishop of the Diocese of Datong in China's Shanxi province on Aug. 31. The Holy See said Pope Leo XIV appointed Liu bishop of Datong on Aug. 10 after approving his candidacy under the mechanisms established by the Vatican's agreement with Beijing on the appointment of bishops. This marks the third episcopal ordination since June 15 and the seventh episcopal consecration during the pontificate of Leo XIV, although not all episcopal appointments are linked to the current pontiff. Excluded from the seven are two bishops who had already received episcopal consecration but belonged to the underground Church — that is, the Church not recognized by China — and were ultimately validated by the authorities of the communist regime. The process leading to Liu's appointment and episcopal ordination took place entirely during Leo's pontificate, providing another sign that the pope intends to continue dialogue between Rome and Beijing.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish to have a turkey dinner to benefit the fuel fund.

Date: Sept. 13

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion

Cost: Adults, \$15, Children 6-12, \$7; Under 5, Free

PURGATORY PRAYER DEVOTION

Ellenburg – The House of Prayer will be teaching the Purgatory Prayer devotion.

Date: Sept. 15, 22

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer

Features: Drop by and learn this beautiful prayer from Gary Pfifer, a commissioned lay minister from Plattsburgh, and pray with your brothers and sisters in Christ. **Contact:** Please call 518-534-9976 (Sarah) for more information.

APPLEFEST

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

Date: Sept. 19

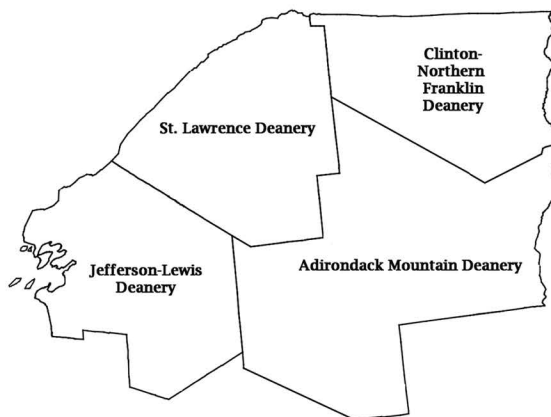
Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Schedule: Activities at St. Augustine's Parish Center begin at 10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., the community parade begins its route 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. Father Alan Shnob is Parade Grand Marshal.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

Date: Sept. 12

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake Breakfast to support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage Knights of Columbus and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: Sept. 13, Oct. 11

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

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

Menu: Scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, baked goods, juice and coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

ST. LAWRENCE

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Sept. 13

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 Gonther 315-212-5166.

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.

Contact: For more information call 315-287-0114

EUCCHARISTIC 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 until His resurrection at parishes throughout our diocese.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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. 12 at St. Patrick's Church, Colton at 1 p.m.; Sept. 13 at John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh at 2 p.m.; 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.

FREE THEOLOGY SERIES

Canton – This free professional-development opportunity is open to all who work with middle school or high school youth, including catechists, Catholic school teachers, youth group volunteers, parish youth ministers, and core-team members.

Date: Sept. 12

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: How do we know God exists? Why does evil happen if God is good? What about evolution, the Big Bang, or the multiverse? The first session of the Ready to Give an Answer series will help Catholics respond to these questions with clarity, confidence, and charity while exploring the relationship between faith and science. Breakfast will be provided, and participants may receive credit toward certification in Youth Ministry.

Contact: Although the event is free, registration is required. Register at or email Patrick Looby at plooby@rcdony.org.

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. Married couples that wish to receive a certificate signed by Bishop LaValley and have their names appear in the program should register by September 11 at rcdony.org/jubilee.

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

Features: Talk by diocesan vocation director, Father Matthew Conger. The talk is entitled, Promoting Vocations Is Everyone's Business: What Can I Do? All are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Building community, faith in book clubs

By **Diego López Colín**
EWTN News

More and more young people are looking for opportunities to deepen their faith and build community. In this context, Catholic book clubs are becoming a way to combine a shared love for books with spiritual growth.

Initiatives such as the Betania Club de Lectura Católico (Bethany Catholic Book Club) and El Carmelo Descalzo (The Discalced Carmelite) shared their experience with ACI Prensa, the Spanish-language sister service of EWTN News, and offered some recommendations for those who want to start a similar project in their parish, university, or community.

For José Jorge Domínguez, who started the Bethany Catholic Book Club, the first step is to begin with prayer and "entrust the project to God."

"He always sees the intention of the heart," he added.

He also recommended presenting the initiative to the parish priest so that he is aware of the project and, if possible, can offer spiritual guidance and support.

Another fundamental element for keeping a book club going is having a defined goal.

Sara Gisela Sánchez Ureña, a member of The Discalced Carmelite, explained that it's "easier to keep up attendance when the book club has a common thread."

Their project originated within a group of single adults with a Carmelite spirituality who seek to purify "their own life experience in order to better determine whether their vocation is single life or marriage, approaching this through the lens of spiritual growth and with the maturity of the adults that we are."

To that end, this year they organized a program based on the works of St. John of the Cross, alternating with authors who address themes related to the experience of the "Dark Night of the Soul."

For Sánchez, a key factor is ensuring that the meetings do not become merely forums for literary analysis but rather occasions for connection and personal reflection.

He explained that the Discalced Carmelite meetings begin with a conversation about the

general impressions left by the book. Afterward, participants answer questions designed to relate the reading to their own experiences.

He also recommended taking the time to learn a bit more about the author. "It's not just a matter of choosing an author but also of getting to know him better," he noted.

Domínguez highlighted that one of the main objectives is to create a forum where participants can share their experiences and hear the views of others.

The intention, he explained, is for people "to be able to share their point of view and life experience, and to create a space where God is at the center of everything."

Regarding the format of the gatherings, both organizers agree that it depends on the specific circumstances of each community and the participants' availability.

The Bethany group opted for in-person meetings at various locations across Mexico City. Domínguez explained that the group "goes like pilgrims from place to place in the city, visiting different venues such as cafés or

designated meeting points."

Meanwhile, the Discalced Carmelite group found that virtual meetings offered a way to accommodate their members' schedules. For Sánchez, the format matters less than the goal of "getting to know one another and building a sense of fellowship."

Although each initiative operates differently, both share the view that a book club should not limit itself to the act of reading; instead, it should help members apply those reflections to their lives.

Domínguez said each endeavor should have a concrete spiritual impact, noting that it is not merely a matter of reading for the sake of reading but rather of "making each reading one's own, discerning it in light of one's own life, and allowing it to bear fruit."

He said one of the great riches of those times together is the ability to proclaim to new generations "that there is a God who loves them, understands them, and listens to them." In his view, "reading in community is an excellent means to achieve that goal."

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8
welcome!

Contact: RSVP at connieran-dall47@yahoo.com or 315-783-0574 by Sept. 17.

HIGH SCHOOL 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: 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. La-

Valley 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.

Contact: Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara 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-with-hope> 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. 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

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 at cminer@rcdony.org or 518-524-0774



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'As we forgive those...'

September 13

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Have you ever held a grudge against someone, someone who offended you in some way? As a result, you gave yourself the right to hold a grudge so that you could get back in some way someday. Did holding that grudge make your life happier or healthier? Did holding the grudge enhance your life in some way? Probably not.

This Sunday's first reading from Sirach contains these words: "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." Those words clearly

tell us how to act when, in any way, we have experienced hurt.

Christ himself gave greater meaning to these words when he was asked how to pray. In that prayer we find "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Could it be any clearer?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter asks how many times we should offer forgiveness. In response, Jesus presents a parable about the servant who received forgiveness, but who sought vengeance from a fellow servant.

We expect to receive forgiveness for our sins each time we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are told in the Old Testament - and we believe - that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Doesn't that mean that we should forgive others just as God forgives us?

Jesus owes us nothing, but he has given us everything. He has forgiven the worst things

we have ever done. He would forgive the worst things we could ever imagine. And yet, with all that mercy to draw from, free for the taking, he still finds us holding grudges over much smaller wrongs done to us by the hands of another.

When we hold a grudge, we demonstrate that we have not understood this Gospel message. Holding a grudge adds stress to our lives, makes us miserable, shows us to be stubborn and pig-headed. Forgiving releases the stress, removes the elephant from the room and allows us to live in peace.

We do not deserve or merit the mercy God has shown us in Christ. We

can't earn it and we can't repay it. But we can live it. We can forgive, and we can seek forgiveness. And as "seventy-seven" represents the limitless nature of God's mercy toward us - so we can make it represent ours to one another.

So, if you really want to live, seek forgiveness and extend forgiveness. Just do it. Don't bother counting how many times. Forgiving does not mean you approve of what caused the hurt. Rather, forgiving means you can rise above whatever caused the hurt. We pray each day: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Let's make sure that we mean those words.

CALLED TO SERVE

People love to hear stories

Homilists will often tell a personal story or a story they heard or read in a presentation to the congregation at Mass. In theory, the story has some relevance to the scripture readings, or the teaching the preacher is setting out to accomplish.

You probably have heard one or two preachers in your lifetime who start preaching with a joke or story. That fable may not tie-in to the scripture; not even remotely. The preacher uses that technique to get his pew-sitters to relax, or smile or even laugh. To win them over for the heavy stuff to follow.

I understand that method. I do not like it, but I understand the motive. Each preacher chooses the style and

presentation that suits him or her.

Story telling has another dimension though. It has to do with the people, places and things we encounter. The question we need to ask ourselves each day about those encounters is, "was God present in that moment?"

If the answer was "Yes," then how am I changed by the incident or incidents and what am I going to do about it?

Consider this example. I heard an interview on the radio the other day about NASA's new space camera. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is currently in route to its final location one million miles from earth. Then it will start to take pictures of the unexplored and in

some cases undiscovered universe.

A couple of facts to get out of the way. Nancy Grace Roman was NASA's first Chief of Astronomy, widely known as the "Mother of Hubble" for her vital role in making the Hubble Space Telescope a reality. Thank you, NASA.

The new telescope was successfully launched on August 30, 2026, aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from Kennedy Space Center.

Corning's Canton, New York, plant manufactured the fundamental glass blanks that are incorporated in the new telescope.

That is all Jeopardy in-

formation. Tuck it away for future use.

One phrase nailed me. I was struck by the destination. "One million miles from earth." That is a long way from Northern New York. What does that distance say about poor little me who is trying to find his way among the 8.3 billion other inhabitants of earth?



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Nothing. Was God present to me in that moment? No.

Man's adventure to space is exciting. It leaves us in awe, but it has nothing to do with my journey to eternal life with God. My journey, and I believe yours, is influenced by the people we meet, the events

in our lives and those moments when we can truly say God was present.

That is what I took from Deacon Rick Wagner's retreat presentation to deacons this week at Wadhams Hall. God Needs Storytellers was the theme. God needs us to spread the Word. Thank you, Deacon Rick.

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

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

Neighbors helping neighbors

"An earthquake can bring so many things to collapse in a matter of seconds. Homes, places of worship, schools - even our sense of security can suddenly become fragile. Yet, amid the devastation caused by the earthquake that struck Flores on August 15, I witnessed the emergence of a remarkable spirit of solidarity: people began helping one another with generosity and without holding back. Many started sending food, distributing medicines and offering their time as volunteers. Government agencies, healthcare workers, humanitarian organizations and local Catholic communities mobilized through their respective networks. Amid the damaged physical infrastructure, another kind of infrastructure was already at work: a network of kindness," reflected Bishop Siprianus Hor-

mat, bishop of Ruteng on the Indonesian island of Flores.

The official death toll across Flores has reached 100, including 48 women and children. More than 1,600 people have been injured. The number of displaced people - those forced to leave their homes - has exceeded 180,000. They are living in makeshift camps, stadiums and town squares.

The earthquake swarm, including more than 2,000 aftershocks, continues to fuel fear among the population, while humanitarian agencies are reporting shortages of essential supplies, including drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, blankets and waterproof tarps for shelter. Particularly concerning is the situation of isolated mountain communities, as landslides and road closures have slowed the work of rescue and civil protection teams.



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

The bishop continues: "We usually think of resilience in terms of earthquake-resistant buildings, roads, electricity and hospitals. Yet communities also possess an infrastructure that is not made of concrete: trust, habits of mutual assistance and the ability to connect needs with resources. This strength is known as 'social capital.' Its meaning is simple: men and women make sure their neighbors have food; people lend their vehicles, and volunteers reach places that are difficult to access. Previous studies have shown that the difference in the speed of recovery among communities affected

by disasters lies not so much in the extent of the damage or the amount of aid received, but in the strength of the social networks that existed before the disaster. Resilience, in other words, is built beforehand."

Bishop Hormat has been personally involved, traveling throughout the diocese to visit makeshift camps, remote communities and hospitals. "This experience," he says, "has reshaped my understanding of episcopal ministry. A bishop, as the person responsible for a community, must make decisions and connect needs with resources... There are moments when presence cannot be

replaced by a phone call; moments when people who are suffering do not need a speech, but simply a pastor who is willing to be there.

"We live in an age when presence can easily be replaced by a message of empathy. Yet human suffering cannot be fully understood through a screen. Presence is not primarily about being seen by those who suffer, but about being willing to see those who suffer... To be present is a responsibility. And this responsibility concerns everyone: each of us has something to offer - our skills, our time, our authority, or simply two hands ready to work and join in prayer. All of this acquires social meaning when it becomes a means of sustaining the life of others."

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

OBITUARIES

Lowville - Mary Lou (Lanigan) Cataldo, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone - Beulah (Trombley) Whalen, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Massena - Eileen (LaPree) DiTullio, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 5, 2026 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Norma E. (Hammill) Secours, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2026 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville - Mary Ann (Mitchell) Lawliss, 79; Mass of

Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2026 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Dannemora.

Morrisonville - Amy Jane (Daniels) Longtemps, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2026 at St. Alexander's Church.

Norfolk - Natalie A. (Hayes) LaBarge, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2026 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norfolk - Leah G. (Maloney) LaForty, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2026 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

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tery.

Ogdensburg - Joseph D. O'Hare, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg - Richard F. Schond, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2026 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Plattsburgh - Wayne C. Douglas, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2026 at Our Lady of Victory Church;


*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry - Marianne (Wokowdzic) Baker, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam - Steven A. Keleher, 72;

Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2026 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in West Stockholm Cemetery.

Watertown - Francine M. (Gullo) Hanlon, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church.

2026-2027 Diocesan Directories now available!

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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.



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

