



DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG





Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

On February 14, 2013, the Diocese of Ogdensburg set out on a special quest to follow Jesus more closely in a world that is changing at breakneck speed. Amid such rapid change, the Church that we love continues to invite us and our neighbors to find our home in Christ, to *Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, and Discover Love*.

An Envisioning Leadership Team helped me assess our needs and priorities as a Diocese. I heard from a broad cross-section of our parishioners from the shores of Lake Champlain to the banks of the St. Lawrence River. The young and the not-so-young shared their experiences and concerns for the future. At the Chrism Mass in 2014, the formal aspect of the Envisioning Process concluded with my announcement of our five-year Vision, including key Priorities for parish ministry. These Priorities have become a compass for every parish in our Diocese to follow on the journey of faith.

Under the leadership of our pastors, *Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled*, our parishioners have been planning, conscious of our limited resources, how best to build our parishes with living stones, that is, making them even more vibrant families of faith. The parishes must now be equipped with the resources (both human and material) to implement these plans that will strengthen the mission of the local Church for generations to come.

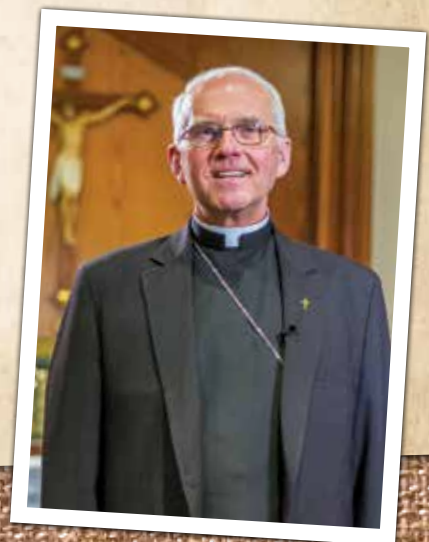
At this time, as we prepare for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our Diocese (2022), I am seeking your prayerful support of our Diocesan Capital Campaign, because ***It's Our Church, It's Our Future***. This campaign, which calls for sacrifice on everyone's part, will support the rich legacy of faith that characterizes the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I believe that this is truly an urgent, historic endeavor to strengthen our local parish families that comprise the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

I am very grateful for your continuing prayers and ask your generous participation in this important effort to provide the means that helps us follow Jesus as members of a vibrant family of faith.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



OUR HISTORY

For over 200 years, the Catholic Church here in the North Country is steeped in a rich and deep Catholic faith. From our earliest beginning at the Mission of the Holy Trinity at La Presentation Fort in 1752 to our establishment as a Diocese on February 16, 1872 to today, our history throughout the years is that of real people who have made a true difference. It has been the clergy, religious and laity who established churches for worship, schools for educating our youth, and ministries, programs and services that have served the needs of countless thousands throughout the North Country. Those who have gone before us in faith have worked long and hard so that future generations could enjoy the fruits of their labor and take as their own, the faith that comes down to us from Christ through the Apostles.

In 2022, our Diocese will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. In celebration and in

order to strengthen our Diocese, ensuring that we have the financial resources necessary to provide for our parishes as well as for the programs, ministries and services needed to meet the needs of our Catholic faithful, we are undertaking a major capital campaign. Our theme, ***It's Our Church, It's Our Future***, truly reflects that the Church of today and the Church of tomorrow belongs to all of us. Together, we must continue to build upon the foundation laid by generations past. With a goal of raising \$16,000,000 over the next four years, what follows in this brochure is an outline of the elements included in our campaign. As you read through the materials, each of you, through prayer, reflection and study, can determine what role you will play in the success of this important undertaking for our local Church as we continue our journey of faith, together.





OUR PARISHES

We most deeply experience the presence of Jesus through the sacraments, community, and faith formation in our parish communities. Every parish within the Diocese has its own needs and challenges. Our parishes must be financially stable and secure to more fully live the call “to teach, sanctify, and guide.” These challenges may include, but are not limited to:

- Strengthening existing programs, ministries and outreach as well as creating new opportunities to encourage more involvement in the life of our faith.
- Making necessary repairs to the parish facilities.
- Expanding or renovating church facilities.
- Establishing a maintenance fund for future repairs or projects.



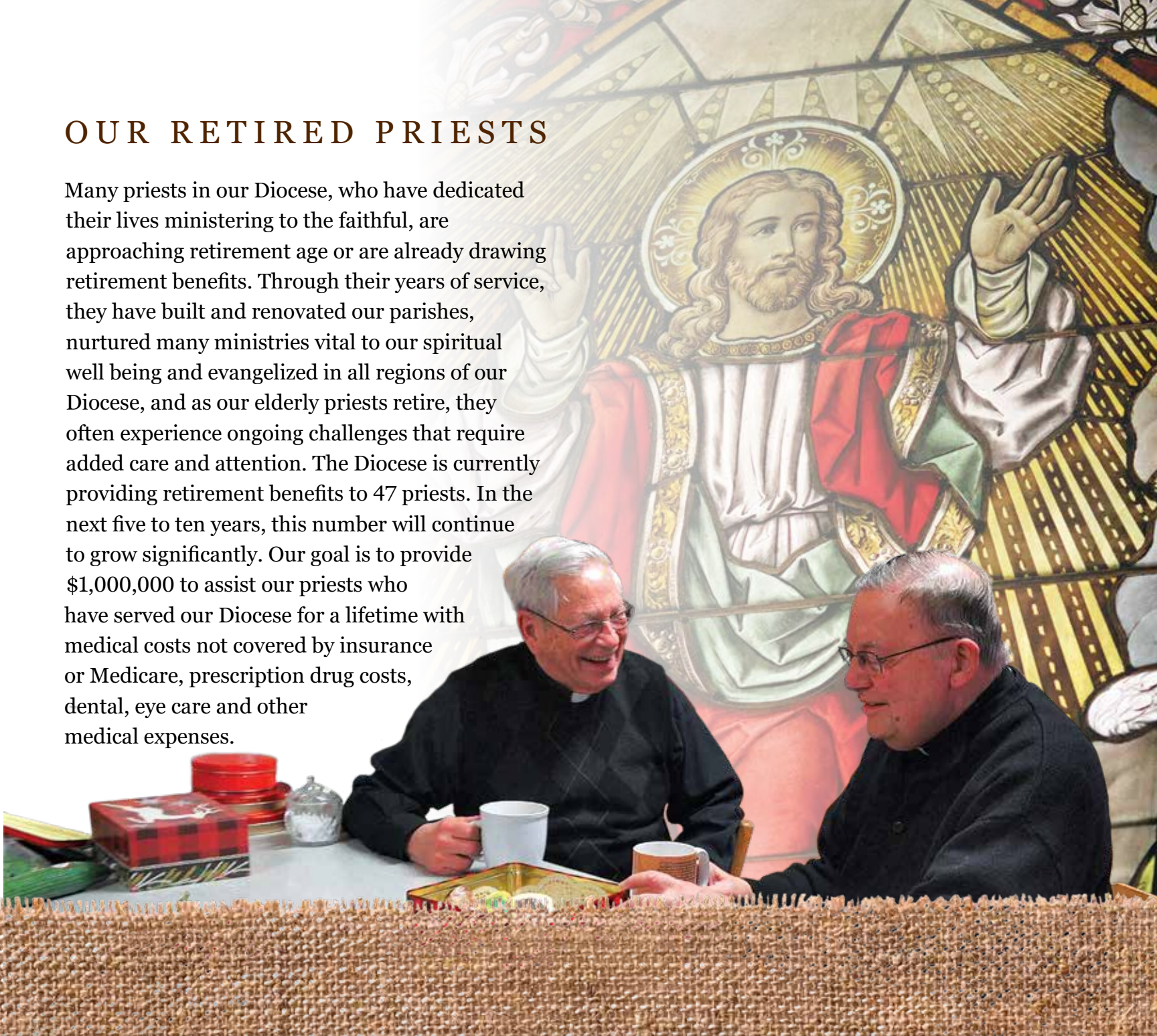


Once a parish has fulfilled their commitment to the 2018 Bishop's Fund Appeal, 75% of all funds raised will remain at the parish. It is anticipated that \$11,250,000+ will be infused into the local parishes during this campaign to address local needs identified by local parish leadership.



OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

Many priests in our Diocese, who have dedicated their lives ministering to the faithful, are approaching retirement age or are already drawing retirement benefits. Through their years of service, they have built and renovated our parishes, nurtured many ministries vital to our spiritual well being and evangelized in all regions of our Diocese, and as our elderly priests retire, they often experience ongoing challenges that require added care and attention. The Diocese is currently providing retirement benefits to 47 priests. In the next five to ten years, this number will continue to grow significantly. Our goal is to provide \$1,000,000 to assist our priests who have served our Diocese for a lifetime with medical costs not covered by insurance or Medicare, prescription drug costs, dental, eye care and other medical expenses.



OUR SEMINARIANS

All our parishes need priests to provide leadership now and in the future. By creating a culture of vocations the Diocese of Ogdensburg is providing for the pastoral and sacramental needs of parish communities by seeking, educating, forming, and supporting men interested in serving the Church as priests. As the cost of all education has risen dramatically in recent years, so too has the cost of seminarian education and formation.

Currently, the Diocese has nine men studying in various stages of an eight-year education and formation program. The cost to educate and support one seminarian is over \$40,000 annually. The collective cost to the Diocese is approaching \$400,000 annually. We truly are blessed to have an increasing number of seminarians, but with this blessing comes tremendous responsibilities. This campaign will earmark \$1,000,000 to help meet the costs of developing and educating our future priests.



CAMP GUGGENHEIM

We are committed to providing opportunities to help form our young people into committed disciples and strengthening our families. One of the great gifts we have here in the Diocese is Camp Guggenheim. Located on 150 acres on the north shore of lower Saranac Lake, the camp provides facilities where young people and families all across the Diocese are given the opportunity for spiritual growth and development in a peaceful and serene setting.

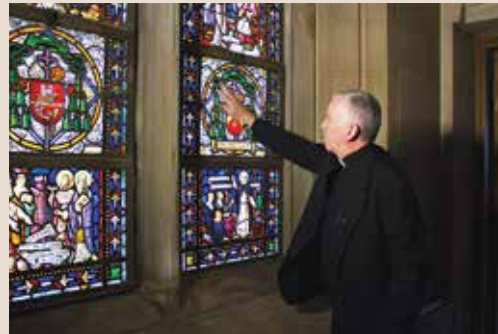
The Diocese is currently planning \$450,000 in upgrades and improvements to the camp, including:

- Renovation of the dorm including new windows and doors.
- Updating the kitchen and dining area.
- Improvements to the access road to the camp.



OUR CATHEDRAL

St. Mary's Cathedral is the Mother Church of our Diocese. Dedicated on October 22, 1952, the Cathedral remains the focal point for many Diocesan-wide celebrations and has a unique role in the life of our local Church. It shares in the rich heritage of the bishops, priests, and deacons who have been ordained to serve here in the North Country for generations. It is the place where all of the faithful can gather and be at home and it remains a spiritual treasure and prominent symbol of our faith. The responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of our Cathedral predominantly falls on the parishioners of St. Mary's. This campaign will earmark \$1,000,000 to aid in the preservation and maintenance of our beautiful Cathedral.



OUR 2018 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Each year, the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg commit to sharing God's care for our brothers and sisters in faith by their support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal. The generosity of our families provides local and regional service to thousands of men, women and children who experience the grace, mercy and peace of Christ through the many ministries and outreach programs of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. During 2018, the Bishop's Fund Appeal will be incorporated into the ***It's Our Church, It's Our Future*** Campaign. Our Capital Campaign will raise the \$1,300,000 necessary to meet the needs of the Diocesan Church which include, however, not limited to:

- Youth & Young Adult Ministry
- 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
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Diaconate
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Department of Worship

The Bishop's Fund Appeal supports the operation of these ministries and programs on an annual basis, while the Capital Campaign seeks to address extraordinary needs on a parish and Diocesan level. ***Please note that only one year of the Bishop's Fund Appeal is included in the Capital Campaign. The Bishop's Fund Appeal will resume in 2019.***



Bishop LaValley invites you, as a faithful member of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, to bring your gifts and add them to the gifts of others in order to raise \$16 million. As a good steward, you are called to reflect on the abundant gifts from God, to consider all the ways your life has been blessed, and to return to God in the same measure that He has given to you; to help provide the foundation for the future.

Everyone is asked to be a part of this effort, but not everyone is asked to give the same amount. This brochure includes a gift plan that can be used as a guide in making your decision. Please consider it carefully and, at the appropriate time, select the gift that best expresses your gratitude to God as experienced in your life today. Your gift can be made as a pledge payable over a four-year period on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annual basis. Reminders will be mailed to your home based on your pledge plan.



METHODS OF PLEDGING

Pledges via Cash, Check or Credit/Debit Card

Simply complete your pledge card and select the timeframe of your payments. If you choose to make a down payment via check, please make it payable to ***It's Our Church, It's Our Future***. If you would like to have your down payment and pledge payments billed to your credit or debit card, please provide that information on your pledge card or to make an online donation, please visit our secure website at: www.rcdony.org. We are currently accepting Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

Once completed, please return your pledge card by mail in the return envelope provided. The Development Office will send future payment reminders in accordance with the payment plan you have chosen. For those choosing the automatic payment option via credit or debit card, you will not receive reminder statements.

Any questions or concerns about using your credit or debit card, please contact the Development Office at (315) 393-2920.

Gifts of Securities

Donors may use stock or mutual funds to pay their pledge. Gifts of securities shall be administered under the Diocesan procedure that sees the securities sold immediately upon receipt by the Diocese. Donors who have owned the stock for more than a year prior to making their gift to the Diocese do not have to pay capital gains tax on the stock and are allowed a tax deduction.

If you would like to initiate a donation of stock or securities, please contact Scott Lalone at (315) 393-2920 or slalone@rcdony.org

Gifts from qualifying Retirement Accounts

The IRA Charitable Rollover provision of the 2015 PATH (Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes) Act permits individuals age 70.5 or older to contribute up to \$100,000 from a qualifying retirement account directly to a qualifying charity without recognizing the assets transferred to the charity as income. Please contact your financial advisor for additional information concerning gifts via retirement accounts.

Gifts of Property, Life Insurance, Wills or Bequests

Gifts such as property, life insurance, estate bequests or charitable remainder trusts are welcome. For substantial gifts of property other than marketable securities, the IRS requires an appraisal. Please contact Scott Lalone at (315) 393-2920 or slalone@rcdony.org, for more information on types of planned giving to this campaign.

Tax Advantages of Charitable Giving

Charitable contributions to our campaign are deductible for those who itemize their taxes. Because each situation is unique, we urge you to discuss various gift options with your family and possibly your financial advisor to determine what type of gift is most beneficial and most appropriate for your situation.

“I’m proud of the Church of North Country, of the lives that we’ve touched through the grace of God. We’ve made such an impact and I want to make sure that under my watch people continue to be nourished by the sacraments, that they hear God’s word, and that the people continue to extend a helping hand to those who need it.”

*Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg*



CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Loving God, you call us to be the living stones through which your pilgrim Church is enlivened and where your vision for the future is realized.

May the parish families of our Diocese manifest the covenant of your love, and become a living Gospel for all people to hear, radiating the Presence of the Risen Christ in all our actions.

Continue to transform us, through the working of your Holy Spirit, so that our Diocesan family can proclaim a future full of hope by lives marked with faith-filled prayer, outreach to our neighbor, and generous sharing.

May Mary, our Patroness and Mother of the Church, unite her prayer to ours, and accompany us in love, guiding our steps in generous support of this capital campaign as our Church looks to our future with hope and joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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