



Diocese of Ogdensburg

Office of the Bishop

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January 22, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today marks the thirty-ninth anniversary of US Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion on demand in our United States. Tragically, the practice of abortion has come to be common in our country. The annual *Respect Life* collection of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be taken up in our parishes at Mass today. Through your generosity the diocese will once again be able to make grants to organizations within the North Country that are working to support and enhance the value of life in the minds and hearts of our people.

Last year collection proceeds were used to fund grants to assist the *Gabriel Project* in five locations. These are parish based hands-on programs to support women and men and give practical assistance when crisis pregnancies occur. The *40 Days for Life* initiative was assisted in Clinton County. Life Right of Watertown, Champlain Valley Birthright, and the NYS Right to Life Educational Trust Fund were all assisted as well.

Each year from proceeds, grants are given to assist those who will journey to Washington for the annual January March for Life. Personally, I am looking forward very much to participating this year with those who will take part from our North Country. One hundred fifty youth will travel in three buses to participate. Additional Adult and Family buses will be going from Plattsburgh and the area of Lewis County to take part. Please support that good effort with your prayers!

Your financial support can make a great difference to us in our ability to support our local initiatives to proclaim and support human life. May God bless you for your generosity! I will remember all of the benefactors of this important cause in a very special way in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Terry R. LaValley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, DD, JCL
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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