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Syracuse Catholic Diocese celebrates 125 years

By: Erin Clarke

The Syracuse Catholic Diocese celebrated 125 years Sunday. And as YNN's Erin Clarke tells us, the Onondaga Historical Association is making sure the milestone celebration continues.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- November 26, 1886 the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse was established. One-hundred-twenty-five years later it has a proud population of 285,000 across Central New York and the Southern Tier.

"I think it's awesome. Our Diocese has been around this long, made a difference in many lives," said Valerie Gibbons of LaFayette.

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A celebration marking the 125th anniversary was held Sunday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and broadcast live on YNN.

"We give praise and thanks to God for all the blessings that our Diocese has known since it's foundation," said Syracuse Diocese Bishop, Rev. Robert Cunningham.

Archdiocese of New York Archbishop, Timothy Dolan presided over the mass.

"A day like this you just beam because you see the sacrifices, the commitment, the devotion of our people, the goodness of our priests, proud of the past, but very confident about the future," said Archbishop Dolan.

The 125th anniversary celebration continues for six more months at the Onondaga Historical Association where there's an exhibit dedicated to the Syracuse Diocese.

"The community has plenty of time to come and see these spectacular pieces from the archives and the collections of the Diocese," said Onondaga Historical Association Executive Director, Gregg Tripoli.

Included in the exhibit are bios of the Syracuse Diocese Bishops, artifacts and documents rarely seen.

"They aren't exhibited anywhere in our community. They're pretty much kept in a vault, so this is really a special occasion for people to see these relics and artifacts of the Catholic Diocese that they don't get to see and won't get to see because they really aren't on display anywhere else," said Tripoli.

Offering a walk down memory lane for some and an opportunity to for other learn.

For more information about the Onondaga Historical Association and the Syracuse Catholic Diocese visit: www.cnyhistory.org and syracusediocese.org.