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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 68, Number 42

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 12, 2014

## Lent a 'time to shed apathy'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Lent is a time to shed lazy, un-Christian habits and snap out of one's apathy toward people harmed by violence, poverty and not having God in their lives, Pope Francis said.

Lent is time to "change course, to recover the ability

to respond to the reality of evil that always challenges us," he said during his weekly general audience March 5, Ash Wednesday.

The pope's catechesis focused on the meaning of Lent, which, beginning Ash Wednesday for Latin-rite

Catholics, marks a 40-day period of penance, prayer and conversion "in preparation for the church's annual celebration of the saving mysteries of Christ's passion, death and resurrection," he said.

At the audience, he ex-

plained that Lent is a time for "a turnaround," to convert and change for the better. "All of us need to improve," he said, and "Lent helps us. And that way we get out of our tired routine and the lazy addiction to evil that tempts us."

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Pope Francis  
elected a year  
ago March 13



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis celebrates Ash Wednesday Mass at the Basilica of Santa Sabina in Rome March 5. Eight days later - March 13 - will mark the first anniversary of his election as pope. In an interview published March 5 in the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, the pope reflected on his colossal popularity and criticized "ideological interpretations, a certain mythology of Pope Francis...." "To portray the pope as a kind of superman, a type of star, strikes me as offensive," he said. "The pope is a man who laughs, weeps, sleeps soundly and has friends like everybody else. A normal person."

## It's time to renew your subscription

The annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins Sunday in all parishes of the diocese.

Bishop LaValley has encouraged every Catholic family to welcome the *NCC* into their homes this year, writing, "I will depend on the diocesan newspaper to serve as a critical means of communication as we move forward together with a mutually shared vision for the future of the Church in our beloved diocese."

This list of 2013 patrons appears on pages 10-11.

PATRON LIST, PAGES 10-11

## HFS principal is retiring

Father Tom Higman reflects on the legacy of Anne Marie Wiseman who is retiring from the Malone school  
FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## IT'S NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSION OF HOPE

The *North Country Catholic* is celebrating National Catholic Sisters Week with profiles of seven religious women currently serving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The week serves as a prelude for the Year for Consecrated Life which Pope Francis has declared for 2015. Above are Dominican Sisters Stephanie Frenette and Debbie Blow - two sisters who provide extraordinary service to the church as well as local and international communities - during February's Mission of Hope trip to Nicaragua. See Bishop LaValley's reflections for National Catholic Sisters Week on page 3 and the profiles on pages 4-6.

**CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL:** There's still time to register for March 19 event, p. 5

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Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400  
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Publish 45 issues per year:  
Weekly except every other week beginning the end of June 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 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  
Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
dateline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## 60 cents of faith, family &amp; formation

Next Sunday at Mass, Catholics across the North Country will be encouraged to welcome this newspaper into their homes every week.

While that's been a good idea for more than 60 years, it might be especially important in 2014.

Bishop LaValley explains why in his letter supporting this year's NCC subscription campaign:

"Since 1946, every bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has relied on the *North Country Catholic* to

be a source of information, evangelization and unity for Catholics who live in our North Country and beyond.

*"During the coming year, I will depend on the diocesan newspaper to serve as a critical means of communication as we move forward together with a mutually shared vision for the future of the Church in our beloved diocese."*

"Readers of the *North Country Catholic* will find full coverage of the upcoming proclamation event at

the April 9 Chrism Mass during which I will announce our diocesan vision, priorities and goals for the next five years," the bishop continued. "The proclamation will be printed in its entirety in the pages of the NCC. In the months that follow, the paper will be the place to discover exactly what the new vision means for the parishes and people of the diocese."

Yes, this will be a critical year for our family of faith – in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and, undoubtedly, for Catholics around the world. The NCC will be the primary source of information about the changes, blessings and challenges we

will see in our diocese AND, of course, about the impact that our remarkable Holy Father will continue to have on the church.

The paper doesn't cost much – each issue is just 60 cents.

I think as you look through this week's paper – with a message from the bishop, seven sisters' life stories, important news about a religious order and Catholic principal leaving, tips for fulfilling obligations in the area of public policy, news about our kids, teachings from Pope Francis and so much more – you'll believe you're getting a *little* more than 60 cents worth of Catholicism!



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Gratitude for the NCC and for our Sisters

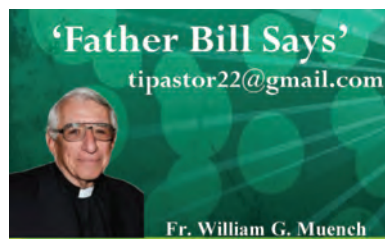
I begin today by offering my gratitude to all of you, who are my readers. I want you to know that you are like family to me. I think of you all, as I put together this column and I do want you to know I pray often for you all. I am grateful for your support of the *North Country Catholic*. This is the time for the annual subscription campaign for the *North Country Catholic*.

The NCC has been part of the life of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for a very long time. Your support is important – I urge you to mention the *North Country Catholic* to your friends in your parish. Be sure to encourage your pastor to give his support also. Thanks!

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Today, I also want to join those throughout our country who are celebrating a special National Week in honor of Religious Sisters. This celebration has been made a part of Women's History Month. Within this group, there are numerous contributions specifically that Women Religious have made to our society.

Religious Sisters have profoundly influenced the history of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. As a priest and a teacher in Catholic high schools, I have worked closely with many tal-



ented, brilliant teachers who are Religious Sisters. They were all excellent educators – dedicated religious, deeply spiritual woman who truly made a difference in the lives of their students. Their lives and their teaching and their counsel touched their students and reflected their dedicated love of the Lord.

I have always had the deepest respect for the vocation of a Religious Sister. I remember well the first time a young woman – a high school senior – visited me to talk about becoming a Religious Sister. I was rather surprised that she was considering this vocation. She was a public high school student – she did not even know any Sisters. However, something attracted her to dedicate her life to the Lord, to follow in his way, to do something good for others. She had been reading about the lives of Sisters and their life style, and was deeply impressed. She knew it was for her.

Eventually she did become a Sister – although not right away. In college, she volunteered as a helper in a nursing home directed by the Little Sisters of the Poor. She worked with the Sisters and got to know them. She learned from them just what their vocation meant: the love they found in following the Lord Jesus and the happiness they found in their daily work with those in need. My friend discovered something special in the life and dedication of the Sisters so she asked to enter their congregation.

She has spent her life – as a Sister – giving her life to the care of the sick and elderly in the nursing homes of the Little Sisters. Has she changed the world? Of course! She has brought peace and love and joy into the lives of so many because of her dedication to the Little Sisters and her love of the Lord. She has made this world a better place for us all by her dedicated care, filled with God's love.

This morning after Mass I was talking with the Sister of St. Joseph who serves here in our parish. So, I asked her what I should write about the vocation and life of a Religious Sister. She began by telling me of the happiness she has found

in her vocation – a happiness that came from discovering the love of the Lord Jesus and from the opportunity of helping others. Her dedication to the Lord and her involvement in the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph has brought a great deal of joy to each day of her life. She has found peace and satisfaction in her life and work, becoming a part of so many families in the parish and being able to help those who are in need. I would like to add that her happiness is very evident to us all in the way she serves our parish.

She quickly added that she finds so many opportunities to help those in need so it is truly a good vocation for any young woman who would like to do something to make her life complete, her world better and bring the love of God and message of Jesus to so many.

I finish by offering my deep respect and congratulations to all of our Religious Sisters who bring so much love and happiness into the parishes and schools and hospitals of this diocese and of our country. I also congratulate the many Religious Sisters who are missionaries and who are going off to other places to bring God's love and care to people of many, many other countries.



## FOLLOW ME

# Treasured companions on life's journey

The Bishops of the United States have marked the week of March 8-14 as *National Catholic Sisters Week*. This provides us with the opportunity to highlight the lives and works of our consecrated Religious Sisters. This is a time for us to hear the vocation stories of our Sisters so that they may inspire the hearts and spirits of girls and women to hear and respond to God's call within them.

Pope Francis recently remarked: "A Church without consecrated religious would be unthinkable." I'm sure that you will agree that it is beyond our ability to comprehend what the Diocese of Ogdensburg and our parishes would look like today without the faith-filled presence of our beloved Sisters.

We don't speak often enough about God's beauty. My sisters and brothers, the

beauty of God is a many-splendored thing. From the Champlain Valley to the St. Lawrence River, we see the glory of God shining through the witness of the lives of the consecrated Religious.

In so many beautiful ways, the consecrated women continue to be precious gifts to this local family of faith.

You know the long list of ministries in which these holy women have spent their days among us. These include: teachers and administrators in our Catholic schools, Christian Formation Directors, Social Outreach, Prison Ministry, Counseling, Ministry to our Native Americans, Parish Pastoral Ministry, Marriage Tribunal, Hospice Ministry, Hospital Administration and Healing Ministry, Bereavement Ministry, Diocesan Administration, and Evangelization. We include those who respond to the

Lord's call to live a cloistered life, one dedicated to constant prayer for the Church and for the world outside its cloistered walls.

We are enriched by those Sisters who help many of us open our minds and hearts to see the beauty of Christ in those less economically well off than ourselves who live in impoverished countries. In these and in many, many other ways, our Sisters reflect the beauty of God's love in their dedicated ministry among us.

My sisters and brothers, the consecrated religious life is an integral part of the Church: our holiness, our mission. Through the lived experience of chastity, poverty and obedience, we are gifted with a sign of a radical way of following Christ. It is no wonder that four out of five of the canonized saints in our Church are Religious.

The Religious have evangelized the world!

Think of how they continue to be absolutely essential evangelizers in our

beloved North Country. Their holy lives continue to have a ripple effect from one generation to the next.

## National Catholic Sisters Week... March 8-15

Personally, I am grateful for their counsel and active roles in ministry with us. Many of us have been inspired, encouraged and challenged by these individuals through their faithfulness to a lifestyle of simplicity and prayer.

These women were consecrated in the Church, by the Church, for the Church. Theirs is not a parallel way of following Christ outside the living structure of the Church. They are intrinsically part of the very fabric of the One Body of Christ.

In a special way this week, we recognize and give thanks to women religious who, first arriving in America 300 years ago, and from the beginnings of our Diocese back in the 19th century, throughout periods of

great struggle, established schools, hospitals, and colleges, and provided social services that have served countless people.

These women, through much sacrifice, have written great stories of the past and are called to continue to weave a beautiful tapestry of love and faithfulness for the future.

We pray that more young women will consider the vocation of the consecrated life to tell tomorrow's stories.

For the times we might have taken our Religious Sisters for granted, we express our sorry.

My dear Sisters, please continue, through the grace of God, to show us God's beauty through your faithfulness, your simplicity, your prayer, your holiness. You are treasured companions on life's journey as we all seek to respond faithfully to Jesus' invitation: Follow Me.

Through you, may God be praised... forever... may God be praised!



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

## Christian Instruction Brothers to leave diocese

**PLATTSBURGH**-The council of the American Province of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, has announced the closure of the Plattsburgh house for their members.

### After 111 years of ministry in Plattsburgh area

As of Sept. 1, 2014, the religious community will end its 111-year ministry and its presence in the North Country.

The brothers taught at Mount Assumption Institute, Seton Catholic Central, St. Peter's School, all in Plattsburgh and St. Alexander's School in Morrisville. One brother also ministered at St. Joseph's Parish in Treadwells Mills.

The Brothers of Christian

Instruction came to Plattsburgh in 1903 and taught at St. Peter's grade school and high school until 1914.

When St. Peter's closed its high school, some brothers remained to continue teaching in the grade school while others went to their new high school at the Vilas mansion on North Catherine Street - Mount Assumption Institute.

The brothers met the needs of two groups - the parish of St. Peter's which was looking for teachers for their parish school and their religious community looking for a place to send their members to live, to learn English, and to become more involved in evangelization in a new country.

At that time most of the brothers were from Brittany, France, where religious con-

gregations were being spurned by laws which were enacted to make the teaching of religion more difficult.

In 1989 the brothers joined in the movement to merge MAI with St. John's School, creating a new school now known as Seton Catholic Central School.

In 2001, Seton Catholic was moved to the air base school on New York Ave. The old school on North Catherine became Catherine Gardens while the gymnasium is now the Clinton County Senior Center.

Three Brothers remain in the Plattsburgh area. They are retired while doing volunteer work both for CVPH hospital and for Seton Catholic.

The Brothers will leave Plattsburgh around Sept. 1,

heading for the retirement facility at their American headquarters in Alfred, Maine.

### Bishop expresses gratitude

In a statement released March 6, Bishop Terry R. LaValley expressed his gratitude for the work of the Brothers of Christian Instruction and his sadness at their departure:

"It is with great sadness that we received word from Brother Jerome Lessard, FIC, Provincial Superior of the Brothers of Christian Instruction that their Plattsburgh house will close this fall and that the three Brothers presently residing and ministering in Plattsburgh: Brother Raymond Fortin, FIC, Brother Charles Thomas, FIC and Brother Mark Connor,

FIC will be moving to Alfred, Maine.

"This Congregation has left a tremendous legacy to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and, particularly, the City of Plattsburgh.

All those who passed through the doors of St. Peter's grade school and high school, Mount Assumption Institute and then, after its merger with St. John's School, Seton Catholic Central School were the beneficiaries of the strong Catholic education and Christian witness that these men provided.

"Their gifts were not only in the field of education but their work in social service and social justice benefited greatly the wider community. I remember my father

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# Stories of service... stories of faith

In celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-15

## Sister Catherine Mary Cummings, RSM

"We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God." Just now these words of the David Haas song are echoing in my mind and heart as I prepare for a Health Ministry Retreat with the parish nurses of our diocese. It is with humble gratitude that I share with you a bit of my journey in mercy.

I grew up in Ogdensburg and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1955. I entered the Sisters of Mercy the same year. I wanted to be a nurse and was given permission to study nursing. My ministry, which began at Mercy Hospital in Watertown, has spanned five decades and included nursing service, nursing education and community leadership. Along the way I received a Masters in Nursing and a Doctorate in Nursing Education. My ministries were in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

But in 2006, I came full circle, called back to the diocese of Ogdensburg with the start of a new ministry - Mercy Care for the Adiron-



Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings is shown at left with some of the volunteers of the Mercy Care for the Adirondacks.

dacks. When the two nursing homes sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy in the Tri-Lakes were turned over to Adirondack Medical Center, a needs assessment was done to determine if there was a call to a new ministry to the aged in our area.

We found that many elders suffer from isolation and loneliness. From this realization and with the vision and commitment of the Board and the Sisters serving in Lake Placid, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks was born. Its mission is to extend mercy and justice to elders in order to enhance in every dimension the fullness of their lives.

Mercy Care's goal is to make our communities as

elder friendly as possible. We have three strategies: direct service to elders, community empowerment and education and advocacy. My role at Mercy Care is that of Director of the Friendship Volunteer and Parish Nurse Programs. It is a privilege for me to train and serve the nearly 100 volunteers and parish nurses who are part of Mercy Care.

By promoting health and offering friendship and assistance with transportation, errands, respite and meal preparation, these volunteers touch the lives of elders with mercy each day. I am so grateful to God to be called to serve the elders of our community at this time in my life.

## Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa, SCC

With deep trust and faith in God, I accepted to come to this Country, not knowing where and what this YES would entail. It's been almost 5 years and I have been happily surprised by the God of Surprises who works wonders in the lives of those who trust in Him. I have truly experienced the rich blessings of giving.

*"Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name,*

*"Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?"*

*"Will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

The above words kept ringing in my heart as I generously said YES to His call to serve His people in this beautiful land of "America". I believe that "giving" is a way I respond back to God in gratitude for all I have received. In mission, God starts with us where we are but he does not leave us there. Lord your summons echoes true, when you but

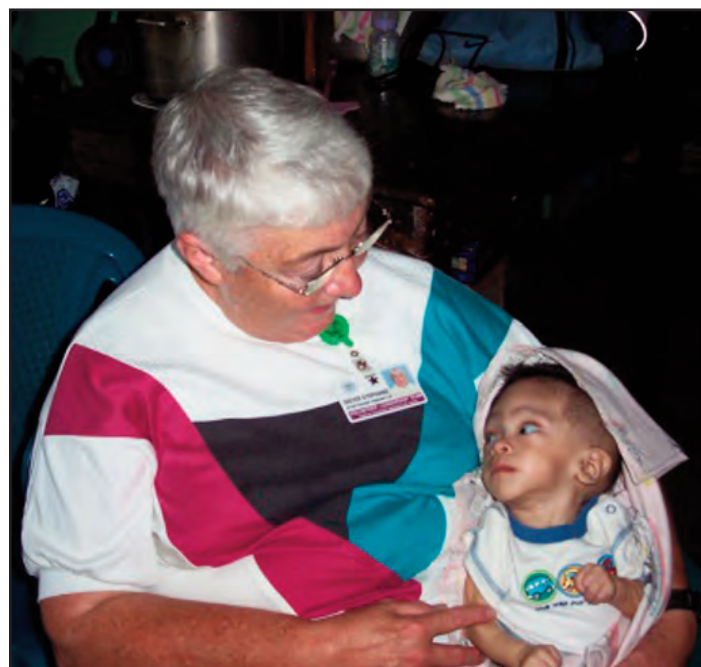
call my name. I have followed you and have never been the same.

Fear and anxiety embraced me as I took up my new ministry as the Hospital Chaplain in Watertown, Diocese of Ogdensburg. [In India I worked as a registered nurse and midwife] Initially I felt a bit reluctant but the warm welcome extended to us by the diocese, our parishes and the people around soon made me feel at home.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Editor's note

In honor of National Catholic Sisters Week, the *North Country Catholic* is featuring profiles of religious sisters from seven of the 15 religious congregations currently serving in the diocese. The work of more religious men and women will be explored throughout the Year of Consecrated Life which Pope Francis has set for 2015. Websites of all the congregations may be reached through [www.rcdony.org/religious1](http://www.rcdony.org/religious1).



Dominican Sister Stephanie Frenette cuddles one of the Nicaraguan babies she met through her service in the North Country Mission of Hope.

## Sister Stephanie Frenette, O.P.

Sister Stephanie was born in Detroit, Michigan. She lived there until she was 16, then attended St. Mary's High School in Champlain for one year before entering Dominican Academy in Fall River, Massachusetts.

Sister Stephanie taught at Dominican Academy Elementary School in Fall River, Massachusetts from 1961-1962. She taught at St. Peter's Elementary School in Plattsburgh, from 1962-63, 1969-72 and 1977-2002. She taught at St. Bernadette School in New Haven, Connecticut, from 1972-77. Sister also taught in religious education programs in Moores Forks and Plattsburgh, New York from 1963-69.

From 2002-2007, she worked as a home health aide for the North Country Home Services and Lake Forest Facilities, Plattsburgh, New York. Sister Stephanie serves on the Leadership Board of the North Country Mission of Hope. She travels to Nicaragua twice a year on mission trips. She was also a volunteer for Hospice of the North Country and served as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh.

The Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Hope was founded in 1995. The Sisters' commitment to proclaiming hope spans a variety of ministries in several dioceses throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Their Ministries include education at all levels, health care, spiritual renewal, parish and pastoral work.



# Sisters share their stories of faith

## Sister Maria Flavia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I realized that people are much the same everywhere and the differences in our cultures make our lives beautiful. There is so much richness and uniqueness in everyone.

Being a Hospital Chaplain is a beautiful ministry of "Giving" Not wealth or prosperity, but giving and sharing the richness of knowing Christ and sharing the good news of His eternal and unconditional love.

Through my chaplaincy work I am able to give and in return receive Gods manifold blessings. As I make my rounds at the hospital I come across patients who are anxious and fearful whether they would recover fully and be back on their feet. Will they return to a normal life or whether their recovery would end in less than desirable ways. Many times I witness patients refusing to speak at all about their medical ordeal, while other scenarios involved frightened patients-terrified of unsuccessful outcomes-who would call either Gods existence or His personal concern into question. In this context my pastoral role is to be the face of love and to bring hope to their drooping spirits. By lending a listening ear and allowing them to share their stories, I bring the love of God to them or allow God to act through me.

I am happy that, through my ministry, I was able to help people come back to the Church. I remember one patient who had strayed away from the Catholic church, asked to receive the sacraments before he left for his eternal home. Another patient diagnosed with cancer was able to thank God for being alive and was grateful for the gift of her faith. One of my most meaningful incident of ministry was when I was asked by the staff to visit a patient who was involved in a motor vehicular accident. I



Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa, a Sister of the Cross of Chavenod

gathered information that she was refusing all care, due primarily to the injury sustained to her brain. She refused visits from everyone, including the chaplain. I really viewed it as a challenge and was happily surprised that I was able to spend nearly 40 minutes talking to her. She related to me that she felt very comforted and thanked me for the visit. The lesson I learnt from her - when faced with difficulties, never give up, be a good fighter and remember that you have something or someone to live for. For her it was her 5 year old daughter. In this way I have been so happily surprised with what a rich and rewarding experience this has become as I travel the journey of faith with so many people I minister to. "Thank you God" is all that I can say to Him in prayer. I wish to be a blessing to the people I am sent. *Lord, make my life beautiful in your service.*

I sincerely wish to thank our Bishop Terry LaValley and all those who have been instrumental in making this dream of reaching out to others a reality. Thank you for graciously accepting us in this diocese, which we truly call our home. God bless you all.

## Sister Joan McElwain, GNSH

Sister Joan McElwain was born in Malone, NY and received her RN from Champlain Valley School of Nursing shortly before entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. She later received her BS in Nursing from D'Youville College and became a certified Physician's Assistant upon graduation from Albany Medical College in 1977.

With the exception of a year of service in the Motherhouse Infirmary in Yardley, PA, Sister Joan's entire ministry has been in her home Diocese of Ogdensburg. She worked at St. Joseph's Home and A. Barton Hepburn Hospital for five years each as a registered nurse. Subsequent to getting certification as a Physician's Assistant in



Grey Nun Sister Joan McElwain

1977, she served in the Hospital Emergency Room and Lisbon and Waddington Medical Groups until 2004.

Since that time her ministry has focused at the Claxton Hepburn Medical Center as a member of Team Health in the Emergency Department. In gratitude for her service at the

Waddington Clinic, she was the recipient of the Dewitt Clinton Public Service Award presented by the Waddington Masonic Lodge in 1992.

Sister Joan is a Eucharistic Minister and Lector at Notre Dame Church and a member of the Diocesan Council of Religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

When asked to comment on the last 50 years, Joan characterized them as grace-filled years, when she has cherished the opportunity to pray in community with her sisters and have time for personal prayer.

She expressed gratitude for being able to continue in the health care profession, her great love, and for the free time this gives her to garden and provide homegrown vegetables for her sister companions and friends.

## Sr. Teresa Byrne, OSU

I was born in Milford, MA 82 years ago, the oldest of three children, and grew up in suburban Boston. My parents were faith-filled and loving. At sixteen my sister died of cancer; their acceptance of her death is still an inspiration to me.

All my education was in Catholic schools. I met Ursulines at the College of New Rochelle. They made a deep impression on me: breadth of vision, world awareness, combined with deep prayerfulness.

Though a few people had mentioned religious life to me, I did not sense a call within myself until senior year. The priest professor quoted one of the saints: "A bird can be held down by a thread as much as by a rope."

That struck me—I should break the thread and "fly away" to the Ursuline novitiate in Beacon, NY.

And so I did in 1953.

My years as an Ursuline have been full. At entrance our life was very strict, almost monastic: we would never go home again, and



Ursuline Sister Teresa Byrne brings communion to a friend in Malone.

left the convent only for ministry (i.e., teaching) or health care.

Then came Vatican II! Religious communities were to go back to their origins. When Angela Merici founded her "Company" in Italy in 1535, their purpose was to be a leaven in a corrupt society; remaining in their own homes or work situations, they promised virginity and met together regularly.

We have gradually returned to the original inspi-

ration of St. Angela.

I first came to the Ogdensburg diocese in 1978. My ministry has been in parishes: Chateaugay, 1978—1985, and in Witherbee/ Mineville, 1992--2003.

No account of Malone and Witherbee would be complete without mention of our wonderful groups of Associates in both these areas.

As we diminish, we count on them to carry on the Ursuline heritage in this beautiful North Country.



# Sisters: stories of faith-filled, loving service

## Sister Carol Daul, SA

I was born in Dannemora and my faith formation was greatly influenced by my family and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement who blessed us by their daily presence in our parish. The Sisters not only instructed us in the faith but evangelized us in some of the following ways:

- Visiting every family in the parish
- Providing sodalities for grades 3-12 which contained activities, parties, dances, plays
- Organizing and playing softball with us
- Training us in leadership and giving us positions of ministry within the parish

The Sisters enthusiastically spent so much time with us that all of us wanted to be at the church where the action was.

After entering the religious life I was missioned to California where we had large numbers of migrant children. I taught religion in the migrant camps, visited all their homes and shared in the making of tamales.

We participated in the culture of the people we served and assisted them in the posada procession and helped them make their little shrines and floats for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who was thoroughly serenaded each 12th of December at five am with bands of mariachi groups. The mariachi bands could make your heart jump with joy no matter what your religious persuasion. I even partook of menudo (tripe) with great effort. Later menudo became one of my favorite foods.

One day, I decided to join the field hands who were sorting tomatoes from a conveyor belt so I could feel the burden of their labor. In the heat of the mid-day sun, I bent over and began sorting tomatoes.

I had to leave the group later that evening but older women and little children continued throughout the



Atonement Sister Carol Daul of Crown Point and a friend

night. Their faces burst with joy when I told them that I had never worked so hard in my life. Caesar Chavez was joining their cause at this time and soon the churches had to join their voices with their cause.

In 1974, I developed a family education program. I was able to have couples work with me and they would call their neighbors together and instruct them. Soon all of the family would join in the activities. We soon saw a sense of belonging develop which carried over to the formation of a parish family.

I returned to my native diocese of Ogdensburg in 1979 to work with Father Joseph Elliott in Adams who was a priest ahead of his times. Father Elliott wanted to implement Family Education in his Parish. Under his direction, we formed a Family Education Program.

As times changed so did

our way of evangelization. I wanted to keep up with Vatican II challenges so I went to St. Michael's college in Vermont and received a Masters in Theology and an advanced certificate in Pastoral Ministry.

At present, I am a Pastoral Associate and Director of Faith Formation for Sacred Heart Parish in Crown Point and St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga. In addition to the regular programming for faith formation, we have the RCIA, Adult Bible classes and a Summer Ecumenical Vacation Bible School.

Every two weeks, I participate in a program called "Coffee with the Clergy" at a nearby nursing home followed by visiting friends and parishioners.

As a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement dedicated to Christian Unity, I thoroughly enjoy the people and the ecumenical opportunities in Crown Point and Ticonderoga.



St. Joseph Sister Jennifer Votraw was one of the first women religious in the United States to assume the role of Chancellor of a diocese. She also currently serves the Diocese of Ogdensburg as director of the Office of Planning and the Department of Communications.

## Sister Jennifer Votraw, SSJ

I was born in Au Sable Forks and attended Holy Name grade school taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph. One of my close friends always wanted to be a sister.

That was fine with me because I had "places to go and things to do" and God had her. He shouldn't be greedy and expect TWO girls, should he? Besides, Ginny always wanted to play act and be St. Margaret Mary, or the Blessed Mother, etc. That also was fine with me because I got to play the angel or, on a good day, God himself!

After high school Ginny became seriously ill and couldn't become a sister. Needless to say, I continued on my way, studiously ignoring the fact that she didn't enter the convent.

Several years later, after college, two years of teaching and one engagement and two wedding showers, I stopped trying to outrun and outwit God!

Because of her kindness and God's grace, a Sister of St. Joseph of Latham, NY, Sr. Catherine Bede, helped me to pray about and dis-

cuss the real possibility of a vocation.

Returning home, I contacted the Sisters of St. Joseph in Au Sable who were very helpful in walking with me as I prayed and reflected on my next step.

My parents, although somewhat puzzled by my tortuous path, were very supportive and wanted me to do what was best.

Finally, one year later, I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph Novitiate at Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg.

Although there have been challenging days and times, I have never regretted my choice and have found that being a Sister of St. Joseph and giving God a "blank check" of my life is a profoundly enriching and spiritually energizing experience.

As I look back, I know without a doubt that daily, personal prayer and the support of my community is absolutely essential and I treasure both. Listening to God's voice and discerning his will is a life-long effort. I did, indeed, "have places to go and things to do" but now, I use God's plan and not mine!!



## FACES OF FAITH

# 'Luckiest principal in the world' to retire

By Father Thomas Higman

Education Council and Malone Catholic  
Parishes liaison, Parochial Vicar of Malone  
Catholic Parishes

**MALONE**- Catholic education has been the fiber of Anne Marie Wiseman's life since fifth grade at Saint Joseph's Academy. After graduation from high school in 1964, she went on to study at Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg and then much later to Boston College for graduate work.

George and Anne Marie Wiseman returned to Malone in 1975 and after two years she began teaching at Bishop Smith Memorial School until it merged with Notre Dame School. She made her first appearance at the newly formed Holy Family School in 1989, teaching eighth grade.

After ten years, she was



Anne Marie Wiseman, principal of Holy Family School in Malone since 2001, has announced that she will retire at the end of the school year.

hired as the principal at Saint Mary's School in Potsdam, only to return as principal of Holy Family School in 2001.

Now, after nearly 40 years

of Catholic education, Wiseman has announced her retirement at the conclusion of the current school year.

In a letter to school families, Wiseman said that she believes she is "luckiest principal in the world," citing the unwavering support of her faculty, local pastors and their congregations, and the tremendous families that make up Holy Family School as the means to her success. Wiseman has pledged her continued support for the future of Holy Family School.

Tracy Nelson, along with other members of the Holy Family School Education Council with guidelines from the Diocese of Ogdensburg will begin in the near future to search for the new principal of Holy Family School.

Wiseman is often heard saying, "I can't image where

people who don't work with children find their joy" - and those that know her know she is always full of joy.

Her role as principal has always been "hands-on", as throughout her tenure at Holy Family School, she has continued to teach eighth-grade social studies, cover studies halls, and pound the pavement along with committees and teams working for the advancement of Holy Family School.

Throughout her years in education, Wiseman noted changes in educational methods, but more so changes in the families and students who attend Holy Family. Forty years ago, it could often be presumed that the faith being taught in the classroom was being reinforced at home and vice versa, but now Wiseman notes that the focus has changed.

The efforts of Catholic education have become more "missionary" in nature today, often bringing the faith to the fallen away.

"Evangelization is key" notes Wiseman, when it comes to the mission of a Catholic school.

This past Saturday, Pope Francis tweeted, "Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life."

For nearly 40 years, Anne Marie Wiseman has been in the business of love and life. Often referring to herself and other veteran members of the faculty as "relics," she has formed the minds and hearts of countless children largely by the example of her own life of faith, which has been uniquely strengthened in the halls of Holy Family School.

## Are you ready for the 2014 Youth Rally?

*Saturday April 26, 2014*  
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Contact your parish for a registration form or call the Youth Office

at 315-393-2920 ext. 1411

[www.rcdony.org/youth](http://www.rcdony.org/youth)

# Seton students to spend Lent helping those in need

PLATTSBURGH—During the Lenten period, lasting from Ash Wednesday to Easter, observers abstain from certain foods or physical pleasures.

Some vow to give up bad habits such as smoking or watching too much TV while others abstain from chocolate or a certain kind of ice cream.

Others promise to help “heal the environment” by riding a bike to work for 40 days instead of driving or use Lent as a time to give to others without being recognized for their good works.

It has been customary at Seton Catholic for the last few years to work on a project for the Mission of Hope during this period. One year money was raised to help built houses, last year money was raised to purchase water filtering systems for those homes.

Each year Seton has reached the goal through the hard work and generosity of

not just our Seton students and families, but with the help from the Seton community.

This year for our “40 Days of Hope” we will work to provide meals and parasite medication for 40 children for a year. Unbelievably, this will only cost \$3000 in Nicaragua.

To accomplish this goal Seton’s NJHS is planning a bottle drive and NHS has a spaghetti supper planned for April 5 at Seton Academy, 23 St Charles Street

The first fundraiser for this Lenten project will be held Friday, March 21 at the high school.

Kelly Donnelly is assisting our Faith Ambassadors in planning a 24 hour Lock-In. Many fun activities are planned for the students along with raising awareness for those less fortunate than us, “We will have a hunger banquet educational component where the students are

broken up into groups to see that the majority of the world lives on very little food per day and get a better understanding of wealth distribution worldwide.” Ms. Donnelly said.

The gym will be open from 7 pm to 7 am to students to play basketball/volleyball, a bounce house, Kan Jam, Twister, etc. There will be karaoke and dancing in the gym and movies/board games in the hallway. Around 2 a.m., the program Will we close with a brief night prayer before students spread out sleeping bags, etc. to sleep in the gym.

Although this Lock-In is planned for the Seton students anyone who wishes to get involved this Lenten project can send a donation to Seton Catholic – 206 New York Rd, Plattsburgh NY 12903 or can visit us during the school’s open house and science fair March 13 from 6 p.m. to 8.

# Brothers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

speaking of the impact these men had on his grade school days at St. Peter’s.

As you visit the Congregation’s website at <http://ficbrothers.org> you will be amazed at the breadth of the locations where the Brothers of Christian Instruction serve throughout the world: America, Europe, Africa and Asia-

Oceania.

“We find in the Mission Statement of the Brothers of the Notre Dame Province in Alfred, Maine the following words: “*As participants in the life of God who is love, we challenge ourselves to become an evangelical community by willingly sharing who we are, what we are, what we have and by carefully dis-*

*cerning that our lives and our ministry bespeak justice.”*

Since 1903, these men have lived their mission so faithfully and so generously. The Brothers of Christian Instruction who served the Diocese of Ogdensburg through the years have truly incarnated the words of their Mission Statement and have served in the spirit of their co-founders, Jean Mary de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes.

“We express our gratitude to Brothers Raymond, Charles and Mark for their faithful ministry among us. May God bless them and all the Brothers of Christian Instruction as they continue to share their consecrated lives with God’s holy people. Their presence will be greatly missed.

## Bishop’s Schedule

**March 13** – 1 p.m., Priests Regional Meeting on Goals and Priorities at St. Alexander’s Church in Morristownville

**March 14** – 1:30 p.m., Religious Vocation Assembly at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh

**March 15** – 11 a.m., St. Joseph’s Day Liturgy and Luncheon at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

**March 16** – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

**March 17** – 11 a.m., Priests Advisory Committee Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg

**March 18 – 19** Public Policy Forum in Albany, NY

## Correction

**This list of Lenten Regulations** printed in the March 5 issue of the *NCC* included the Wrong date for this year’s Chrism Mass. The Mass Will be held April 9 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral

## Rest in Peace

*This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen men who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*  
**March 12** – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984  
**March 13** – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950  
**March 14** – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009  
**March 15** – Rev. Charles J. McMorrow, 1898; Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984  
**March 16** – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994  
**March 17** – Rev. Francis Parisian, 1955  
**March 18** – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

## Environmental Stewardship

**We hear on Ash Wednesday,** “Return to me with you whole heart, with fasting. . . .” Joel 2:12

How can my fasting be more than a penance and a discipline for my own spiritual life?

How do my every day choices affect “the poor and the vulnerable” and the “care of God’s Creation”? (Catholic Social teachings #4 and #7)

One suggestion is, when you go grocery shopping next time, consider:

- Where does the item you are purchasing coming from? Ex. Are the apples coming from Washington State or from NYS apple growers? Are the dairy products coming from California or from our more local dairy producers? The more locally grown and produced items, the less miles they have traveled to get to your store; thus they have caused the less air pollution and consumed less non-renewable fossil fuel . Choosing veggies that grow in our own region are the kinds of veggie that our bodies need for the cold winter - hearty ones, like carrots, beets, cabbage, winter squashes, etc. to warm us.

- Our choices regarding our food do have effects upon our own bodies, upon the earth that sustains them and upon the lives of those who produce . Fasting can call us to eat less, and take time to be more conscious .

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: [ayc-snn@yahoo.com](mailto:ayc-snn@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401 or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340



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## PURSUING JUSTICE

# Ensuring support for vulnerable populations

## Third in a series

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the bishops of New York State and the hundreds of Catholics who participate in Catholics at the Capitol public policy advocacy day March 19 in Albany will lobby on five issues identified as priorities by the bishops.

Among the legislative priorities is ensure sufficient funding for programs for vulnerable populations

(See advertisement on this page for information on the public policy day)

## Background

The state has made a commitment to the protection of people with special needs; in fact our state Constitution requires the state to care for the poor and vulnerable.

Clearly, developmentally disabled individuals, mentally ill persons, those who are chemically addicted, children and other vulnerable people who need assistance in caring for themselves require support from the state, as they are often incapable of providing their own care. It is important that resources necessary to carry out this mission be provided.

It is unacceptable for not-for-profit service providers to be burdened with additional administrative requirements without funding to cover the cost of these mandates.

Similarly, it is important for contracts with these providers to include funding that will provide for salaries that will attract quality direct care service providers. A significant

cost-of-living adjustment, which was agreed to years ago by the executive and legislative branches, cannot be further delayed.

We recognize that difficult budget decisions have to be made, but human service programs cannot be asked to shoulder an unreasonable share of the budget balancing weight.

An increase in funding in some areas ultimately saves money in the long run. As the state moves from institutional to community-based provision of services, it is important that the savings accrued from this transition be utilized to support these vulnerable individuals in the less restrictive community setting.

Funding for supportive housing, kinship care and supplemental food programs all pay significant dividends.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. A stranger and you welcomed me. Naked and you clothed me. Ill and you cared for me. In prison and you visited me. When did we see you Lord?"*

— Mt 25: 35-36

*"The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity."*

— St. John Chrysostom

## Message points

- Providing services to vulnerable people in the least restrictive setting is beneficial and cost effective. Not-for-profit providers

must be reimbursed for services at a level that supports the cost of providing quality care.

- Direct care workers are deserving of compensation at a level that reflects the value of their work.

- Prevention is less costly than rehabilitation; both are needed.

- Keeping children with family members is generally preferable, where possible.

- Public/Private partnership is necessary to meet the needs of poor and vulnerable people.

- The Church and other not-for-profit providers are willing to do their share, but the state has an obligation

to step forward as well.

- Savings from institution-based care must be reinvested in community-based care for persons with mental illness in order to ensure proper services.

- Justice demands that basic human needs must be met for all members of society.

## Are you tired of giving up chocolate for Lent?



## Try something different...

**Give up one day to raise your voice for public policies that respect the sanctity of human life, support families and work for the common good.**

Join Bishop Terry LaValley, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the other Bishops of New York State and hundreds of other Catholics for the

## CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITAL DAY

**When:** March 19, 2014

**Where:** State Capital in Albany, NY

Register at the New York State Catholic Conference website:

[www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)

After you register, you will be contacted by Catholic Charities for further discussion and more details.

**N.B. If you are attending for this day as part of the Knights of Columbus Delegation. You can register through your local Knights of Columbus registration process. You do not have to register again at this site**

For more information or help with registration contact: Catholic Charities at: (315) 393-2255 or [ccdirect@wadhams.edu](mailto:ccdirect@wadhams.edu)

## 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 KMM

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FAITH AND FRIENDSHIPS AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

# SCHOOL DAYS



Altar servers Zoe Eggleston, Aurelia Leerkes, and Tyler Wranosky, students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, gather for the procession before the start of Mass during Catholic Schools Week.



Betsy Turner's Nursery Class at St. Mary's School Canton celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday With hats donated by a loving grandmother. The Nursery program is open to children who are three years old by Dec. 1. The class meets Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:00-10:30. Registration for the 2014-2015 school year may be made by calling the school office at 386-3572.



Students in Aimee Flynn's Kindergarten and Jen George's Junior Kindergarten at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg celebrated the 100th day of school by creating a structure with 100 blocks. From left to right are Riley Durham, Kevyn Morrissey, Jaycee-Rae Ashley, Ella Ramsdell, Brinley Geary, Shea Kiah, Maddie Varney, Abby McLean, Maddie Green, Jack Morley, Nolan Hooper, Mato Harper, Noah LaCombe, Carly George, Colton Barlow, Mrs. Jennifer George, Maddie Gardner, and Sam LaCombe.



Seventh and eighth graders at Holy Family School in Malone celebrate Mardi Gras. Lent began with Ash Wednesday Mass at Notre Dame Church in Malone.



## A significant step in cause for canonization of American icon

# Miracle attributed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen

PEORIA, ILL. (CNS) — A seven-member team of medical experts convoked by the Vatican reported there is no natural explanation for the survival of a child delivered stillborn and whose heart did not start beating until 61 minutes after his birth.

The survival of the child, James Fulton Engstrom, now 3 years old and developing normally, was credited by his parents to a miracle attributable to the intercession of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, a Peoria diocesan priest who gained fame for his 1950s television show "Life Is Worth Living" and his 16 years at the helm of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The medical experts' report was announced March 6 in Peoria by the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, which is headed by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria.

"Today is a significant step in the cause for the beatification and canonization of our beloved Fulton Sheen," Bishop Jenky said. "There are many more steps ahead and more prayers are needed. But today is a good reason to rejoice."

James' mother, Bonnie Engstrom, described what hap-

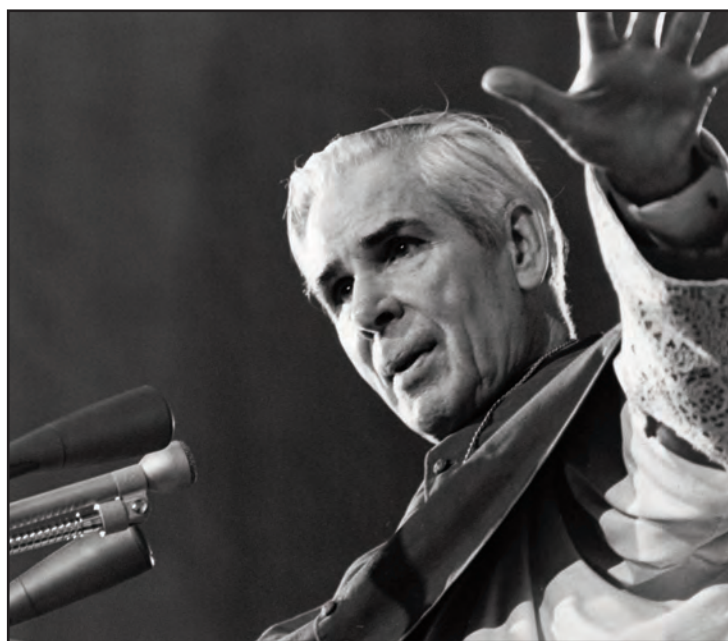
pened when she addressed a 2012 gathering of the Midwest region of the Catholic Press Association in Peoria.

When Engstrom was pregnant with James, a feeling came over her that "God wants this baby to exist," she said. "Maybe he's going to be the pope. We didn't know, but we were shooting high."

During delivery, what caused James to be stillborn was that his umbilical cord had knotted itself, cutting off his blood flow and oxygen supply. The more he progressed through the birth canal, the tighter the knot became. "He was born stillborn," Engstrom said, remembering how "his arms flopped by his side" when she reached for him to hold him.

Others at the home birth did CPR and chest compressions for 20 minutes waiting for an ambulance to arrive. Engstrom said she had no pre-composed prayer asking for help from Archbishop Sheen. "I just kept repeating his name over and over in my head: Fulton Sheen, Fulton Sheen, Fulton Sheen," she recounted. "I didn't know what else to do."

At the hospital, James was



CNS PHOTO

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is pictured preaching in an undated file photo. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., president of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, said early March 6 he received word that the seven-member board of medical experts who advise the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes has unanimously approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen.

described as "PEA," for "pulseless electrical activity." Medics tried two injections of epinephrine. Neither worked. A nurse held one of James' feet in an effort to give him some measure of comfort, and Engstrom said she remarked later, "It was so

cold, it was so cold. It was like in the saying 'cold and dead.'"

Engstrom remembered that a doctor in the emergency room said, "We'll try for five more minutes, then call it," meaning recording the time of death. "If he had

known about the previous 40 minutes" of efforts to revive him before arriving at the hospital, she said, "he would have just called it."

She added, "They were just about to call it when his heart started beating -- 148 beats per minute, which is healthy for a newborn. And it never faltered."

The case will next be reviewed by a board of theologians. With their approval, the case could move on to the cardinals and bishops who advise the pope on these matters. Finally, the miracle would be presented to Pope Francis, who would then officially affirm that God performed a miracle through the intercession of Archbishop Sheen. There is no timeline as to when these next steps might take place.

If the Engstrom case is authenticated as a miracle, Archbishop Sheen would be beatified, elevating his from "venerable" to "blessed." A beatification ceremony could conceivably take place in Peoria, according to the foundation, which promotes his sainthood cause. In general, a second miracle would need to be authenticated for canonization.

## 'Remember the joy of your vocation'

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Preparing for the Year for Consecrated Life, members of religious orders, secular institutes and consecrated virgins are asked to spend a considerable amount of time remembering the joy they felt when they first realized God was calling them.

"Pope Francis has asked us to let our hearts dwell on a freeze-frame of the joy of 'the moment when Jesus looked at me,'" said Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz and Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Car-

ballo, respectively prefect and secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

### Preparing for the Year for Consecrated Life

In a letter titled "Rejoice" -- released Feb. 26 -- the two drew on the teaching of Pope Francis to propose ways consecrated men and women could prepare for the Year for Consecrated Life, which will begin Nov. 30.

Scheduled to close just over 14 months later, on Feb. 2, 2016, the year will include

an ecumenical meeting with religious orders of other Christian churches, as well as special gatherings for young religious men and women and for consecrated virgins.

By remembering the joy of being loved by God and rekindling the joy of following him, Cardinal Aviz and Archbishop Rodriguez Carballo said, consecrated men and women also will be better evangelizers and better promoters of new vocations.

"Joy isn't a useless ornament, but a necessity and foundation of human life," the letter said. "The world often has a deficit of joy. We are not called to make epic

gestures nor to proclaim pompous words, but rather to witness to the joy that comes from the certainty of feeling loved and the confidence of being saved."

To be an effective missionary, one must be humble and one must remember how God reached out to him or her personally, they said. God's call is always personal.

The crisis of vocations and the crisis many religious are experiencing today, they said, represent a crisis of memory that renders even many consecrated men and women incapable of experiencing true joy in being faithful.

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# Pope shares anecdotes, talks to priests about mercy, hearing confession

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Because his cassock doesn't have a breast pocket, Pope Francis said he wears a cloth pouch under his white robes to carry the crucifix he took from a deceased priest.

Meeting March 6 with pastors of Rome parishes, Pope Francis said that while he was vicar general of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires he went to pay his last respects to a Blessed Sacrament priest, an extremely popular confessor, who had died in his 90s.

In the crypt of the church, the priest's body was lying there, but there were no flowers, he said. "I thought, this man forgave the sins of all the clergy of Buenos Aires, including mine, and not a single flower. So I went out to the florist's."

Then, the pope "confessed" that he "started preparing the coffin with the flowers and I looked at the rosary in his hand. Immediately that robber that is in each of us came out and while I arranged the flowers, I picked up the cross of the rosary and with a little effort, I pulled it off. I looked at him and said, 'Give me half of your mercy.'"

He put the crucifix in his breast pocket and carried it there until his election as pope March 13, 2013. "But a pope's shirts don't have pockets," so now he carries it in a cloth pouch under his

cassock.

"And when I start having a bad thought about someone, I always put my hand here," he said, showing the priests where the crucifix is.

**Pope Francis urged the pastors to devote time to hearing confessions and to avoid being either very lax or very strict.**

The pope's annual Lenten meeting with Rome pastors focused on the priest's call to be a minister of mercy.

While he followed a prepared text, he added comments and anecdotes from his own life and ministry.

Repeating his frequent call to go out into the world and meet people where they are, Pope Francis told the priests that their ministry of mercy, which reaches its highest point in the sacrament of penance, is especially needed by "people who have left the church because they don't want anyone to see their wounds."

"There are many wounded people, people wounded by material problems, by scandals, including scandals within the church," he said.

Pope Francis urged the pastors to devote time to hearing confessions and to avoid being either very lax or very strict. "It's normal that different confessors have different styles, but these differences cannot be ones of substance, that is, involving healthy moral doctrine

and mercy," he said.

Neither the very lax nor the very strict priest witnesses to Christ, because "neither takes seriously the person in front of him," he said. "The rigorist, in fact, nails the person to the law as understood in a cold and rigid way; the indulgent, on the other hand, only appears merciful, but does not take seriously the problems of that person's conscience, minimizing the sin."

Pope Francis said he has some standard questions he asks priests who come to him for counseling, questions he asks himself "when I am alone with the Lord."

The first, he said, is "Do you cry?" Jesus was moved by people who seemed like "sheep without a shepherd," and those in spiritual or physical pain, he said.

A priest must be a "man of mercy, compassion, close to his people and the servant of all," he said.

"Aseptic priests -- those who seem like they are working in a laboratory and are all clean and perfect -- don't help the church," he said. The world is messy and filled with people who have been bloodied by the battles of life. "We priests have to be there, close to the people."

The sick, the aged and children, he said, help priests learn to be merciful. "Do you know how to touch them? Or are you embarrassed," the pope asked.

"At the end of time, those who will be allowed to contemplate the glorified flesh of Christ are only those who were not embarrassed to touch the flesh of their injured and excluded brothers and sisters," he said.

Priests, he said, must have the compassion and the strength to "suffer for and with people, like a father and a mother suffer for their children and worry about them."

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Archbishop says 2015 meeting can help transform families

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- A powerhouse team of religious, civic and business leaders will travel to Rome to plan for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year. Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput led a news conference with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter on March 7 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center to announce they will lead a delegation March 24-26 to meet with Vatican officials to plan the international event. They also will have an audience with Pope Francis. Throughout the news conference, speakers told of their confidence that the pope will visit Philadelphia in September 2015 and vowed to convince him to make his first pastoral visit in North America to the city for the conclusion of the eighth World Meeting of Families. "I plan to extend to the holy father a warm, vigorous and hopefully very persuasive invitation to visit our state next year," said Corbett, who added Nutter and other members of the delegation also would "sell" the pope and Vatican officials on making a papal visit. "It's only in Philadelphia that folks talk about trying to 'seal the deal' with the pope," Nutter quipped. Pope Francis has not confirmed he will attend the last day of the meeting, which past popes have done.

### On first Friday of Lent, pope speaks on nature of true fasting

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis criticized those who practice fasting as a mere ritual, rather than as a sacrifice representative of a religion of love. The pope made his remarks March 7, the first Friday of Lent, in his homily at morning Mass in the Vatican guesthouse, where he lives. "These hypocritical people are good persons," he said, referring to the Pharisees who criticized Jesus and his followers for not fasting as required by Jewish law. "They do all they should do. They seem good. But they are ethicists without goodness because they have lost the sense of belonging to a people." True fasting entails sharing goods with the needy, Pope Francis said, according to a report by Vatican Radio. "This is the charity or fasting that our Lord wants," he said. "This is the mystery of the body and blood of Christ. It means sharing our bread with the hungry, taking care of the sick, the elderly, those who can't give us anything in return: This is not being ashamed of the flesh." The pope called on Christians to follow the example of the good Samaritan, drawing close to the beneficiaries of their charity in an act of true fraternity.

### Pope asks prayers for Ukraine; archbishop says country in danger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As uncertainty reigned in Ukraine and Russian troops appeared to have control of the Crimean peninsula, Pope Francis again asked the world's Christians to pray for Ukraine and urged the parties involved in the conflict to engage in dialogue. "I ask you again to pray for Ukraine, which is in a very delicate situation," Pope Francis told tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus March 2. "While I hope that all sectors of the country will endeavor to overcome misunderstandings and build the future of the nation together," the pope said, "I make a heartfelt appeal to the international community to support every initiative in favor of dialogue and harmony." After Russian troops entered Crimea, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, issued a statement March 1 saying, "Ukraine, unfortunately, has been pulled into a military conflict. So far no one is shooting, so far people are not dying, but it is obvious that military intervention has already begun."

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## FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERITZ

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York helps distribute food to people waiting in the St. Francis Breadline outside St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York on Ash Wednesday March 5. The church operates the longest continuously running breadline in the nation. It was founded in 1930 by Franciscan Brother Gabriel Mehler to feed people impoverished by the Great Depression.

## Pope speaks on nature of fasting

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sense of belonging to a people."

True fasting entails sharing goods with the needy, Pope Francis said, according to a report by Vatican Radio.

"This is the charity or fasting that our Lord wants," he said. "This is the mystery of the body and blood of Christ. It means sharing our bread with the hungry, taking care of the sick, the elderly, those who can't give us anything in return: This is not being ashamed of the flesh."

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President, Pontifical Council for Social Communications 1984 to 2007

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### ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED

St. Augustine's Church in Peru, NY is looking to fill the positions of Choir Director and Organist. For further information call Fr. Alan Schnob at 518-643-6759.



## SCRIPTURE[SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS]

## Where have we been? Where are we going?

During these six weeks of Lent, we're on a spiritual journey. How often have I heard a retreat master ask the question, "Where have we been, where are we now, where are we going?"

In my growing-up years in Watertown, religious women had a huge role to play in forming my growth and my attitudes. My mother stands out above all of them.

Then, there were many Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy whose faces and names remain clear in my memory.

Lent is a good time to say "Thank you" to these won-

derful women. Today's first reading is about God's call

to Abram (he was not yet called Abraham) to found a great dynasty of believers. "God forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you".

God promises to make Abraham a great nation. Then the great line that shows Abram's

greatest virtues—faith and obedience. "Abram went as the Lord directed him."

In the second reading, St. Paul tells Timothy, "Bear your share of hardship for

the gospel with the strength that comes from God".

God is the one that has designed each individual journey, and it His grace that will strengthen us for it. In the Gospel, we get further advice for the journey. On the mountain, Peter, James and John, will catch a glimpse of the glory of God. As they approach the summit, the three suddenly notice in change in the garments Jesus is wearing. They become dazzlingly white.

The disciples then see two famous figures appear. They recognize Moses the Lawgiver, and Elijah the Prophet. They are both discussing something with Jesus. Then their joy is

MARCH 16

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9

turned to fear when suddenly a cloud comes between them and the sun, and a Voice thunders out, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!"

As the disciples fall to the ground. Jesus calms them, and tells them not to be afraid. The glory has faded, and they proceed down the mountain. On their spiritual journey, they are to focus on listening. What

does all this mean for us on our spiritual journey? If we're really serious about Lent, we'll take the Transfiguration experience as Jesus intended. As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to listen and wait, to listen intently to Jesus and His message,

We have the advantage of knowing and believing in the Resurrection.

In our journey this week, we should remember Jesus transfigured on the mountain—and listen! Whether its daily Mass, a Holy Hour, private prayer or work, may we keep in mind that God and the community provide us with encouragement and strength.

## FOR THE JOURNEY

## Joy, even in darkness: the hallmark of a Christian

By Effie Caldarola  
Catholic News Service

For many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, this has been the winter of our discontent. Snowstorm upon snowstorm blanketed great swaths of the United States. Ice brought cities in the Southern U.S. to a virtual standstill, while Canada and Alaska experienced disconcerting periods of warmth. The British Isles were hit by massive flooding.

During one particular harsh week of subzero wind chills, I realized why they call it "the dead of winter." I

must admit my spirits lagged and I dreaded getting out to the grocery store.

**Even in the darkness of this  
'winter of our discontent',  
the Christian has faith  
in the rebirth of spring**

Some people suffer from what's called seasonal affective disorder and struggle to maintain their good humor in the long winter months. When the Christmas lights all dimmed, I experienced a bit of that struggle.

I think we all yearn for change this year. And so here we are, with the season

of change upon us, into the heart of Lent.

It's no wonder we look ahead to Lent with something resembling giddiness. Spring and resurrection cannot be far behind.

We sense there is change in the air, there's an indication of this ancient earth rotating on its axis, and there is a feeling that newness is upon us.

As I write this, another round of below normal temperatures is hitting my city. Yet, to my unbelieving eyes, I spotted a robin in the backyard yesterday. I don't know where the poor little guy is today, but somehow I took hope from his courage.

All of this readiness for spring coincides with Lent. We know what one misguided robin knows in his heart, that the season of change is here. It is exactly the way the Christian should approach this solemn penitential season: with joy and expectation.

Sometimes we don't think of joy and Lent at the same time. It is a period of sacrifice, of meditating on the great sacrifice and suffering of Christ, done for our benefit.

We know how the story ends. This hope is the foundation of our faith. St. Paul wrote that "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain."

Even when our spirits lag, and darkness is all around us, we remember the joy of the saving presence of Christ, the God of rebirth, the God of second chances, the God of forgiveness, the God who brings early morning light back into the winters of our lives.

Lent presents us with the gifts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. They help us

focus on needed change in our lives, and on the change for which we yearn. They help us focus on the neediness, the sinfulness, the emptiness in us, but they do so always in the spirit of joy.

When Pope Francis was asked by an interviewer to express who Pope Francis was, he replied, "I am a sinner." But Pope Francis said this with a smile, because he believes that, like us, he is a beloved sinner.


It's no accident that Pope Francis named his first letter to us, "The Joy of the Gospel."

A newly ordained priest told my husband that when he met Pope Francis in Rome, the pope told him that in his vocation, he must "always be joyful."

Joy is the hallmark of the Christian. Even in a time of penitence, the Christian lives with a sense of joy. Even in the darkness of winter, the Christian has faith in the rebirth of spring. Focus on change this Lent, but experience change through the lens of joy.

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## St. Jude Novena

O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen.  
B.T.L.



## AT THE MOVIES

# MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

Baby boomers old enough to recall an animated moose named Bullwinkle and his flying-squirrel sidekick, Rocky, will also likely remember the titular characters of "Mr. Peabody & Sherman" (Fox).

That's because, in their original incarnation, the latter duo figured in a series of short cartoons that were shown as part of the TV show "Rocky and His Friends," which premiered in 1959, and its re-titled successor, "The Bullwinkle Show," which ran until 1964.

For those outside the hip-pie-turned-yuppie demographic, introductions may be in order. Mr. Peabody (voice of Ty Burrell) is a hyper-intellectual dog whose many accomplishments include his invention of a time-traveling device called the WABAC machine. Sherman (voice of Max Charles) is the perky human son Mr. Peabody adopted as an infant, after finding him abandoned in an alley.

The opening of director Rob Minkoff's big-screen, 3-D updating finds this unusual pair at an emotional crossroads: Sherman is about to start school for the first time, an event that will remove him from the vigilant supervision Mr. Peabody has always exercised over him.

Sherman's academic career gets off to a bumpy start when he runs afoul of classmate Penny Peterson (voice of Ariel Winter). Jealous of Sherman's superior knowledge of history - gained, of course, via the WABAC - Penny taunts him by saying that, since his father is a dog, Sherman must be one as well.

As though to vindicate the charge, Sherman unwisely brings their quarrel to a climax by biting Penny. This transgression not only lands Sherman in the principal's office, but - thanks to the scowling intervention of know-it-all social worker Miss Grunion (voice of Allison Janney) - places Mr. Peabody's continued custody of him under threat as well.

During a get-together designed to smooth things over with Penny's parents (voices of Leslie Mann and Stephen Colbert), Sherman, whose antipathy toward Penny masks an unacknowledged attraction, tries to impress her by taking her for an unauthorized spin in the WABAC - with the upshot that she winds up stranded in ancient Egypt.

The path to Penny's rescue zigzags chronologically from the court of King Tut to Renaissance Florence and back to the city of Troy on the eve of its destruction by the Greeks. Familiar figures putting in appearances along the way include Leonardo da Vinci (voice of Stanley Tucci), who's here endowed with the accent and manner of a old-time organ grinder, as well as a knuckleheaded version of famed Greek warrior-king Agamemnon (voice of Patrick Warburton).

Craig Wright's screenplay adds a tiresome amount of potty humor to the elaborate, sometimes groan-inducing puns characteristic of the original material. And



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Mr. Peabody, voiced by Ty Burrell, Penny, voiced by Ariel Winter, and Sherman, voiced by Max Charles, appear in a scene from the animated movie "Mr. Peabody & Sherman."

a lone adult-themed play on words, though it will certainly fly over youngsters' heads, still seems jarringly out of place.

But basic history lessons for the youngest moviegoers, together with a worthy message about respecting people of different backgrounds --even if they do happen to be canines - endow this more than usually literate children's adventure with some countervailing virtues.

The film contains scenes of mild peril, several scatological jokes and sight gags and a single double entendre. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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## ADIRONDACK

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Lake Placid** – Rummage sale to be held.

**Date:** March 15

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School Gym

**Features:** Reserve a table for \$20, sell and keep the profits or donations can be dropped off at St. Agnes School.

**Contact:** For more information, please contact Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771 or at info@stagneselementary.com

## PARISH NURSE TRAINING

**Lake Placid** – Mercy Care of the Adirondacks will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing for Parish Nursing.

**Date:** April 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22

**Trainer:** Sister Catherine Cummins, RSM, Ed.D., R.N.

**Features:** Open to registered nurses of all faiths no cost to participants but pre-registration is required. The parish nurse offers assistance in obtaining community services, helps with understanding diagnoses, medications and diagnostic tests, brings nursing experience and faith to the service of others.

**Contact:** To register for the course or request more information, please contact Sister Catherine Cummings at 523-5582 or cccummings@adkmercy.org.

## CLINTON

## SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

**Plattsburgh** – A Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held with all proceeds to go to Seton Catholic's "40 Days of Hope" Project. Their goal is to feed 40 people for one year through the North Country Mission of Hope.

**Date:** April 5

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Seton Academy

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$5; take outs at no additional cost

## FISH FRY

**Chazy** – Sacred Heart Parish will be having its Annual Fish Fry.

**Date:** March 28

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

**Place:** Sacred Heart Parish Center

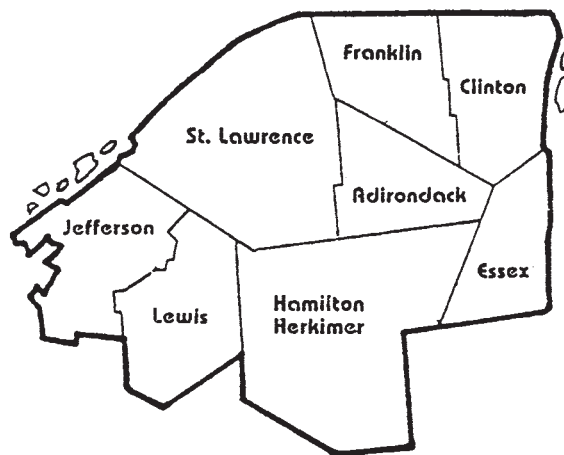
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; All Take-outs, \$10

**Features:** All you can eat fried perch, macaroni & cheese, tater tots and more.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

**Plattsburgh** – 40 Days for Life will be held nationwide in 251 locations and 11 countries including Plattsburgh

**Date:** March 5 to April 13



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; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

**Features:** 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York, 66 Brinkerhoff Street, Plattsburgh, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

**Contact:** For more information and especially if you'd like to be a prayer volunteer, please contact: Nancy Monette, Plattsburgh 40 Days for Life Outreach Coordinator At 518-561-8225 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

## SETON CATHOLIC OPEN HOUSE

**Plattsburgh** – The annual open house for grades 7-12 of Seton Catholic Central School has been set

**Date:** March 13

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Science fair, school tours, information sessions, art and club displays.

**Contact:** Call 561-4031 for more information

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

**Peru** – The Catholic Daughters' of the Americas, Court Saint Monica of the St. Augustine Parish will be having their Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Date:** March 15

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6:30

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 4-12, \$5; under 3, Free

**Features:** Corned Beef or Ham. Take-outs will be available. Music will be provided by Don McBrayer of Don-Yo DJ Service and Website Design, George Schnob and Elisabeth Churchill and dancing by Dierdre O'Callaghan and Taylor Morse.

**Features:** 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York, 66 Brinkerhoff Street, Plattsburgh, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold a Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$3; under 5, Free

**Features:** All you can eat pancake, real maple syrup, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, coffee, orange juice or milk.

## PARISH DINNER

**Plattsburgh** – Our Lady of Victory to have a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** March 15

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:45

**Place:** Our Lady of Victory Parish Gym

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Kids, \$5

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Mooers Forks** – The Mooers K of C Auxiliary will be sponsoring a rummage sale.

**Schedule:** March 21 – 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; March 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Ann's Church Hall

## LENTEN ADORATION

**Plattsburgh** – St. Peter's Church will offer weekday adoration during Lent.

**Schedule:** Beginning Ash Wednesday after the noon daily Mass and end with Benediction at 7 p.m. on Wednesday of

Holy Week. Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Fri after 7 a.m. Mass to 7 p.m. Mon, after 7 a.m. Mass to 9 p.m.

**Contact:** To sign up for adoration, call the rectory at 563-1692 or stop in the Chapel anytime during adoration hours.

## QUILTING CLASSES

**Ellenburg Center** – The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop is holding classes

**Through the Year Wall Hanging:** March 15, 22, and 29; Rita Breen, Instructor; Cost: \$40 for all 3 classes. Call or email to reserve a spot by March 1. Class size is limited to 7.

**Sew Together:** any Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3. This is a quilting group designed to share ideas, help fellow quilters, teach beginners. Bring a bag lunch if you come for the day.

**Contact:** The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop, Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 7270 Star Road, Ellenburg Center, 518-594-3253, olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

## ESSEX

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

**Elizabethtown** – St. Elizabeth's will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Date:** March 16

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 6

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$11; Children under 12, \$5  
**Features:** Corned Beef or Ham. Take-Outs after 1:30 p.m. Raffle tickets available

## FRANKLIN

## ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

**Bombay** – St. Joseph's Church will be holding a St. Joseph's Day Mass and meatless cover dish dinner.

**Date:** March 19

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Features:** Fr. Thomas Higman will be the homilist. All are invited to join after Mass for a St. Joseph's Day table. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share; only request is that with the tradition of this Table, the dishes are meatless.

## CABBAGE ROLL SALE

**Brushton** – Cabbage Roll sale to be held.

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** 6 a.m. until gone

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** \$4, includes a dinner roll

**Contact:** Pre-order March 16 by calling 518-529-6580

## JEFFERSON

## LENTEN LOOK A VATICAN II

**Evans Mills** – St. Mary's Parish will hold a Lenten Look at Vatican II

**Date:** 4 successive Wednesdays begin-

ning March 12

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Program:** *Lumen Gentium* will be the focus of presentations by Father Tom Kornmeyer, pastor, and Deacon Pat Donahue. A one-hour talk on some aspect of the document will open each session followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussion, then Benediction.

**Registration:** All are asked to register by March 9 at 629-4678.

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE

**Watertown** – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting will be held.

**Date:** March 24

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Hearthside Hospitality Center at the SSJ Motherhouse.

**Speaker:** Rev. Toby Schillings, Chaplain at Samaritan Medical Center on: "The Habits of Those Who Grieve Well"

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

**Date:** March 27

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5/ quart, meatballs \$.75

**Features:** Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

**Evans Mills** – A spaghetti and meatball dinner, to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus, has been planned

**Date:** March 15

**Time:** Serving starts at 4 PM

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Prices:** \$7.00 for Adults, \$6.00 for Senior Citizens, \$5.00 for children under 12 and children under 5 eat for free

## LEWIS

## LENTEN PARISH MISSION

**Lowville** – St. Peter's Parish With St. Mary's in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's in Housville will hold their annual Lenten Parish Mission.

**Date:** March 16-18

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Speaker:** Rev. Toby Schillings, Chaplain at Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown.

**Themes:** March 16 – Faith, Experiencing Jesus and Church; March 17 – Faith and Hope in Suffering; March 18 – Faith, Death, Resurrection: The Goal and Going Home

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE





## The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# Gratitude to the NCC

From the Director's Desk  
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ  
Diocesan Mission director

The yearly renewal time for the "North Country Catholic" tends to heighten my awareness and sharpen my focus on its exceptional contribution to our diocese. I believe it's the best form of media to connect 12,000 square miles of parishioners with pertinent events of the universal church and the faith life of our parishes.

In particular, Molly and I are grateful for the column in the NCC that provides updates on the Pontifical Mission Societies, Missionary Cooperation Plan, Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, St. Peter the Apostle Appeal and the Missionary Childhood Association.

Our readers tell us that they become more grateful for the blessings in their lives as they read about the challenges in developing countries.

A few years ago at a diocesan gathering, I won a one year email subscription. I sent it to my brother in Minnesota. I hadn't thought of renewal until one day Mary Lou asked about it since she knew how much my brother John enjoyed it. Simultaneously (or so it seemed) I heard from John with the same inquiry! Of course I said "Yes!" In cold Minnesota, John continues to "Warm up with Good News from the Diocese of Ogdensburg". Of special interest to him is stories written by people he knows and events in the parishes that he remembers.

Thoughts and prayers of gratitude to Mary Lou Kilian and Christine Ward as you pursue your ministry of ongoing vision to keep us abreast of the North Country's spiritual journey. For all that has been, thanks, and God grant you abundant wisdom in future issues of our North Country Catholic.

### And one more thing

I want to take a moment to acknowledge National Catholic Sisters' Week. Their hard work, dedication, motivation and prayers of our Sisters working both near and far in the Mission Lands make so much possible and the lives of so many so much better. Our Diocesan born Sisters like Sr. Debbie Blow, OP, with the North Country Mission of Hope in Nicaragua and Sr. Cindy Sullivan, BVM, with the El Centro del Muchacho in Ecuador work tirelessly year round in South America making a difference each day in the lives of so many. We wish them and all the Sisters responding to the command of the Lord all the best in their efforts and prayers.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

## OBITUARIES

### Penny Martin

**MORRISONVILLE**—A Mass of Christian Burial for Penny L. Martin, 64, of New Russia, was held Saturday at St. Alexander's Church.

She died unexpectedly March 4 at her home, with her husband by her side.

Burial will be in the Essex County Veteran's Cemetery.

Mrs. Martin was very active in the Catholic Daughters of America, serving two terms as a New York State Regent as well as local regent for the Catholic Daughters Court in Willsboro.

She was born in Ticonderoga, July 8, 1949, the daughter of Walter and Bernice Marcotte of Willsboro.

She graduated from Willsboro High School and went on to business school in Albany, N.Y. She met her husband Edward in the spring of 1970, and they wed that same fall on Sept. 5.

Mrs. Martin worked for many years at the Essex County Department of Social Services. Her passion was her Catholic faith. In addition to her work with Catholic Daughters, she led her church choir, and took part in other ministries.

Most important to her was her husband, her three children and her ten grandchildren. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, and was extremely generous with her time and attention.

She is survived by her husband Edward Martin; her

mother Bernice Marcotte; and her three children, Casey Martin, Edward Martin II and Kristine Gay. She is also survived by her ten grandchildren, Tyler Blaise, Rheanon Martin, Ciara Martin, Zachary Martin, Alyson Deleury, Arianna Martin, Palmer Martin, Ted Gay, Jack Gay and Jacob Gay.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Catholic Daughters of America. Online condolences may be offered by visiting [www.wmmarvins.com](http://www.wmmarvins.com).

**Altona** — Gary L. Garrand, 64; Funeral Services March 7, 2014 at Holy Angel's Church.

**Carthage** — Barbara A. (Vandewater) Grover, 71; Funeral Services March 5, 2014 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Champlain** — Derek J. Genereux, 29; Funeral Services March 6, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

**Gouverneur** — Gloria (Gleason) Landers, 85; Funeral Services March 1, 2014 at St. James Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

**Lowville** — Violet M. (Martin) Hanno, 96; Funeral March 20, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Malone** — Donald I DuMont, 92; Funeral Services March 8, 2014 at St. John Bosco Church.

**Massena** — Phyllis M. (Deurushia) Gorman, 86; Funeral Services March 10, 2014 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Waddington.

**North Lawrence** — Louis E. Rheume, 91; Funeral Services at St. Lawrence Church.

**Ogdensburg** — Teri Lee Bresett, 53; Funeral Services March 6, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** — Rodney J. Parrott Sr., 52; Funeral Services March 7, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** — Roland Emile LeBlanc, 94; Funeral March 8, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Matthew J. Schroeder, 69; Funeral Services March 6, 2014 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

**Ticonderoga** — Rose Marie (Ezzo) Blood, 95; Funeral Services March 8, 2014 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Daniel J. Briggs, 16; Funeral Services March 8, 2014 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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## LEWIS

## LEWIS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - St. Peter's parishioners are holding a Eucharistic adoration to thank God for & to honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to worship.

**Date:** March 13

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** Worship includes the Exposition, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and the Benediction.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Harrisville - St. Francis Solanus Church will be having a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Date:** March 22

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 12-5, \$6; under 5, Free

**Features:** Take-outs available after 4 p.m. Baked ham will be served. Irish music provided by Fraser Family & Friends.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## LENTEN MISSION

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church are sponsoring a Lenten Mission to be conducted by Rev. Douglas J. Lucia, Episcopal Vicar for Worship & Priestly Formation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

**Schedule:**

**March 29/30** - Fr. Lucia will be the homilist for all weekend masses at both churches. Theme: "A Joy is ever new, a joy which is shared" Focus: Good News

**March 31** - 7 p.m. Mass in Notre Dame followed by confessions. Theme: "A mother with an open heart" Focus: Gospel Living

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MYSTERY PLAYERS

## LENT 2014

Date	Place		Time
MARCH 16	ST. CECILIA'S	ADAMS	7:00 P.M.
MARCH 21	ST. JOHN'S	PLATTSBURGH	8:00 P.M.
MARCH 22	ST. BERNARD'S	SARANAC LAKE	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 28	ST. JOSEPH'S	MALONE	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 30	ST. PAUL'S	BLACK RIVER	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 4	ST. JAMES	GOVERNEUR	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 6	ST. CRYIL'S	ALEX BAY	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 12	ST. PIUS X	LOUDONVILLE	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 13	HOLY FAMILY	NAZARETH, PA	7:00 P.M.
APRIL 14	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	OTTSVILLE, PA	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 15	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 16	ST. ROSE OF LIMA	NEWTOWN, CT	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 18	ST. PATRICK'S	WATERTOWN	8:00 P.M.

[www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players](http://www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players)

**April 1** - 7 p.m. Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral followed by confessions. Theme: "No to selfishness and spiritual sloth" Focus: Transformation/Conversion

**April 2** - 7 p.m. Mass in Notre Dame followed by a reception. Theme: "Words which sets hearts on fire" Focus: Mission

## FISH &amp; SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur - There will be a Fish & Shrimp Fry every Friday during lent.

**Date:** March 7 to April 18

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

**Features:** Take-outs available, phone ahead for faster service and deliveries 287-0130.

## RUMMAGE SALE

Canton - St. Mary's Parish is holding a rummage sale With various items for sale.

**Schedule:** Friday, Mar. 21, @ 8 am - 6 pm and Bag Sale is Sat., Mar. 22, @ 8 am - 11 am.

**Place:** St. Mary's School Gym

## SHELVES NEEDED

Canton - St. Mary's is in the process of starting a Gabriel Project ministry and need deep shelving units and or book-cases for the supply room.

**Contact:** Linda Trill at 315-212-9918 or St. Mary's Church at 315-386-2543

## LENTEN PROGRAM

Norfolk - The Catholic Parishes of Nor-

## COUNTRY OF THE WEEK



Every Friday from January to May, the sixth graders of St. Mary's School in Canton participate in a social studies project called "Country of the Week," also known as "C.O.W." In January, the students each pick a country and a date. Students have a list of requirements for the project, which includes creating a map, flag and fact sheet for their country, but the method of presentation is up to them. They have presented posters, souvenirs, games, ethnic foods, video clips, costumes, music and more. Above, Sophia Silver presents "Sweden" to her classmates. Her great-great Uncle John Lund is the founder of Lund's Pancakes.

folk, Norwood & Raymondville are holding a Lenten program.

**Schedule:** Tuesday mornings: March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 Starting with 9 a.m. Mass, light social, presentation and ending around 11:30 a.m.

OR: Thursday Evenings: March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 starting with 5:30 p.m. Mass, light social, presentation and ending around 8 p.m.

**Place:** Church of the Visitation

**Features:** Lenten program will be based on the spirituality of Matthew Kelly. The four signs of a Dynamic Catholic, transforming people one at a time... are you willing to let God transform you?

## LENTEN STUDY: "CONVERSION

Ogdensburg - The Evangelization Committee of St. Mary's Cathedral is holding a Lenten study series for Ogdensburg area parishes.

**Date:** Wednesdays, Feb. 19-April 9

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Place:** Bishop Brzana Hall

**Program:** In this DVD series, presented by Bill O'Brien, Father Robert Barron shares six stories of conversion from the Gospels. The common theme in each story is the turning of all one's attention

and energy toward an ever deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Price:** Workbooks are available for \$12

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg - Bishop LaValley Will preside at the annual diocesan Chrism Mass.

**Date:** April 9

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** In addition to the blessing of oils, the Bishop will announce the diocesan vision, priorities and goals for the next five years.

## 2014 YOUTH RALLY

Watertown - 2014 Youth Rally to feature Kelly Colangelo and Ryan Grant.

**Date:** April 26

**Place:** Immaculate Heart Central Jr. Sr. High School

**Cost:** \$25 includes lunch, snacks and a gift

**Features:** Grades 6-12 and liturgy with Bishop LaValley

**Contact:** your parish for a registration form or call the Youth Office at 315-393-2920 ext. 1411. [www.rcdony.org/youth](http://www.rcdony.org/youth)

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