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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 28, 2012

A papal pilgrim of faith

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

SILAO, MEXICO (CNS) - Arriving in Mexico on his second papal visit to Latin America March 23, Pope Benedict XVI said he came as a "pilgrim of faith, of hope, and of love," promoting the cause of religious freedom, social progress and

the Catholic Church's charitable works.

Bells tolled and the assembled crowd cheered as Pope Benedict XVI appeared through the door of his Alitalia plane at Guanajuato International Airport in central Mexico.

He was greeted by Mexican President Felipe Calderon and other dignitaries, includ-

ing Archbishop Jose Martin Rabago of Leon and Archbishop Carlos Aguilar Retes of Tlalnepantla, president of the Mexican bishops' conference and the Latin American bishops' council, CELAM.

In his remarks at the arrival ceremony, Pope Benedict paid tribute to the Mexican people's religious faith and reputation for hos-

pitality, but he addressed the main part of his speech to all Latin American nations, noting that most of them "have been commemorating, in recent years, the bicentennial of their independence."

The pope related the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity to challenges the region faces today.

THE PILGRIM POPE

Arrives in Mexico



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI waves as he walks off a plane at Guanajuato International Airport in Silao, Mexico, March 23. Arriving in Mexico on his second papal visit to Latin America, the pope said he came as a "pilgrim of faith, of hope, and of love," promoting the cause of religious freedom, social progress and the Catholic Church's charitable works.

IHC plans community celebration

Immaculate Heart Central Schools in Watertown will host Founders' Day, April 21, an elegant event celebrating the institution and honoring distinguished awardees.

School officials say that "Founders' Day" will be an annual celebration in honor of the school system's founders - the Sisters of Saint Joseph - and in recognition of the important mission IHC and its predecessor, Immaculate Heart Academy, have performed in the Greater Watertown community for over 130 years.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Diocesan Youth Rally

Chris Padgett will be the featured speaker at the April 28 event to

be held at IHC in Watertown

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

AT ST. PETER'S BASILICA



PHOTO BY BILL O'BRIEN

Bishop LaValley distributes communion to Mary Brassard of Ellenburg Depot during a March 22 Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during the North Country Catholic's March 12-23 pilgrimage to Catholic sites in Italy. Also shown is Father Douglas Lucia giving communion to Marsha Breaun of West Chazy. Full coverage of the pilgrimage will appear in next week's NCC.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Suffering mother finds strength from Mary... p. 12

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

From Rome to home

Rome sweet Rome... home sweet home.

Nearly two weeks after departing from the Montreal Airport, 72 exhausted and exhilarated pilgrims returned to their own homes late Friday night (or very early Saturday morning!)

With Bishop LaValley and Father Doug Lucia, we had prayed our way across the Italian countryside, from our first Mass at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice to our last one at St. Peter's in Rome.

Each day was filled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences:

We saw the places where St. Francis of Assisi was born and where he is buried.

We learned about St. Catherine of Siena and St. Anthony of Padua in Siena and in Padua.

We were thrilled that the Mediterranean Sea was calm enough to allow a boat ride through the Blue Grotto of Capri.

We were awed by the masterpieces of Michelangelo, Giotto and other artistic geniuses.

We saw first-class relics and first-class scenery. The breathtaking beauty of the Amalfi Coast surely matches any place in the world.

And, we tasted gelatos at every

stop!

At the end of our journey, it's safe to say that the 72 pilgrims each have 71 new friends.

Together, we made a powerful journey of faith, standing with each other in times of challenge and times of joy.

We are all especially grateful to Bishop LaValley for his great generosity in sharing this trip with us.

(It's not easy to ask your boss to spend nearly 20 hours on busses and planes to get home after serving as a tireless spiritual leader for 12 days that started with 6 a.m.

wake-up calls!)

And, personally, I want to give special thanks to the other half of the NCC staff, Christine Ward.

Without her months of attention to a thousand details, the pilgrimage would not have been possible. And without her 12 days of hard work while the editor was on the other side of the world, this issue of the NCC would not have been possible either.

Most of all, we have to express our gratitude to God as we settle safely at home with our magnificent memories... many of which will be illustrated through photos in next week's paper.



Mary Lou Kilian

Welcome Spring

Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Passion of Jesus Christ

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 31-April 1

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

The events of Holy Week are center stage of the Good News we are given to share with our family, community, and the world.

As a family of faith, the Church enters into the "holiest" of weeks in its celebration of Liturgy.

Lent began with Jesus battling with the demons in the desert. As Jesus prepared for His passion and death, He met head on the forces of evil in the final expression of doing His Father's will. It is in the Holy Week Liturgies that we experience Jesus' great self-emptying love and humility through His humanity. He is the Suffering Servant, who is faithful to His Father's mission, to overcome evil and to defeat its every manifestation that had come together to try and undo Him. Jesus set the example.

If we want to share in the glory and the kingdom of Jesus, we have to learn His way of humility and obedience.

The way of humility and obedience is the way of service. Jesus demonstrated service by the way He showed affection for His friends and followers. He showed how God's love translated into human love. His love was universal because He reached out to all those whom God loves—the rich, the poor, the outcasts, the sinners, the sick and to the dying. In spite of all the rejection and hostility Jesus endured, He was faithful to His mission.

Jesus taught that nothing in human existence is more important than humble and obedient response to the loving will of God. His actions of obedience brought Him into conflict with the powers of His time. These actions cost Him His life.

What is important is not the facts that are preserved in the Passion Narratives, but the reality that lies behind the facts and the reason for Jesus' death—His death was an act of humble obedience.

Mark has tried to lead us this Lent to "be with Jesus" as His disciples. We, now, experience the full impact of Jesus' humanity, His struggle in His agony to do the Father's will. In walking with Christ this week, this sort of suffering and death activates our own awareness of our limitations and weakness.

We walk with faith and hope and learn from the Centurion, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" It is the love of Jesus who redeems and saves us!

As a Church, A Family of Faith, we are called to the same mission - faithful obedience to the implications of God's love for us and for all His people.

We live in a society that is becoming more secular and godless and we must deal with the demands of faith and witness our faith with zeal but with humility. Whatever our vocation, we are all called to put absolutely everything into God's hands even when His will is dark, painful, and frightening. By our Baptism, we are all called to absolute obedience to the Father, cost what it may.

God has the same life plan as He did for Jesus, that is, we share in the sufferings and death of Christ, with the hope of resurrection with Him for all eternity.

How does this profound act of Jesus, His Passion, Death, and Resurrection touch your life right now, your illness, discord, death of a loved one?

Do you believe that "all will be well"?

How will you walk with Jesus this week?

Holy Week is a week of retreat to discover the mysterious way in which God is touching your life today, so that like the disciples at Easter you too may go forth renewed to proclaim the Good News: "Jesus Christ is Risen, Alleluia!"

CATHOLICS OF THE DIOCESE AT THE CAPITOL



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Father Mark Reilly, pastor of the Catholic Churches of the Mountains and Lakes; Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, Parish Partnership Coordinator for Catholic Charities and John Miner, co-director of the Respect Life Office met with Kathleen Gallagher, Director of Pro-Life Activities for the NYS Catholic Conference, during the March 13 Catholics at the Capitol Day in Albany. Topics on the New York State Catholic Conference's lobbying agenda for the 1500 participants from across the state included protecting the poor, preserving Catholic schools, community reintegration after incarceration, opposing an abortion bill, and assistance for immigrants.

Funeral held for Fr. Connaghan

CARTHAGE- A Mass of Christian Burial for Augustinian Father Hugh J. Connaghan, 88, washeld March 19 at St. James Church.

He died March 15 at the Carthage Area Hospital. Burial Wwas in the New St. James Cemetery in Carthage.

Father Connaghan is sur-

vived by a brother, Joseph; nieces and nephews.

He was a member of the Carthage and West Carthage Fire Departments, the Fireman's Association of the State of New York, the Northern New York Fireman's Association, Jefferson County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Asso-

ciation, State Fire Police Association and thr State Association of Fire Chaplains.



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Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools
100 Elizabeth Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669


FOUNDATION MANAGER

The Sacred Heart Foundation has a part time opening for a Manager to oversee the operation of the Foundation office and work with the Board of Directors in support of our mission.

The mission of the Sacred Heart Foundation is to provide financial assistance to individuals studying to become Priests for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Education or experience in accounting and data processing required. Supervision or management experience is a plus. Experience working with a not-for-profit would be helpful, but not required.

Please send resume to:
Sacred Heart Foundation
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601
E-mail:
nbuduson@sacredheartfoundation.com



Chrism Mass 2012

All of the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ

on Thursday, March 29th at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

IHC begins new tradition with Founders' Day

By Chris Hornbarger

Executive System Administrator,
IHC Schools in Watertown

WATERTOWN - Immaculate Heart Central Schools will begin a new tradition April 21 with the first "Founders' Day" celebration.

A community celebration

This will be an annual event in honor of the school system's founders – the Sisters of Saint Joseph – and in recognition of the important mission IHC and its predecessor, Immaculate Heart Academy, have performed in the Greater Watertown community for over 130 years.

Founders' Day 2012 will occur April 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Best Western/Carriage House Inn in Watertown.



The Immaculate Heart Central School system in Watertown will honor its heritage with a Founders Day celebration set for April 21. At left is the Sisters of St. Joseph First Foundation in Watertown, 1881; and, right is Immaculate Heart Academy on 362 W. Main St. Watertown, 1912-1965

Reservations are limited and can be made by calling IHC Schools at (315) 221-3785, or by emailing stacy.uliano@ihcschools.org.

The cost is \$50 per person, with all proceeds to support the IHC Endowment.

Parents, alumni, faculty, community leaders, parishioners and all those who support IHC's mission are invited. The "black-tie optional" event will include an elegant dinner, remarks by Bishop Terry LaValley, and the presentation of three distinguished awards – the IHC "Foundation for Life" Distinguished Alumnus Award, the "Friend of IHC Schools" Award, and the IHC Community Service Award.

The event was conceived last year as a celebration of the 130th anniversary of the Sisters of Saint Joseph's mission in Watertown.

The Sisters requested that the event's scope be broadened to celebrate the school they founded in 1881, and also requested that the event benefit IHC's endowment.

The event's planning committee soon realized the appropriateness of an annual celebration of the institution, and the opportunity to recognize distinguished alumni and community leaders.

A Watertown institution

IHC has a rich history as one of many important Watertown institutions.

In December 1880, three Sisters arrived in Watertown from Buffalo with the purpose of opening a Catholic school. The challenges were daunting. The Catholic community in Watertown was divided between the Irish immigrant and French-Canadian populations.

Finances were also difficult. Nonetheless, five days after their arrival, the Sisters secured a small wooden house at 114 Main Street (later 315 West Main St.).

Within two weeks, the Watertown Daily Times reported that "fifty to sixty scholars" had already applied.

In 1896, finances forced the closure of the original school, but the Sisters were undaunted, reopening it as Immaculate Heart Academy. IHA received its first academic charter in 1904, and full accreditation by the University of the State of New York in 1908.

In 1912, the school moved into a new building at 362 West Main St., where it remained until moving in 1965 to the present site of Immaculate Heart Central Junior/Senior High School at 1316 Ives St. The IHC system also includes an Elementary School, which was created by consolidating Watertown's four parish elementary schools eight years ago.

Addressing new challenges

IHC's first Founders' Day comes at a fitting time, as the school system is taking determined steps to address the challenges that have reduced, over the last several decades, the number of Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg from eighteen to just two.

Having educated over 6,000 alumni over the last

130-plus years, the IHC school system is redoubling its efforts and commitment to do so for the next 130 years.

The school system is strengthening its relationships with alumni and the community, has launched a semi-annual alumni magazine, has established an Annual Fund, is increasing the integration of technology in the classroom, has pursued and won grants for key priorities, has implemented several new high-school courses, and has established new scholarship and aid programs for current and new students.

IHC has recruited two veteran educators to lead its Elementary and Junior/Senior High Schools. Enrollment this year was up, and the school has been able to add to its instructional and extracurricular programs.

The school has also been engaged in a nine-month strategic planning process that will conclude in June, and is preparing to launch a capital campaign for IHC's endowment beginning in 2013. Thus, while Founders' Day is first-and-foremost a celebration, the funds it raises will also be a down-payment on a concerted effort to grow the school's endowment.

Corporate and individual sponsors to date include Bishop LaValley, the Sisters of St. Joseph, H&R Block (the St. Croix Family), RSI Roofing, Manning-Napier Advisors, The Morgia Group, Watertown Animal Hospital, Cummings Funeral Service, D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Watertown Internists, Crowley & Halloran CPAs, QuikMed Urgent Care, Cyril and Dr. Marlene Mouaikel, and Dr. and Mrs. George Sturtz. Additional sponsors are encouraged.

The Sisters of St. Joseph and IHC invite to Founders' Day all those who support IHC's calling: to provide students the spiritual, intellectual, and physical foundation they need to succeed in their lives on Earth and in eternity.

FOUNDERS' DAY

A Celebration of the Sisters of Saint Joseph
Immaculate Heart Academy,
and Immaculate Heart Central Schools

APRIL 21, 2012



You are cordially invited to the Founders' Day 2012 Dinner

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Savory Café in the Best Western/Carriage House Inn, Watertown
Black-Tie Optional

Presentation of:

"The Foundation for Life" Distinguished Alumnus Award
The "Friend of IHC" Award - to a Community Member
The IHC Community Service Award - to a Community Member

Remarks by: Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Proceeds to benefit the IHC Endowment

Reservations Limited, \$50 per person

Call (315) 221-3785 or email stacy.uliano@ihcschools.org

Sponsors: Bishop Terry LaValley, the Sisters of St. Joseph, H&R Block (the St. Croix Family), RSI Roofing, Manning-Napier Advisors, The Morgia Group, Watertown Animal Hospital, Cummings Funeral Service, D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Watertown Internists, Crowley & Halloran CPAs, QuikMed Urgent Care, Cyril and Dr. Marlene Mouaikel, and Dr. and Mrs. George Sturtz. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

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THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.




Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.

 The Holy Eucharist

(With ecclesiastical approval)

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY **APRIL 2012**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY 1	REV. DONALD J. MANFRED 2	REV. GEORGE F. MAROUN 3	REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO 4	MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY 5	MSGR. ROBERT J. MCCARTHY 6	REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN 7
OUR PASTOR 8	REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS 9	REV. BERNARD D. MENARD 10	REV. GILBERT B. MENARD 11	REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU 12	REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN 13	REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH 14
POPE BENEDICT 15	REV. ANDREW R. MULVANEY 16	REV. PATRICK W. MUNDY 17	MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY 18	REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY 19	REV. SIMON OBENG 20	REV. KEVIN J. O'BRIEN 21
RETIRED PRIESTS 22	REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY 23	REV. EDWARD E. PAPP 24	REV. JEROME B. PASTORES 25	REV. TERRENCE R. PATTERSON 26	MSGR. GEORGE M. PHILLIPS 27	MSGR. LEEWARD J. POISSANT 28
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Congratulations
Fr. John P. Kennehan
on your Golden Jubilee.



Thank you for your presence to the sick and your presence to my dad.

Sally Rusaw

I give thanks to Christ Jesus Our Lord, Who has strengthened me, because He counted me trustworthy, in making me His minister.
1 Timothy, 1:12

Are you ready for the 2012 Youth Rally?

Saturday April 28, 2012
IHC High School, Watertown
Presenting: Chris Padgett

◆ Workshops ◆ Music ◆ Testimony ◆ Liturgy with Bishop LaValley

Grades: 6-12
Cost ~ \$20 which includes Lunch, Snacks and a Gift

Contact your parish for a registration form or call the Youth Office at 315-393-2920 ext. 411



'Too Few in the Pew' workshop to be held in April

Franciscan Sister Louise Alff, former director of Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with a special focus on Parish Evangelization, will be presenting a workshop across the Diocese called "Too Few in the Pew" from April 14-16.

Sister Louise will share practical strategies to learn practical ways to invite someone to 'take another look'; recognize signs of openness to discuss the faith, identify the best approach for different needs, and to recognize everyday opportunities to invite people to join the Catholic Church.

St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, diocesan director of evangelization, said, "Often we see the pews in our parish churches full for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Christmas and maybe at the celebration of a wedding or at the time of a funeral for a family member or friend. Why is this?"

"We look around us and see that many of our family members and friends are not with us to pray, to worship, and to participate in the activities as a family of faith, Sister Eamon said. "These are Catholics who are still Catholic but are not practicing their Catholic faith. The

reasons are varied as the questions are asked. Where are they? They are in our parishes, in our workplace, in our neighborhoods, and in our homes. We, as a Church, A Family of Faith truly miss their presence."

Sister Louise, who currently serves in the Diocese of Buffalo as the Education and Faith Based Coordinator at the refugee center called Vive La Casa, will offer the Too Few in the Pew workshop in three locations, Carthage, Massena and Plattsburgh.

Sister Eamon said, the workshop is open to all members of the parish but especially to the pastors,

Parish Council members, Evangelization Teams, parish ministries that focus on outreach.

Registration for the workshop is due March 30 and may be made through pastors or Sister Mary Eamon at elyng@dioogdensburg.org or call 393-2920 Ext. 380.

The schedule follows:
Jefferson/Lewis/Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries

Augustinian Academy, Carthage, April 14, 10 a.m. to 12.

St. Lawrence/Franklin Deaneries

Trinity School, Massena, April 15, 2 p.m. to 4

Clinton/Adirondack/Hamilton-Herkimer/Essex Deaneries

St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh, April 16, 1p.m. to 3 AND 7 p.m. to 9

"Come and See and let us gather as a community of faith and love to learn we can be the face and presence of Christ for those who are seeking to return to the life of the Church," Sister Eamon said.

2012 diocesan Youth Rally to be held April 28 in Watertown

The Office of Youth Ministry is gearing up once again for the annual Diocesan Youth Rally.

Young people, youth leaders, and catechists are invited to Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown on April 28

The theme for this year's rally is "Hear His Voice" inspired by the scripture readings for the fourth Sunday of Easter and Good Shepherd Sunday.

Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry said, "with all the voices we are in contact with daily, our rally will inspire us to turn an eager ear to the Good Shepherd, the voice of truth and love."

The keynote speaker for the day will be Chris Padgett from Steubenville, Ohio. Padgett, a convert to Catholicism

entered the Church at Easter in 1999. He has offering ministry around the country for the past decade.

Chris Padgett will be the keynote speaker

"Using the medium of music and message he has attempted to communicate the truth of Christ's love and forgiveness in a way that makes a difference," Deacon Dwyer said. "Chris and his wife Linda have been blessed with nine children. Chris enjoys speaking all around the country but is quick to say that his family is the backbone of this apostolate."

In addition to the keynote address, the day will be filled with workshops geared toward young people and youth leaders. There will also be an interactive park with tables featuring Sportscamp

and Guggenheim, Vocations and scouting, family life office and Catholic Charities and the Respect Life office.

In addition, there will be the opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The day concludes with a question and answer session with Bishop LaValley and closing Mass.

"This is a great opportunity for young people in grades six to 12 to come together for a day of faith and fun with young people across the Diocese," Deacon Dwyer said. "Hope to see you all there and bring a friend or two along as well."

Registration may be made through parishes or by calling the youth office at 315.393.2920, Ext 411. The cost is \$20.

Further information is available at <http://dioogdensburg.org/Youth/rally.html>.

Bishop LaValley' Schedule

March 28 – 9 a.m., St. Joseph's Home Board of Manager's Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 6 p.m., Dinner and Evening of Prayer with Priests at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

March 29 – 11 a.m., Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

March 30 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

April 1 – 11 a.m., Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

April 3 – 7 p.m., Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

March 28 – Rev. Francis McShane, O.S.A., 1932; Rev. Walter C. McMahon, 1978; Rev. Lawrence A. Mallette, 1989; Rev. Joseph P. Trombley, 2001

March 29 – Rev. Joseph Taney, 1880; Rev. J. Aime Troie, 1955; Rev. Ross A. Garnsey, 1986; Rev. Euclid Marier, 2003

March 30 – Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960

March 31 – Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

April 1 – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002

April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005

April 3 – Msgr. Philius Garand, 1942

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate.

Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training.

Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 440.

Upcoming programs:

March 28 – 6:30 p.m., Immaculate Heart Central Primary, Watertown

April 21 – 9 a.m., St. Augustine's School, Peru

May 2 – 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

May 23 – 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: aycsnn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Hundreds rally at HHS headquarters protesting contraceptive mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- During a noon rally March 23 in front of the Washington headquarters of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, speakers reminded hundreds of participants that the event was merely a starting point in an ongoing protest against the federal health plan mandating contraceptive coverage by most religious employers. "You are part of history," a speaker told the crowd, noting that 140 other protest rallies were taking place at the same time across the country, organized by the Pro-Life Action League, based in Chicago, and Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, based in Michigan. At several points during the nearly two-hour event on a warm Friday afternoon, the crowd chanted: "We will not comply!" The mantra was essentially the theme of the protest. Speeches throughout the rally stressed that the new health care law governing employer coverage of contraception and sterilization violated principles of religious freedom. The crowd included people of all ages, many of whom carried placards echoing their views such as: "A Child is a Blessing Not a Disease" and "Keep Your Wrongs Off Our Rights." Some crowd members held crosses or banners; others held rosaries and some waved U.S. flags. Before the rally started, most said they hailed from the Washington area but a handful said they came from Pittsburgh, Dallas and Boulder, Colo. "It's very important to be here," said Sister Maria Gonzalez, a Poor Sister of St. Joseph from Alexandria, Va., who fingered her rosary while clutching a banner that said: "Stop Obama's HHS Mandate." Rally participants responded with cheers and some "Amen!" when a speaker said she hoped the crowd was "energized to continue this fight."

Bishop Lori named to Baltimore; new bishops named in Illinois, Florida

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., to be the new archbishop of Baltimore, and he also named new bishops for the dioceses of Rockford, Ill., and Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla. The appointments and the resignation of 76-year-old Bishop Thomas G. Doran of Rockford were announced in Washington March 20 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Msgr. David J. Malloy, 56, who was general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2006 to 2011, has been named bishop of Rockford. He is currently pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Lake Geneva, Wis. Father Gregory L. Parkes, vicar general of the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., and pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Celebration, Fla., was named bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee. He will turn 48 April 2. Archbishop Lori, 60, has been the bishop of Bridgeport since March 2001. He is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, named grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem Aug. 29, will remain as apostolic administrator of the Baltimore Archdiocese until Archbishop Lori's installation May 16. "This archdiocese has been blessed with many outstanding leaders through the years and our Holy Father has continued this tradition with the naming of Bishop Lori as the 16th archbishop of the premier see," Cardinal O'Brien said. "I look forward to watching as his God-given talents and gentle nature bear much fruit for the glory of God and the benefit of his people in this holy church of Baltimore."

Pope likely to repeat his criticism of Cuba embargo

VATICAN LETTER

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Catholic Church's position on the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba is "no mystery," the Vatican spokesman said, and there's a good chance Pope Benedict XVI will publicly criticize the embargo when he visits Cuba.

At the same time, Pope Benedict also will call for greater freedoms -- particularly religious freedom -- and respect for other human rights during his stay in Cuba March 26-28.

The church's calls for an end to the embargo, which the United States imposed in 1962, are not peculiar to its Cuba policy, and are not concessions granted in negotiations with the communist government. They follow from established principles of Catholic social teaching, which have been applied to a variety of countries over the years.

"The Holy See maintains that the embargo is something for which the people suffer the consequences and which does not reach the aim of promoting the greater good," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman. "The people suffer; therefore, the Holy See does not believe it is a measure that is positive or helpful."

"The position of the Holy See has been repeated many times," Father Lombardi told reporters March 16. "It's not a mystery."

The Vatican's position on economic embargoes -- not just the embargo against Cuba, but even briefer embargoes against Iraq and Libya -- has been repeated many times and is explained in the official Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

The church recognizes international sanctions as a le-

gitimate and potentially effective means of trying to pressure a government to change its ways when it threatens peace or oppresses its people.

'The cry of the poor'

However, in a way that is both reasonable and motivated by concern for people, especially a society's weakest members, classic Catholic social doctrine places conditions on the use of sanctions.

The purpose of sanctions "must be clearly defined" and regularly evaluated by the international community "as to their effectiveness and their real impact on the civilian population," the compendium said.

"Economic sanctions in particular are an instrument to be used with great discernment and must be subjected to strict legal and ethical criteria," it said. The compendium also said that "an economic embargo must be of limited duration and cannot be justified when the resulting effects are indiscriminate."

In other words, if the nation's rulers are the target, it's not right that only the country's powerless suffer because of the embargo.

Pope Benedict, like Blessed John Paul II before him, is expected both to call for an end to the U.S. embargo and for increasing freedom in Cuba, especially in the area of religious freedom.

In fact, Pope Benedict did just that in late 2009 when he welcomed a new Cuban ambassador to the Vatican. He said he knew Cubans were suffering from the global economic crisis, which "together with the devastating effects of natural disasters and the economic embargo particularly strikes poorer people and their families."

At the same time, the pope said the real key to progress

in Cuba is to "put the person and his rights, his material and spiritual well-being, at the center of concern. Indeed, the primary capital to be safeguarded and saved is man, the whole person."

The church is prepared to help and already shows its dedication to the Cuban people through its educational and charitable work, "although small in size," the pope said.

He added that he hoped "concrete signs of openness to the exercise of religious freedom would continue to multiply as they have in recent years."

In 1995, three years before he went to Cuba where he made similar points, Pope John Paul laid out the ethical criteria for evaluating economic embargoes.

In a speech to diplomats serving at the Vatican, he said economic embargoes must be used "with great discernment and must be subjected to rigid juridical and ethical criteria. It is an instrument of pressure to urge governments that have broken the international code of good conduct to rethink their choices."

"Still, in a certain sense, it is also an act of force and, as several current cases demonstrate, it inflicts great privations on the population of the countries that are its object," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said the matter was not simply theoretical for him. "I often receive requests for help from people who are the victims of this isolation and indigence."

"I want to remind you diplomats that before imposing such measures, the eventual humanitarian consequences of sanctions must be taken into account" and the possible harm sanctions can cause a population must be weighed against "the evil one wants to remedy," he told them.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

And so we begin the holiest week of the year

Today begins the holiest week of the year for Christians. This is the week in which the divine Jesus empties Himself of His nature as God in order that He may experience to the full his weakness and helplessness as a human being. This is the week when Jesus identifies Himself with us to show us how Love acts when attacked by Evil. Step by step,

He confronted all that people through the ages had suffered because of sin and evil--and showed us how the Power of Love could

conquer death and defeat.

The first reading is a portion of Isaiah's Third Servant Song, portraying the attitude of the future Messiah toward evil: "The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame." It is the attitude of one who does not cry out, does not flinch, but bears patiently the beatings and the derision that become increasingly more violent.

Evil does that to people consumed by fear and ha-

tred. Evil is never content until it has destroyed the pleading and accusing eyes of the innocent victim.

In the second reading, St. Paul's letter to the Philippians explains that Christ emptied Himself of the divine in order that He might obey the Father like a humble slave, even to the point of death. Why? So that the Father will glorify Him, and cancel the debt of all human kind for sins against the Divine Majesty.

Today's liturgy is unsparring in its irony concerning human fickleness and betrayal. It all begins with a joyful procession (if possible, outside the church).

Children, prompted by their parents, shout out



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

April 1

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Readings

Mark 11:1-10

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15;47

hosannas to the King of David, as He rides through the streets of Jerusalem. The waving of palm branches acclaims both his royal origins as well as the people's hopes for His destiny as their King! They have no idea of how much He deserves their cries!

What a mood change we see in the reading of St. Mark's Passion that so soon follows. As they gaze on

the pitiful, broken body of Jesus before Pilate, they gasp. "Ecce homo" Pilate says coldly as he presents Jesus to the people. Even today, our congregations cringe as they shout, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" We know full well that we are the guilty ones responsible through our sins and the sins of all humanity, beginning with Adam and Eve.

May we forsake our normal activities this week as we follow the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. This week sums up the whole meaning of our theology and daily life as followers of Christ. Let us go to die with Jesus, that we may rise with Him anew.

RESPECT LIFE

What war on women?

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

I don't know about you, but I am sick and tired of hearing about the Catholic Church's supposed "war against women."

The political uproar over the President's contraception insurance requirement has once again created headlines screaming that women are under attack. And while the Democrats level the accusation against the Republicans, many are blaming the Catholic Church.

Perhaps the most hurtful and insulting charges come from the National Organization for Women (NOW), which recently alleged that the Church doesn't care if women get hurt, and called our Catholic Bishops Conference "violently anti-women."

What does that even mean? As a woman who has worked for the Catholic Church for more than a quarter century, I can assure you I've never been smacked around; I have always been treated with the

highest respect, and relied upon for my talents and skills.

In diocese after diocese across this country, women fill vast numbers of leadership positions. Just look at the Diocese of Ogdensburg, where the Bishop entrusts the Catholic school system, Catholic Charities network, diocesan newspaper enterprise, Evangelization projects, and Communications Office all to women.

All of the critical programs to protect children from abuse are led by women. The Family Life, Respect Life and Natural Family Planning efforts are co-led by women. The ladies are running the place!

In 1995 Blessed John Paul II penned a letter to women all about what he called "the feminine genius." He called for an end to discrimination against women and promoted progressive policies like equal pay for equal work, and family and medical leave for working moms. He denounced sexual exploitation and violence against women. He called for a "universal recognition of the dignity of

women." His letter reads like NOW's mission statement. Well, until you get to the part about abortion; they wouldn't go for that.

In the area of health care, the charge against the Church is particularly vicious. So-called feminist groups like NOW claim that the Church's assaults on women's reproductive rights are so unethical that they deny women health care and allow them to die.

Really? What am I missing? The Catholic Church is the largest non-profit provider of health care in this country and in our state, and religious sisters (women!) operate many of the systems. The Church runs hospitals, nursing homes, hospice and home care programs, and nationally recognized specialty units like St. Francis Hospital's cardiac care center in Long Island. Hello? Heart disease is the leading cause of death for females in the United States.

Cancer is number two, and Catholic hospitals specialize there, too. Last month Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo offered

free breast cancer screenings to any and all women, regardless of insurance. The event was so popular they're doing it again this month. Talk about affordable and accessible health care!

The Gianna Center, affiliated with St. Peter's Health Care System in New Jersey, with offices in New Brunswick and Manhattan, specializes solely in women's health and fertility. They provide gynecological care, prenatal care, natural family planning education, and infertility services – all with a deep commitment to honoring a woman's dignity and the sanctity of human life.

In the advocacy arena, the Catholic Church was out front in fighting against New York State's coercive policy of undue inducement to obtain female eggs for research, a policy that so exploits and endangers women that no other state in the country has one. I didn't see NOW fighting that. The Church was in the forefront of legislative efforts to assist (the mostly female) victims of human

trafficking, to help them escape forced labor and sexual mistreatment. The Catholic Church continues to provide services to these women, despite losing a major federal grant because they wouldn't refer them for abortion.

And there's the rub. Because the Church holds firm to her deep convictions about the sanctity of every human life, born and unborn, she is accused of waging war on women.

But the reality is that if the Church continues to be discriminated against with unfair laws that mandate abortion and contraception, women will be the biggest losers.

The National Organization for Women does not speak for me. It does not speak for all women. Stand up for your beliefs. If you are a woman who stands with the Catholic Church and doesn't believe the empty rhetoric about the so-called war on women, sign an open letter to President Obama and Congress about the birth control mandate. It's on the web at www.womenspeakforthemselves.com.

AT THE MOVIES

OCTOBER BABY

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

"Every life is beautiful." That's the tagline -- as well as the underlying theme -- of the thoroughly honorable, if not always fully effective, drama "October Baby" (Provident/Samuel Goldwyn).

After she collapses on stage during the opening night of a college play, freshman Hannah Lawson (Rachel Hendrix) winds up in the hospital and on the receiving end of two pieces of staggering news: She learns first, that her devoted parents -- mom Grace (Jennifer Price) and dad Jacob (John Schneider) -- adopted her as an infant. And second, that she's the survivor of an attempted abortion.

As her doctor explains, the latter fact accounts for the chronic medical problems that have long plagued Hannah and that culminated in her blackout.

Devastated and bewildered by this sudden revelation, Hannah sets out in search of her birth mother, Cindy (Shari Rigby). She's accompanied on her journey by Jason (Jason Burkey), her best friend since childhood. He's arranged for them to hitch a ride with a group of fellow students who are off to New Orleans for Mardi Gras.

In their feature debut, brothers Andrew and Jon Erwin helm a strongly pro-life message movie whose import viewers dedicated to the dignity of all human be-

ings will welcome unanimously. Opinions about the aesthetic package in which they wrap their point, however, may be more divided.

The spring break-style odyssey on which Hannah and Jason tag along is obviously intended to provide some much-needed light relief. But only some of the comedy centering on the expedition's leader, disheveled but good-hearted B-Mac (Chris Sligh), works.

Instead of being kept in sharp focus, Hannah's potentially poignant vulnerability on discovering that she was unwanted -- and that her very existence was treated as disposable by her own mother -- gets diffused amid more conventional expressions of teen angst and confusion.

Hannah's admirable adherence to Christian sexual morality, moreover -- she and Jason share an unspoken but unmistakable mutual attraction -- becomes the occasion for a mumbled apology rather than an explanation as resolute as her actions.

But the Erwins' project does have some undeniable

cinematic assets: The first part of their story, for instance, plays out against adeptly shot bucolic backgrounds. And Jasmine Guy turns in a strong performance as Mary, a retired nurse who once worked in the abortion mill where Hannah was almost killed.

Perhaps in a nod to the vital role Catholics have played in the struggle against abortion, a climactic scene is set in a cathedral explicitly identified as Catholic.

There Hannah, a self-identified Baptist, not only seeks counsel in prayer, but from a kindly priest who happens by. The advice he gives her, however, is more evangelical in tone than Catholic; he emphasizes an individual relationship with God while at least implicitly downplaying the importance of the church. But there is certainly no direct contradiction of Catholic teaching, and the scene can be viewed as an informal version of confession.

Laudably, the script avoids the temptation to demonize Cindy. Though she proves unequal to the chal-



CNS PHOTO/SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS

Jason Burkey and Rachel Hendrix star in a scene from the movie "October Baby."

lenge of Hannah's abrupt reappearance in her life, she's also shown to have gone on to marriage and motherhood as well as to a successful career.

Those determined to be cynical may nonetheless find it a bit pat that Cindy is an urbanite and a lawyer, while Grace and Jacob maintain their red-state values surrounded by the lush pastoral landscape that makes

for all that inviting cinematography.

The film contains mature subject matter and potentially disturbing references. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Retreat For Priests



"When the Catholic Sun Shines, There's Music,
Laughter and Good Red Wine"

June 11 - 15, 2012

Presented by: Fr. Richard Gielow, C.M.

Fr. Gielow has served as Director of Vocations for the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers and was Rector and Principal of St. John's High School Seminary in Kansas City, MO. He has traveled extensively in his current role as the Director of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center. Fr. Gielow will be speaking on the joys and sorrows of the priesthood, and will share what he has learned from priests in his travel across the country.

Fr. Gielow was ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Mission of Saint Vincent DePaul in 1970. He has served as a member of the Vincentian Parish Mission Team since 1982. Fr. Gielow holds a B.A. in Philosophy, a M.Div. in Theology from DeAndreis Institute of Theology and an M.A. in Religious Education from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He is listed in the Midwest and Religious sections of "Who's Who in America" as a "well-known preacher and retreat director."

Christ the King Retreat House
500 Brookford Rd.
Syracuse, New York 13224

Located in a quiet residential area, minutes away from downtown, yet away from the noise of the city, the Retreat House offers peaceful places to pray, read, study and relax.

In addition to Conferences and Liturgy, there will be time to enjoy the beautiful grounds, gardens, and outside Stations of the Cross. Refresh yourself in our private, spacious pool. Come for a week of rest and renewal.

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. on Monday June 11
(with dinner at 6 p.m. and Opening Conference at 7 p.m.)
Retreat ends by noon on Friday, June 15

Offering: \$315
Call (315) 446-2680 for Reservations

JOB OPENING

Assistant Director for Christian Formation Ogdensburg Region

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an **Assistant Director for Christian Formation – Ogdensburg Region**. The position is responsible for the management of the Ogdensburg Regional Office of Christian Formation and the supervision of the Formation for Ministry Program. Applicants should have a Master's Degree or a Bachelor's Degree with extensive experience in religious studies, religious education and faith formation. Additional qualifications include: successful experience as a catechist, knowledge of current catechetical documents, familiarity with the characteristics of the adult learner, a proven record in interpersonal skills and competency in the use of technology both administratively and in instructional settings. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Human Resources Office

Diocese of Ogdensburg

P.O. Box 369

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

or e-mail to ksnover@dioogdensburg.org.

Deadline for application is April 6, 2012.

A copy of the job description is available on the diocesan website at

www.dioogdensburg.org.

BARSTOW
ALL AMERICAN
R-VOLUTION GMC SUBARU
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page
at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY # (315) 265-8800
Your NYV Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

TOM DUDA
The Polka Beat
For Your Dancing Feet
(315) 344-7238

ADIRONDACK

"CATHOLICISM"

The Parishes of the Mountains and Lakes are presenting the Father Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series on Tuesdays evenings at St. Bernard's Chapel at 7 p.m. and Thursday mornings at St. John the Wilderness Church hall at 9:30 a.m. They will continue throughout Lent.

CLINTON

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh — St. Peter's Church will offer weekday adoration during Lent after the 7 a.m. daily Mass ending with Benediction at 7 p.m. on Wednesday of Holy Week.

Schedule: Mondays only — After 7 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, after 7 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.

Contact: call the rectory at 563-1692 or contact Ceil Johnson 566-0527 or email kjeleshouse@verizon.net

LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES

Ellenburg — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of prayer will have Lenten Reflection Series the Fridays of Lent.

Date: Feb. 24-March 30

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Features: Meditating on the Sunday Bible readings, Adoration, Rosary.

RSVP: By Feb. 21 to olaprayrhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh — St. Peter's Church will be observing Divine Mercy Sunday.

Date: April 15

Schedule: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12:15 p.m. to 2:30

Sacrament of Reconciliation in the chapel 1:15 p.m. to 2:15

Video: "Tell All Soul's About My Mercy" 12:15 p.m. to 1:25

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Prayer Services begins at 2:30 p.m.

Features: Blessing of Religious objects will take place during the service. Please note the times have changed this year.

SPRING BRUNCH

Altona — Holy Angels Church will be having an All You Can Eat Spring Brunch.

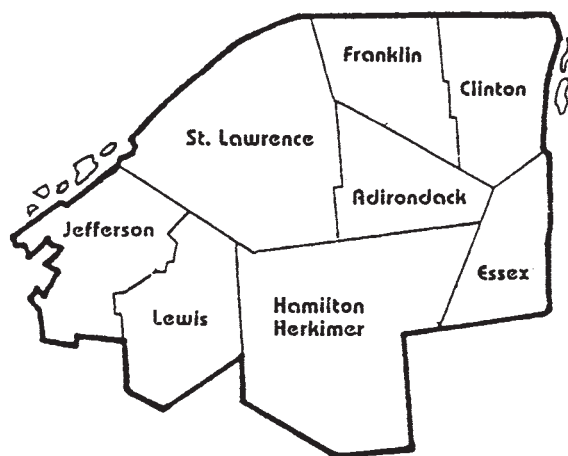
Date: April 15

Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$3
Features: Bake Sale & Craft Tables. Call 236-5848 to reserve craft table.

BLUE & GOLD SPRING FLING BALL

Altona — Holy Name School is celebrating its 99th year with a semi-formal



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.

dinner dance.

Date: April 21

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Rainbow Banquet Hall Gold Room

Cost: \$35 per person

Features: There will be door prizes throughout the evening and 50/50 raffles. Individuals or organizations who sponsor a table of 10 will have their name displayed on the table.

Contact: Holy Name School to purchase tickets at 518-647-8444

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh — Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's Adoration Chapel,

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

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: March 29

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75

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

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Evans Mills — St. Mary's Booster Club will be having a Chicken Barbecue.

Date: April 15

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$8; take-outs are available

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown — Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Celebration.

Date: April 15

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & Special prayers for healing your family tree, Blessing of the Divine Mercy image (you may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed) and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On Good Friday April 6th, the Divine Mercy Novena will begin at 3 p.m. by praying the chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

Contact: For more information on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or 315-788-2388 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown — Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

LEWIS

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Houseville — The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated

Date: April 15

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: at St. Hedwig's Church.

Features: Sacrament of Reconciliation will be at 2 p.m. and a Divine Mercy movie will be shown at the church hall at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m. the program will include Blessing of the Divine Mercy image, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy (sung), Homily and Benediction. Rev. Jozef Mucha of Christ our Light Church, Pulaski, will be the main celebrant.

Contact: Mary Ann at 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

Brasher Falls — The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.

Date: March 31 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & April 1 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: \$3; under 12 free (must be accompanied by an adult)

Features: Many dealers will be present with all kinds of hunting, fishing, archery and sporting items. Dealers wishing to reserve tables can contact Phil Davis at 315-38-4627. Concession stand available, breakfast served until 11 a.m. Public invited to buy, trade or sell.

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES

Ogdensburg — The Knights of Columbus Council 258's Friday Night Fish Fry Buffet is open to the general public and continues every Friday until Easter.

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: \$9 for all you can eat. Desserts are \$1 and there is a cash bar.

Features: All proceeds benefit K of C Charities and building fund.

FISH & SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur — St. James School will be having a Fish & Shrimp Fry every Friday during Lent.

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, free; Take-outs and delivery available, phone ahead for faster services at 287-0130.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

METANOIA RETREAT

Ogdensburg — A Young Adult Metanoia Retreat will be held

Dates: April 13-14

Place: Wadhams Hall Retreat Center,

Features: Are you needing to take some time away from your busy schedule? Are you needing to hear what God is saying to you? You are invited to the Metanoia Retreat

Contact: For more information call or email Lorraine at 315-323-4989. lturgeon@dioogdensburg.org

SINGING PILGRIMAGE

Alexandria Bay — St. Cyril's Church is sponsoring a Pilgrimage to Italy hosted by Peter's Way Tours featuring St. Cyril Church Choir in Liturgy and performance in Rome, Vatican City, and Assisi.

Date: Aug. 16-23

Cost: \$2595 + \$550 taxes/fuel surcharge (\$350 deposit due by 5-5-12)

Features: Experience Ancient Rome, Christian Rome, the Catacombs, Vatican Museums and a Papal Audience. Explore Assisi of St. Francis.

Contact: Beck Rose at becky.a.rose@gmail.com f

YOUNG ADULT ONLINE RETREAT

Diocese Young Adult Ministry will be sponsoring an "ONLINE" Lenten prayer group

Schedule: Sunday nights at 9p.m. each week during Lent.

Features: Busy schedule? Children? Life holding you back from adding prayer during Lent? Jump on line Sunday nights and join others as we pray our way to the Cross. Easy to join.

Contact: If interested please call or Email Lorraine Turgeon 315-323-4989 lturgeon@dioogdensburg.org for more information.

2012 YOUTH RALLY

Mark your calendars: April 28 At IHC High School in Watertown

2012 TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

Albany — The annual Tekakwitha Conference has been planned

Date: July 18-22

Place: Airport Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205

Theme: "Walking in her footsteps in Kateri Country"

Contact: For more information or to register for the conference, go to website www.tekconf.org

SHARE YOUR EVENTS

Do you have an event happening in your parish? E-mail it to news@northcountrycatholic.org and we will print here in the Around The Diocese free of charge!



The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Lent leads to Easter

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

I am most grateful for your Lenten sacrifices to date which are such a blessing to the Church as it serves the poor of the Missions.

Missionaries are often on the front lines in dealing with both the positive and negative effects of globalization. As Catholics, we have the moral obligation to promote the positive effects and condemn the negative impacts of globalization to the integrity of human beings and their cultures.

We pray for missionaries throughout the world. We remember that we are neighbors in a global village that is the Catholic Church.

We pray that we may ever be faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Christ Himself.

However, throughout the world, day after day, we find suffering of all kinds – devastation wrought by natural disaster, famine, drought and violence.

The media reminds us daily of profound hunger, poverty, illness, disease and war. There is also the suffering that comes from not knowing of the great love of our Lord.

And yet, in the Missions, local priests, Religious Sisters, Brothers and lay catechists reach out to the suffering in Jesus' name, offering them His love and His message of hope. They remind them that God does not abandon us, helping them to experience in their "Good Friday" world, the hope and joy of Easter Sunday.

By your prayers, and your gifts to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you accompany those who bring this Good News to the poor and suffering. As I ask your continuing prayers for our mission family, know that you and those you love remain in my prayers.

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

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OBITUARIES

Champlain – Richard W. Falcon, 77; Funeral Services March 13, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Francis Lagree, 88; Funeral Services March 19, 2012 at the Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery, Churubusco

Churubusco – Oliver "Les" LaClair, 87; Funeral Services March 13, 2012 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Melvin H. "Bob" Bearup Jr., 64; Funeral Services March 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

Constable – Marshall Francis Fellion, 66; Funeral Services March 23, 2012 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Croghan – Wilbur L. Stanford Sr., 87; Funeral Services March 12, 2012 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Hammond – Geraldine Elsie (House) Edgar, 80; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Edwardsville, Cemetery.

Heuvelton – Paul L. Wood, 83; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hill Crest Cemetery.

Keeseville – Edward Grant Gray, 74; Funeral Services March 19, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in AuSable Chasm Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Joseph C. Desourdy, 73; Funeral Services March 16, 2012 at the M.B. Clark Funeral Home Inc.; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Albert G. Scavo, 66; Funeral Services March 14, 2012 at St. Agnes Church.

Long Lake – Dennis Patterson Hunt, 82; Funeral Services March 10, 2012 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Louisville – Ella K. (LaDue) Smith-Simmons, 81; Funeral Services March 14, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Stanley W. "Stash" Bandyck, 79; Funeral Service March 12, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stanislaus & Casimer Cemetery, Whitesboro.

Lowville – Cecelia M. (Kaido) Chrzanoski, 93; Funeral Services March 15, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Constableville.

Lowville – Phyllis D. (DeBruyne) Cummings, 67; Funeral Services March 16, 2012 at St. Peter's Church.

Malone – Kathleen M. (Pickreign) Burgess, 85; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Mary Elizabeth (Lagree) Forrette, 79; Funeral Services March 13, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – John T. Boots, 99; Funeral Services March 9, 2012 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Patricia E. (Lashway) Steady, 81; Funeral Services March 15, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Morristown – Joan B. Reagen, 78; Funeral Services March 19, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ogdensburg.

North Lawrence – Rita E. (Foy) Yaddow, 94; Funeral Services March 14, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Robert D. Jock, 70; Funeral Services March 15, 2012 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Geraldine Fay (Barber) Sansoucy, 79; Funeral Services March 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Grace T. (Tetrault) Sullivan, 82; Funeral Services March 12, 2012 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Daniel L. Jerry, 89; Funeral Services March 16, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Port Henry – Arthur W. Brace, 82; Memorial Services March 12, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry – Eleanor (Roderick) Hughes, 87; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Edison E. Richards, Jr., 78; Funeral Services March 16, 2012 at the Seymour Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Alvin Boyce Connor, 75; Funeral March 16, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Eugene Donald LaRocque, 76; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown – Nancy Marie (Clark) Atkinson, 78; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Eula T. (Taskett) Fayette, 89; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Joseph W. Murphy, 81; Funeral Services March 17, 2012 at Cummings Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Diane V. (Manassa) O'Conner, 69; Funeral Services March 10, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown – Walter A. Shortleeve, 89; Funeral Services March 13, 2012 at Cummings Funeral Home Service Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Edward J. Nephew, 77; Funeral Services March 21, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

'Mary paves the way for all mothers'

By Kristina Dean
Staff Writer

It's funny how certain memories come back to us. I remember the room was too hot the night before and not sleeping.

As we prepared for our little boy's surgery, I thought about Mary, our Blessed Mother, watching her own son suffer

I remember getting up early to get to the hospital and being afraid we wouldn't find a parking spot. I remember holding my four-year-old's hand on the way in and thinking of how small he was and how large the procedure seemed.

I remember trying to keep a cheerful demeanor for his sake, although I was completely ridden with anxiety and apprehension.

Probably one of the memories that stays with me the most is holding him close, telling him how much I loved him, how proud I was of him, as they put the mask over his nose. I felt his body go completely limp. I opened my arms, and let him go to the operating nurses. I gave him over to them. I walked away, and then I let the cheerful demeanor drop and cried in the surgeon's arms.

Alex, my middle son, had open heart surgery to repair a congenital heart problem, something called a ventricular septal defect, which meant he had a hole in one of the interior walls of his heart.

We'd been told after his birth that he had a murmur and after meeting with the pediatric cardiologist, that it was substantial. (So substantial that upon doctor visits for minor reasons, i.e. colds, ear infections, the attending physician - no matter who - would always become excited and would



A year after successful open heart surgery, five year old Alex Dean of Antwerp celebrates "Heart Day" with his family. His mother, Kristina, writes about the strength she received from her faith as her son underwent the dangerous operation.

call others in to listen to it.)

His heart doctor kept track of it with twice a year visits for echocardiograms, and in late November, 2010 he informed us that Alex's heart was starting to work too hard to compensate and one side was become oversized. Without surgery, he would start having serious heart problems as a young man and would probably die early. We were advised to schedule the surgery before he entered kindergarten.

His surgery was a year ago February 22, 2011 - about a month before his fifth birthday. The doctors told us that his breastbone would be cut open and he'd have a Gortex patch sewn into the hole in his heart.

As he recovered, eventually flesh would grow to cover the patch. His breastbone would be wired back

together. It sounded painful, it sounded like too much for his little body. This was something that set grown men back!

As we prepared for the surgery, I was given some good advice. Pray to Mary's Immaculate Heart and Jesus's Sacred Heart to heal Alex's heart.

Plus, as a member of Women of Grace, a ministry for women, I had a sacred sisterhood that listened to my fears, gave me advice, and prayed for Alex as if he was their son.

We needed these prayers.

After surgery, Alex woke up and fought his breathing tube. I sat next to his bed with my husband, and we tried to calm him down, speak to him, reason with him. For five exhausting hours we watched as Alex panicked and tried to scream over a tube that

wouldn't let him make a sound.

When they finally removed the tube, I remember finally letting go of the sheet on his bed, feeling cramps in my hands. My whole body ached. I had been fighting the tube right along with him.

Like any mother, I wished I could take his place. I would do anything to take away his pain and fear.

I thought about Mary, our Blessed Mother, - watching her son suffer. And she, knowing it was God's will, couldn't do anything to make it better for Him, other than to be there for Him.

Women of Grace teaches us that Mary is our role model and this helped me during this time. It put my suffering in perspective. As hard as it was for me, how much harder was it for her!

Her son was going to his death, certainly. And she - so pure and immaculate - must have suffered intensely.

And I thought about children that are called to heaven. I can't begin to imagine their parents' suffering. They are the most like Mary in their pain and grief. How small my suffering is to theirs!

Although my words and prayers seem woefully inadequate to me, I pray that these parents have love and support of their own, and that they are able to offer up their tears and sacrifice. I pray someday they will have a beautiful reunion with their child.

Today, I offer up my small suffering to our Blessed Mother to use to bring blessings down upon those that I love. I am thankful that my son Alex is healthy today. I thank the Women of Grace of Evans Mills and our family and friends for their prayers and love.

But most of all, I thank Mary who is always with us during our most difficult times. She paved the way for all mothers, and she surrounds us with her healing and gentleness in times of trial and stress. We are her own children, she who loves us and suffers along with us.

"O Mary, a terrible sword has pierced your holy soul. Except for God, no one knows of your suffering. Your soul does not break; it is brave because it is with Jesus, Sweet Mother, unite my soul to Jesus, because it is only then that I will be able to endure all trials and tribulations, and only in union with Jesus will my little sacrifices be pleasing to God. Sweetest Mother, continue to teach me about the interior life. May the sword of suffering never break me. O pure Virgin, pour courage into my heart and guard it."
(Prayer to the Mother of Divine Mercy)