

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cardinal cites confusion not clarity on HHS mandate | PAGE 14

Help for poor is high on NYS bishops' legislative agenda | PAGE 16

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 7, 2012

Time to pray, fast, give

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics for their prayers as he began his weeklong Lenten retreat Feb. 26. Before reciting the Angelus prayer at midday with visitors in St. Peter's Square,

he also prayed that all Catholics would "embrace the spirit of this holy season, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving."

Congolese Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo of Kinshasa

was chosen to preach the retreat Feb. 26-March 3 for Pope Benedict and top Vatican officials in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel inside the Apostolic Palace.

The cardinal's topic was to

be "Communion of the Christian with God."

During the retreat period, the pope clears his calendar of public events, including his weekly general audience on Wednesday.

REPORT OF SPECIAL FUNDS

Accounting of funds entrusted to the diocese



Michael J. Tooley, diocesan fiscal officer, presents the annual Special Funds Report in this week's NCC. Special funds are monies that the diocese holds for particular purposes such as disability insurance, property and liability insurance, missionary projects, priests' retirement, lay employee retirement and unemployment insurance. The report also includes an accounting of the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit and Loan Account. Bishop LaValley expressed his gratitude to Tooley and "his excellent staff for the careful manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our diocese."

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 7-13

Bishop's message for Rite of Election

Bishop LaValley presided at the annual Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates for those preparing to enter the Catholic Church on Easter. The ceremony took place Sunday at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Bishop LaValley's homily is printed on page 3.

Photos from the celebration will appear in next week's NCC.

Bishop LaValley reflected on the catechumen's relationship With Jesus as they prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Women of Grace

Group explores the role of women in the church, family, work, world; plan retreat with Johnnette Benkovic

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

ON A MISSION OF HOPE, FAITH & LOVE



PHOTO PROVIDED

Clare Whitney, left, and Brody Hooper enjoy time at Parijito Azul Disability Center with some of the younger residents. They were among 40-plus volunteers serving with North Country Mission of Hope in the Central American country earlier this month. The Plattsburgh-based humanitarian aid organization has sent groups of missionaries to Nicaragua 44 separate times since its inception in 1998. Full story and photos on page 5.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Soaring with strength in times of pain... p. 20

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY

President

MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER

Vice President


SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in January, one week in March and every other week in July 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.orgEntered at the
Post Office:Ogdensburg, NY
13669 as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$25
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$28Matters 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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

From a babe's mouth!

A couple of weeks ago, my good friend Msgr. Paul Whitmore shared this delightful story with me:

"Last week, one of the daily Mass crowd at the Monastery of the Precious Blood told me that her little nephew was playing one day with a little Mennonite girl.

She asked the girl why she was Mennonite. The girl told her that her parents were Mennonite, and so she was Mennonite and her parents take her to church every week.

When the little girl asked the little boy, "Why are you Catholic?", he replied, "I'm Catholic because we get the Catholic paper delivered right to our house every week."

What a precocious little man!

Wouldn't it be great if every Catholic family in the Diocese of Ogdensburg could be recognized as Catholic by the reading material they welcome into their home?

It would certainly make the Church's work of spreading the Good News so much easier!

Regular readers of the *North Country Catholic* recognize that the most critical aspect of our mission is to serve as a source of evangelization.

Msgr. Whitmore helps us to accomplish this every week as do Sister Mary Eamon, our bishop and the pope, not to mention all the priests, religious and lay people who have shared their stories of faith over the past 66 years.

These days we hear a lot about

the importance of offering news online and so we do that, too. The *NCC* is available on a new and improved website and on Facebook.

But, the importance of Catholic newspapers – in print – was affirmed in a 2011 CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) study commissioned by the Catholic Press Association.

The study emphatically refutes the notion, described by CPA executive director, Tim Walter, that "you can put this newspaper online and we can save a lot of money and it

can be just as effective."

The study found that about 26% of Catholics regularly read a print copy of their diocesan newspaper while only four percent visit the online version.

Walter said one surprising aspect of the study was a finding about "millennials," those born in 1982 and later. "We were more likely to reach them by pushing a print product in their home than by inviting them to come to our website," he said.

"If you don't put a print product in the hands of a younger Catholic adult, you have no way of reaching them, because you can't force them to come to your browser."

People of any age who aren't active in the church are not likely spend their time online visiting religious websites.

We must go to them.

Please, help us go to them – renew your own subscription and, maybe, buy one for a friend!

Mary Lou
Kilian


Come In From The Cold

Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Parish _____			

Charge my Visa MASTERCARD

Exp. ____/____

New Subscription Renewal

Check for \$25 enclosed Outside Diocese \$28

I want to be a Patron \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Jesus: The New Temple
and the Living Water

Third Sunday of Lent - March 10-11

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

For the next three Sundays, the Gospel readings from St. John may be different depending upon those parishes that have catechumens and/or candidates coming into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Whether the reading is about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan Woman offering her living water; or about Jesus' driving out the money changers from the temple, St. John wants his readers to encounter God's presence.

The readings draw us into Jesus' coming glorification through His passion, death, and resurrection.

Jesus had already manifested many signs of His messianic mission that pointed to His authority for behaving in the manner He did. Jesus begins to draw His audience into the promise of His own resurrection when He challenged "the Jews," "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The leaders and His "own people" did not understand what Jesus meant for they had a different vision about the Temple and the Messiah. They were hoping and looking for a big, cosmic event that would compel everybody to believe in Jesus whether they wanted to or not. Jesus didn't conform to their expectations, nor did their view involve freedom of choice.

It was St. Paul who proclaimed without any apology that the demand for demonstrations of cosmic power and for profound human wisdom is unbelievers' talk. For Paul, the power of the cross of Christ crucified was the message for believers. He knew full well that this would shock the Jews and scandalize the Greek world of his time.

It is God who confounds human wisdom with the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. God accomplished by "foolishness" what the greatest human wisdom could not achieve. God's wisdom and saving action are revealed in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. Those "who are called," that is, those who hear and heed the divine invitation see in Christ "the power of God and the wisdom of God." For in Christ Jesus is salvation and new life.

This is what St. John wanted to point out to his community, that Jesus was the replacement of the temple worship. The action of Jesus driving out the sheep, oxen, doves and money changers may have been a sign to "The Jews" the Temple worship as they knew it was coming to an end. Jesus passes judgment on the Jewish sacrificial system and the religious Jewish leaders recognized this action as an action of one who was a prophet and claimed to be Messiah as found in Ps. 69: 10 and in Zechariah 14:21. God's wisdom is not foolishness!

The center of God's presence among His people is no longer a place; it is in the person of Jesus. The new sanctuary is the risen body of Jesus. In this new temple dwells the fullness of the Spirit. He is the living water that leads to eternal life. It is the Spirit of Jesus that comes to those who believe and dwells with them so that they too can become temples of God. This is God's wisdom!

How are you a sign of God's presence within your family, parish, in the workplace? What signs point you to the person and presence of Jesus in your life? As a family, spend some time at the beginning of your meal together to share what you most cherish about God or your faith.

Share how God was active your life. Invite someone this week to come to a parish gathering, or to a faith-sharing experience, or to a Bible study.

FOLLOW ME

Who is Jesus?

Bishop LaValley's homily for the 2012 Rite of Election, held March 4 at St. Mary's Cathedral

Who is Jesus?

Scholars have debated the answer to that question ever since He walked this earth.

One writer recently told about a convention in Rome, where scholars had a heated debate on Jesus' nationality. One by one, they offered proofs for their various opinions. Some presented strong evidence that Jesus was Italian: He talked with His hands, He had wine with meals, and He used olive oil.

Still others insisted He was Californian: He never cut His hair, he walked around barefoot, and He started a new religion.

Some scholars presented equally good arguments that Jesus was Irish: He loved a parade, He was always telling stories, and He loved green pastures.

One of the ladies present gave compelling evidence that Jesus was a woman: He had to feed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was no food, He kept trying to get the message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it, and even when He was dead, He had to get up because there was more work to do.

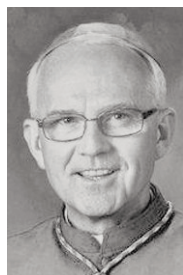
But who is Jesus, really?

At the top of Mt. Tabor, the voice from the cloud insisted: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

It is precisely your encounter with Jesus Christ, your desire to know the Son of God and to listen to His will for you that has led you here today in this beautiful Cathedral Church to be numbered among the elect. Each and every one of you,

coming from a different walk of life and different part of the North Country, seeks full communion in the Church. God has elected you to come forward and you have so generously responded to that invitation.

However, if, after listening to our readings today, someone were to ask us whether



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

we were troubled by what we had just heard, chances are that most of us would answer, "Yes." We might ask, "What am I getting myself into here?" I mean, isn't it disturbing to think about God telling Abraham to kill his son, Isaac? Isn't it upsetting to think that God would "hand over" Jesus to suffer and

die, as St. Paul tells us? And while Mark's Gospel today gives us a view of the spectacular in the Transfiguration of Jesus, we know what lies ahead for Him: the Passion.

As we look from Abraham and Isaac to a transfigured Jesus who is handed over to suffer and die, we are left wondering, "Where is a loving God in all of this?"

But, as people of faith, we know that resurrection - and not suffering and death - is God's final word.

And so we dare to come closer to today's Scripture and see from a slightly different perspective both Abraham's relationship with God and Jesus' relationship with the Father.

We can then see how our own relationships with God might be hidden in the lessons we just heard. Maybe we'll still be troubled. But feelings of unsettledness often are the beginnings of repentance and conversion.

What better time than now, this Second Sunday of Lent, to walk with Abraham and Jesus and see where God might be leading us.

Let's begin with Abraham, our "ancestor in faith."

The key to understanding today's story is remembering that God and Abraham had been in relationship for a long time before Abraham hears the call to kill his son.

We know that Abraham was a childless old man who, upon hearing God's call, sets out to an unknown, distant place.

Faith, then always entails some letting go, some stepping outside our comfort zones and into the unknown, trusting that a loving God walks with us. That's the test of genuine faith - letting go and entering into the unknown - the mystery of faith.

But the unknown Promised Land is just part of God's covenant with Abraham. God also promises Abraham countless descendants. And that is where Isaac comes in.

Think about the seeming absurdity: First God tells Abraham, "It is through Isaac that descendants shall bear your name," and then later God says, "Take your son Isaac and offer him up as a holocaust."

We want to hear Abraham talk back to God, saying, "Wait a minute! This doesn't make any sense. You told me through Isaac I would have many descendants, and now you want me to kill him?"

Remember though, that by this time Abraham had some experience with letting go, with trusting that God would see things through.

And God did what Abraham had hoped.

As spouses and parents, we understand Abraham's agony.

But this story reminds us that the greatest measure of our love for those entrusted to us is our willingness to "let go" of them, to let them be who God wants them to be - and not who we want

them to be.

Letting go of others so as to allow God's will to be accomplished through them brings us to our Gospel.

It is precisely your encounter with Jesus Christ, your desire to know the Son of God and to listen to His will for you that has led you here today in this beautiful Cathedral Church to be numbered among the elect

We should look to what precedes the Transfiguration in order to better understand it.

Mark's Gospel reaches a turning point just before the Transfiguration. Peter, for the first time, in response to Jesus question about Who He is, calls Jesus "Messiah." But Peter no more than gets the words out of his mouth before Jesus predicts for the first time His passion.

So, let's take the place of Peter in the Gospel. He had just heard the bad news that comes along with the Good News: Things will get worse before they get better. Suffering and death come before resurrection.

This loving Father God speaks to all of us today on the mountain of the Transfiguration, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

And so we listen to Jesus who is the Word of God and think about what or whom it

is we need to let go of this Lent in order to more closely walk with God.

We listen to Jesus in the Eucharist, where we are asked to let go of all that we are in order to become all that God wants us to be.

As we journey from here to whatever the Lord has in store for us, let us be mindful that we do not walk alone.

We walk with Abraham and Isaac. We walk with a transfigured Jesus who will suffer and die. We walk with a loving God for whom resurrection, and not suffering and death, is the final word.

As Church, we walk with each other and follow Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

This is truly a blessed day for the entire Church of Ogdensburg. Lent has begun with much promise for us. With the continued guidance of your parish's RCIA team and staff, please make these days of prayer a privileged time of personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for coming to our Cathedral Church this afternoon to be counted among the elect. Your presence here brings such joy to all of us.

I pray that as you continue your pilgrimage of faith, you might know Jesus more deeply, love Him more dearly, so as to serve Him more faithfully.

May God be praised... forever may God be praised!

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC IS GOING GREEN

You now have the option to start receiving your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please switch my current NCC subscription to E-mail	PO Box 326
Name _____		Ogdensburg,
		NY 13669
Current Account Number (found on your mailing label) _____		OR Call
Address _____		Christine at
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		315-608-7556
E-mail _____		to make the
		change

Exploring the role of women in the church, families, workplace and the world

Women of Grace

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer

EVANS MILLS - Women of the diocese have an exciting opportunity available to them through a scripture-based women's ministry called "Women of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life."

This program, created by Johnnette Benkovic, producer and host of The Abundant Life television program seen on EWTN, is unique in its mission and message, said Mary Dillenback, who was recently appointed as Regional Coordinator and Facilitator of Women of Grace.

"There are so many aspects of the program, that it can be difficult to describe," she said. "It isn't simply a Bible study course, although part of the program includes reading and work in a textbook. Many of the questions are personal and designed to inspire personal and spiritual growth through self-knowledge as well as knowledge of the Catholic faith.

"It is meant to answer the question of what the women's role is in the Catholic Church as well as in our families, our workplace and ultimately the world," Mrs. Dillenback said.

"We are Mary's prayer warriors, a sacred sisterhood," she said. "The prayer piece brings it to something different; it's not just women getting together to talk. We grow close spiritually because we help each other grow in self-knowledge and knowledge of our beautiful Catholic faith," she said.

Foundations

Mrs. Dillenback explained that Women of Grace is based on several foundational elements including modeling lives after Mary, receptivity, trust and surrender.

In the first chapter of the

course textbook, Mrs. Benkovic describes the call to women from God to bring salvation to the world. She ties this in with a message from the Council Fathers from the Second Vatican Council who indicate the importance of women during this time and age.

They say women "can do so much to aid humanity in not falling." Mrs. Dillenback said the Women of Grace Study Series "gives us the how and the why."

According to Mrs. Dillenback, one of the foundational elements of Women of Grace is that it is based on the Blessed Mother's fiat, or yes to God. In agreeing to do God's will, Mary brought salvation to mankind. She brought grace into the world through her son, effectively saving the world. And women in the ministry are encouraged to model themselves after Mary.

"In essence, we have the choice to say 'yes' or 'no,' like Mary," Mrs. Dillenback said. "If we agree to do God's will, we become vessels of God, or conduits of grace, carrying God into the world, as Mary did with Jesus"

She explained that this applies to all women, both mothers and those who haven't physically born children. All women have a responsibility to be spiritual mothers, she said.

"As Catholic women, we have to decide what is our role, as a mom, a daughter, a wife," she said. "What is my calling, my vocation?"

"Through prayer and discernment, we need to figure out what it is that God wants us and needs us to be, not what society wants us to be," she said. "When we figure this out, we are doing God's will and then we are saying 'yes' as Mary said 'yes.'"

By attending meetings, listening and participating in the discussions and doing the work in the book, mem-



Mary Dillenback

bers begin to understand who they are meant to be, she said.

'I see Mary'

"As a facilitator, sitting around the table at the beginning at the first few meetings, what I see are people sitting stiffly, shoulders are tight," she said. "Their whole physical being is tight. Their eyes are scared, they are apprehensive, their whole manner is tense.

"So many don't have a loving, merciful knowledge of the church, but they are there because they know they should be," Mrs. Dillenback said. "Even though they might not know it, each one of them have been called by God and gently guided by Mary to make a commitment to learn about who they really are.

"Gradually, the women begin to relax," she said. "The Holy Spirit begins working with Mary's intercession. The graces abundantly flow and the women are more receptive to what is being show-

ered upon us. It soaks into them. Shoulders go down, they begin to ask questions. Their eyes sparkle and they smile."

Mrs. Dillenback said that she can see Mary in the women.

"I see Mary's daughters. I see her gentleness, softness and willingness to do what He tells her. It's hard for women to get there....They just open up and discover who they are. They are wonderful people. Through Women of Grace, they begin to be the daughters of the Most High God."

Four local groups

Currently, Mrs. Dillenback, and her co facilitator Meg Ringer, facilitate four groups, located on Fort Drum, Evans Mills, Clayton and Watertown. Several new groups are beginning which will be led by members who have gone through the program.

Not only does attending Women of Grace improve spiritual life, but it has other effects as well. It makes them into more joyful, happy and fulfilled women, said Mrs. Dillenback.

Evans Mills Woman of Grace member, Rita Gerrish, said the program has helped her to discover where she is in her journey of faith, as well as what she needs to do to strengthen her relationship with God.

"I am becoming more aware of how blessed I am, find myself praying with more purpose, more at peace with myself and I feel that no matter how distracted or sinful I am, God's love remains and envelopes me," Mrs. Gerrish said. "I feel that I can be a better wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend.

"I am learning to be more comfortable in my faith and how I might be able to better share with others God's love for all of us," she said.

Rose Perkins, another

Women of Grace retreat

Creator of the women's ministry

Women of Grace Johnnette

Benkovic will be featured as a speaker at a retreat at Wadhams Hall April 20-22. This retreat is open to all women and will feature four hour-long talks by Mrs. Benkovic as well as daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and time for quiet prayer.

The theme of the retreat is "Do Whatever He Tells You" - a reference to the last words Mary speaks in the Bible.

Due to limited space, reservations are confirmed on a first received basis. Rates range between \$150 to \$245 and depend on room type.

The registration rate will increase \$25 after March 28. The deadline for registration is April 4. Meals are included.

Registration forms are available at local parishes or by contacting Regional Coordinator and Facilitator Mary Dillenback by email at mary-dillenback@twcny.rr.com or by phone (315) 771-1377

Evans Mills member describes her experience.

"I have learned that women are educators of the human race. So we all have a responsibility to be the conduits of Jesus to our family and our communities," she said. "Then Jesus can be planted in all hearts and like Mary all souls can 'proclaim the greatness of the Lord.'

"WOG has helped me to opened my heart and soul to the will of God," Mrs. Perkins said. "WOG has saved my life."

Discussions center around the work in the book, but often reflect the needs of the group. Different chapters of the textbook focus on prayer, the Eucharist, wisdom, trust and obedience. The last chapter of the text is titled "Carrying Out the Mission: Embracing the Abundant Life."

Mission: offers hope and strengthens faith

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH – Sad sights amid the poorest of the poor in Nicaragua didn't challenge Joy Leader's faith.

Forty volunteers home after 44th North Country Mission of Hope trip to Nicaragua

"It strengthened it," said the Gouverneur Central School sophomore.

The 15-year-old was among 40-plus volunteers serving with North Country Mission of Hope in the Central American country earlier this month.

The Plattsburgh-based humanitarian aid organization has sent groups of missionaries to Nicaragua 44 separate times now since its inception in 1998; Leader found out about it through word of mouth at Guggenheim Center in Saranac Lake.

She knew none of the other volunteers when they set out, and that was scary, she said during a cellphone interview in the midst of the experience.

"Now, they're my family," she said.

That's the typical experience of a new volunteer with the group. Witnessing humanity in its deepest need, and working together to mitigate pain and suffering



Dominican Sister of Hope Sister Debbie Blow, North Country Mission of Hope executive director, right, speaks with Sister Ligia, left, at Chinandega Hospital near the Honduran border with Nicaragua while another nurse and Mission of Hope translator Fabricio look on.

tends, to create a bond of lasting friendship in record time, as many Mission of Hope participants can attest.

For Leader, a parishioner of St. James Church in Gouverneur, she grew close to the other volunteers as they build 12-by-12-foot home shelters to replace tumble-down shacks for Nicaraguan families, as they delivered gifts of rice and beans to people who often don't have three meals a day.

At Parijito Azul Disability Center, a struggling facility that Mission of Hope has assisted for several years now,

Leader and a few others spent more than an hour and a half in the nursery with the babies there, all of whom have disabilities of some kind.

"We held them and sang them songs," she said. "We got them to smile and laugh – it was incredible."

The people of Nicaragua, however poor, Leader discovered, tend to have a special resilience and acceptance. Often, it is faith that gives them that strength.

"Whether surrounded by or consumed by poverty, they see the beauty in life," she said.

That's something Sara LoTempio, 17, of St. Alexander's Parish in Morrisonville, learned last year, on her first trip with Mission of Hope.

"The dignity of the people here and the joy, given the circumstances, is amazing," she said from Nicaragua.

That reminds her, she said, that it's important "to slow down, to appreciate the little things, take it moment by moment."

Progress seen

Return missions show progress: a young man with a decent job that he could only get because a Mission of Hope sponsor had put him



Sister Claire Coll, Diane Crosier and Sandy Davidson prepare the toy supplies for North Country Mission of Hope's daily afternoon playtime with the neighborhood children in Chiquilistagua.

through school, better conditions at the Disability Center and orphanages, more and more sturdy home shelters built with donated funds.

Corinne White, 15, and her dad, Paul, raised the money to build one of those tiny homes with a 50-50 raffle back home in Elizabethtown.

She helped some with the construction, she said, but the family it would belong to didn't encourage that.

"They wanted to do it themselves," she said.

That's the mission's mission – to foster self-sufficiency, Sister Debbie says.

There's a long road ahead.

This trip, Mission of Hope expanded its good works to Chinandega Hospital near the Honduran border, where facilities are so poor that often women in labor share the same bed.

"It's huge – practically a city block," said veteran volunteer Connie Miller of Plattsburgh.

The nun in charge is Sister Ligia, whom the missionaries know well from their work at San Jose Hospital in Diriamba and who stopped in to visit as she traveled through Chiquilistagua.

"We loaded as much in her van as we could get in," Miller said.

The medical supplies, which included boxes of sy-

ringes, and other needed items such as clothing and household goods, were donated by benefactors in the North Country.

More would be delivered by truck to the hospital in the near future, Miller said.

Sunday, Feb. 26, with just one more full day in Nicaragua, Corinne White joined other volunteers at Mass then helped hand out gifts sent by sponsors to their schoolchildren. Then she threw herself into one last time playing with the youngsters who'd stolen her heart.

Her faith, too, was strengthened by the experience.

"When you go (to hand out) rice and beans, when you play with the kids," she said, trying to find the words, "you just kind of know ..."

HOW TO HELP

North Country Mission of Hope is funded by grants and by donations. A total 97 percent goes directly toward mission projects. To learn how to contribute, go to www.ncmissionofhope.org, email info@ncmissionofhope.org or call (518) 561-2599. Checks can be mailed to the organization at P.O. Box 2522, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.



Sarah Rowen, left, waits for Allen Pellerin's instructions to add the oil as he drills a base for the cistern at Angels of Hope Orphanage in El Crucero, Nicaragua. Corinne White holds the base.

2012 COLLECTION FOR THE WORKS OF THE HOLY FATHER

Cast the
Peace of Christ
upon the World



Be a sign of Christ's peace to those most in need. Support the works of the Holy Father through the **Peter's Pence Collection** in your parish.

Copyright © 2012, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photo: REUTERS/Tony Gentile.

Your generosity allows the Holy Father to bring hope - through timely and effective emergency assistance - to our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world. In solidarity with the Holy Father, we Catholics participate in works of goodness that distinguish us as followers of the Gospel.

**COLLECTION WEEKEND:
MARCH 17 & 18**

Bishop LaValley's schedule

March 7 – 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at St. Patrick's Church in Colton; 6 p.m., Lenten Soup Supper and Mass at St. Alexander's in Morrisonville.

March 8 – 10 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

March 9 – 9 a.m., Mass and Visit to St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg; 12:00 p.m., Bishop's Fund Priests Advisory Committee Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

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

March 12-23 – Pilgrimage to Italy.

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



For a New or Used Car
MORT BACKUS & SONS
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
Phone
315-393-5899

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:

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

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 7 – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

March 8 – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

March 10 – Rev. Hector Mauriot, O.M.I., 1895

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

BARSTOW
ALL AMERICAN R-EVOLUTION GMC SUBARU
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST. POTSDAM, NY 4 (315) 265-8800
Your NYV Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter





Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am pleased to provide this introduction to *the Report of Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011. As is our custom, each year this report is presented to you and completes our accounting of all those funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. These particular monies are set aside for special purposes and investments.

Your generous giving provides essential resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Gospel and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Through economic distress and uncertain financial times, the people of the North Country continue to support generously our Church's various ministries.

I especially wish to thank Michael J. Tooley, our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, and his excellent staff for the careful manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council who meet regularly and offer their good counsel in service to the Church of the North Country.

Please know of my prayerful appreciation to all the members of our Diocesan family. May Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, our Diocesan Patroness, help us all to follow her Son as a people richly blessed.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2011, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests Retirement, Lay Employees Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. All of the Special Funds statements for 2010-11 presented herein have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 30, 2011 issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The Report of Special Funds is presented here to provide the reader with the status of each of the special funds as of June 30, 2011, compared to other recent years.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2011, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of \$21,624,946 and a market value of \$23,930,354. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 21.8% in 2010-11. In the first six months of the 2011-12 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a rate of return of -5.4%, bringing its market value to \$22,235,445 as of December 31, 2011. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund during the fiscal year, but the return to investors is limited by NYS law as some investments in the fund have a market value below cost at this time. The rate of return to investors is currently 2.3%, below the target rate of 5%.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund increased its net assets by \$1,315,165 in 2010-11, as strong investment performance resulted in an increase in excess of \$1 million in net assets for the second consecutive year. The interest rate to depositors is 3%, and the interest rate on loans is 4%. In the first six months of 2011-12 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets decreased by \$257,581. In comparison to Deposit & Loan Fund programs of other dioceses in the United States:

- (1) The Fund's deposit ratio (value of loans divided by value of deposits) is 21.3%, national average is 43.4%.
- (2) The Fund's interest rate of 3% on deposits exceeds the national average of 1.8%, and is near the high of 3.5%.
- (3) The Fund's interest rate on loans of 4% is below the national average of 4.4%, and below the high of 6.5%.
- (4) The Fund's spread (the difference between its interest rate on loans and the interest rate on deposits) of 1% is below the national average of 2.6%, and below the high of 4.5%. The lowest spread among dioceses in the survey is .75%.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Expenses exceeded revenue in the Protected Self Insurance Program by \$2,359 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. This program remains financially sound with a fund balance as of June 30, 2011 of \$2,583,667, as well as a reserve for claims of \$904,820. One primary reason for the long term success of the program is the cooperation between diocesan parishes and schools and the diocese's Insurance Office in correcting areas of exposure discovered when conducting risk inspections.

LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

The Lay Employees' Retirement Fund had a net increase in fund balance of \$4,047,856 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, bringing its fund balance to \$24,933,733. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 21.4% in 2010-11. During the first six months of fiscal year 2011-12 fund investments saw a rate of return of -5.9%, bringing its market value to \$23,214,103. The Fund's July 1, 2011 actuarial

valuation determined the Fund remains underfunded, but due to strong investment performance funding of the plan increased from 77% to 87% of projected future liabilities. The Plan is well overfunded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had an increase in net assets of \$86,544 for the year ended June 30, 2011, as a result of revenue exceeding expenses by \$56,544, plus the elimination of a \$30,000 claim reserve. There was a significant decrease in claims in 2010-11, as \$126,862 was paid for benefits as compared to \$165,005 in the prior fiscal year. Claims to date in 2011-12 total \$103,207, which is \$33,894 higher than the amount paid in the first six months of 2010-11.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had an increase in net assets in the amount of \$21,555 for the year ended June 30, 2011, bringing its fund balance as of that date to \$88,357. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate. Moneys are also given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a gain for the year ended June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$21,386. In 2010-11 the Diocese of Ogdensburg funded 10% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests of the diocese in this fund (the remaining 90% is funded by the Priests' Retirement Fund). The fund balance of this fund as of June 30, 2011 is \$230,776, with the major reason for the increase due to the elimination of a reserve for claims in the amount of \$70,000.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND

The net assets of the Priests' Retirement Fund increased by \$1,351,134 in the year ended June 30, 2011. The Fund had gains on investments in the amount of \$1,635,047 in the fiscal year. However, the significant impact of investment losses in the prior two fiscal years continues to cause the Plan financial stress. Net assets as of June 30, 2011 are \$9,550,995, which is \$1.4 million below the net asset balance as of June 30, 2007. The Plan actuary is estimating the need for a significant increase in annual contributions to the Plan to maintain its fully funded status, and as a result the diocese changed the Plan funding formula in 2011-12 by increasing the contribution from parish Christmas collections from 60% to 100%, plus the implementation of an assessment to parishes of .5% of their five year average assessable income. The requirement for a contribution of \$500 per priest serving in the parish was eliminated.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions that may arise as a result of a review of the Report of Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 393-2920, ext. 210, email at mtooley@dioogdensburg.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.



Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

Diocesan Trust Fund Principal

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2011

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2009	July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2011
Opening Balance	\$0.00	\$20,913,215.85	\$20,121,415.24	\$0.00
Net Deposits	14,841,212.20	252,020.64	(104,290.51)	14,988,942.33
Net Realized Gain on Sales	12,277,781.67	133,804.22	1,383,250.74	13,794,836.63
Fees [Custody/Management]	(1,263,789.39)	(58,902.05)	(138,104.88)	(1,460,796.32)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(6,727,492.97)	(425,452.55)	(501,232.03)	(7,654,177.55)
Net Adjustments*	<u>1,785,504.34</u>	<u>(693,270.87)</u>	<u>863,907.41</u>	<u>1,956,140.88</u>
Closing Balance [Book]	<u>\$20,913,215.85</u>	<u>\$20,121,415.24</u>	<u>\$21,624,945.97</u>	<u>\$21,624,945.97</u>
Market Value	<u>\$18,340,807.58</u>	<u>\$19,903,112.53</u>	<u>\$23,930,353.82</u>	<u>\$23,930,353.82</u>

* includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.

** Assets June 30, 2009 at NBT Bank, Commonfund Realty, Inc., Dimensional Fund Advisors & The Investment Fund for Foundations.

<u>NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>% Yield (Book)</u>	<u>% Yield (Market)</u>
Bonds	\$4,397,047.29	\$4,431,123.42	2.41%	2.39%
Equities & Equity Funds	12,888,348.29	14,668,600.74	2.17%	1.91%
Money Market	<u>425,954.03</u>	<u>425,954.03</u>	<u>0.01%</u>	<u>0.01%</u>
<u>TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>\$17,711,349.61</u>	<u>\$19,525,678.19</u>	<u>2.18%</u>	<u>1.98%</u>
<u>COMMONFUND REALTY INVESTMENT</u>	<u>\$5,936.36</u>	<u>\$5,936.36</u>		
<u>DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS</u>	<u>\$626,000.00</u>	<u>\$595,941.64</u>		
<u>THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS</u>	<u>\$3,281,660.00</u>	<u>\$3,802,797.63</u>		
<u>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>\$21,624,945.97</u>	<u>\$23,930,353.82</u>		

Deposit & Loan Fund

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011

Balance Sheet

	<u>June 30, 2011</u>	<u>June 30, 2010</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$287,581.54	\$485,515.05
Interest Receivable	135,779.86	155,895.18
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	3,868,832.68	4,255,414.29
Reserve	(682,224.00)	(637,722.00)
Investments	16,368,332.01	15,795,957.06
Investment - Diocesan Trust Fund	532,922.76	441,836.87
Due From Operating Fund	275,179.06	996,962.01
Real Estate	0.00	0.00
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$20,786,403.91</u>	<u>\$21,493,858.46</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>		
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$17,144,359.23	\$19,166,978.95
Accrued Interest Payable	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>3,642,044.68</u>	<u>2,326,879.51</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>\$20,786,403.91</u>	<u>\$21,493,858.46</u>
<u>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE</u>		
	<u>July 1, 2010</u>	<u>July 1, 2009</u>
	<u>June 30, 2011</u>	<u>June 30, 2010</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest on Notes Receivable	\$173,630.76	\$210,094.03
Investment Income	635,449.45	597,446.35
Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	538,892.73	631,079.79
Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	<u>727,214.59</u>	<u>346,658.60</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$2,075,187.53</u>	<u>\$1,785,278.77</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Interest on Notes Payable	\$582,381.82	\$507,702.94
Investment Management Fees	81,239.57	73,880.23
Fiscal Office Administration	51,481.00	40,159.32
Office Supplies and Bank Fees	417.97	374.99
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Increase in Reserves	44,502.00	8,543.00
Loans Forgiven	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>\$760,022.36</u>	<u>\$630,660.48</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>\$1,315,165.17</u>	<u>\$1,154,618.29</u>

Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2011

Balance Sheet

	June 30, 2005	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2007	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2009	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2011
ASSETS							
Investments	\$697,103.85	\$756,836.41	\$836,479.81	\$724,827.82	\$590,632.60	\$642,664.05	\$775,151.02
Cash and Cash Equivalents	812,560.99	756,447.97	4,370.94	4,370.94	4,371.04	4,371.04	\$4,400.04
Notes Receivable	1,729,000.00	1,729,000.00	2,361,101.22	2,174,396.21	2,030,385.73	2,533,994.55	\$1,300,000.00
Accounts Receivable	117,662.07	143,546.03	70,300.89	120,092.16	110,584.62	120,639.01	\$132,841.20
Prepaid Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Due From Operating Fund	(250,591.52)	(285,251.80)	19,365.41	63,889.07	43,068.38	(209,189.53)	\$1,008,339.41
BPIC Member Share	34,000.00	34,000.00	91,541.00	91,541.00	114,241.00	128,862.00	\$152,507.00
Stock in NCRRG	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	\$132,247.84
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,271,983.23	\$3,286,826.45	\$3,515,407.11	\$3,311,365.04	\$3,025,531.21	\$3,353,588.96	\$3,505,486.51
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE							
Note Payable - BPIC	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
Reserves For Claims	965,824.83	1,357,336.06	1,135,318.31	1,121,484.04	978,145.48	750,562.93	\$904,819.55
Fund Balance	2,289,158.40	1,912,490.39	2,363,088.80	2,172,881.00	2,030,385.73	2,586,026.03	\$2,583,666.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$3,271,983.23	\$3,286,826.45	\$3,515,407.11	\$3,311,365.04	\$3,025,531.21	\$3,353,588.96	\$3,505,486.51

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2004 June 30, 2005	July 1, 2005 June 30, 2006	July 1, 2006 June 30, 2007	July 1, 2007 June 30, 2008	July 1, 2008 June 30, 2009	July 1, 2009 June 30, 2010	July 1, 2010 June 30, 2011
INCOME							
Earned Premiums	\$1,273,123.28	\$1,298,894.51	\$1,368,816.30	\$1,426,347.38	\$1,395,042.20	\$1,482,997.18	\$1,462,086.88
Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) On Investments (Net)	22,356.70	59,486.00	137,184.41	(111,651.99)	(111,495.22)	66,652.45	156,131.97
Investment Income	140,504.36	106,662.96	127,471.69	131,271.89	86,073.50	62,062.78	73,850.56
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,435,984.34	\$1,465,043.47	\$1,633,472.40	\$1,445,967.28	\$1,369,620.48	\$1,611,712.41	\$1,692,069.41
EXPENDITURES							
Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds	\$751,235.62	\$826,500.49	\$758,434.22	\$711,176.89	\$703,130.63	\$724,790.34	\$732,682.72
Professional Services	1,962.03	8,122.79	42,403.53	158,548.66	19,351.04	10,982.42	30,597.63
Gallagher Bassett Service Fee	19,516.00	18,266.00	19,833.00	20,726.00	22,364.00	22,569.00	21,151.00
Adjustment in Reserves	364,171.43	391,541.23	(222,017.75)	(13,834.27)	(143,338.56)	(227,582.55)	154,256.59
Self Insured Claims	265,940.90	418,503.86	401,487.62	548,041.10	687,908.72	321,099.70	371,579.09
Loans Forgiven	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Department Grants	0.00	0.00	9,514.48	43,884.34	44,486.16	49,316.78	211,696.86
Diocesan Administration	193,800.15	178,777.11	173,218.89	167,632.36	178,213.76	154,896.42	172,464.59
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,596,626.13	\$1,841,711.48	\$1,182,873.99	\$1,636,175.08	\$1,512,115.75	\$1,056,072.11	\$1,694,428.48
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	(\$160,641.79)	(\$376,668.01)	\$450,598.41	(\$190,207.80)	(\$142,495.27)	\$555,640.30	(\$2,359.07)

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program
Claim Payment and Reserve Experience
 As of June 30, 2011

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CLAIMS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Losses In Excess of Specific Retention</u>	<u>Losses In Excess of Aggregate Retention</u>	<u>Net Claims</u>	<u>Maximum Amount Single Claim</u>	<u>Maximum Amount Aggregate Claims</u>
XXXVI - 2010-11	\$107,625.00	\$159,228.81	\$266,853.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$266,853.81	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
XXXV - 2009-10	124,985.48	126,040.28	251,025.76	0.00	0.00	251,025.76	250,000.00	0.00
XXXIV - 2008-09	499,092.20	163,135.36	662,227.56	65,000.00	0.00	597,227.56	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXIII - 2007-08	290,521.77	43,418.09	333,939.86	0.00	0.00	333,939.86	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXII - 2006-07	170,805.41	16,266.64	187,072.05	0.00	0.00	187,072.05	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXXI - 2005-2006	514,777.97	51,545.46	566,323.43	75,000.00	0.00	491,323.43	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXX - 2004-2005	645,721.85	446,048.11	1,091,769.96	448,782.80	0.00	642,987.16	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXIX - 2003-2004	657,689.51	214,215.90	871,905.41	276,847.00	0.00	595,058.41	250,000.00	780,000.00
XXVIII - 2002-2003	650,037.98	74,742.97	724,780.95	245,187.37	0.00	479,593.58	250,000.00	750,000.00
XXVII - 2001-2002	275,360.43	0.00	275,360.43	22,192.92	0.00	253,167.51	125,000.00	525,000.00
XXVI - 2000-2001	299,143.47	0.00	299,143.47	0.00	0.00	299,143.47	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXV - 1999-2000	302,681.02	0.00	302,681.02	0.00	0.00	302,681.02	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIV - 1998-1999	329,653.96	0.00	329,653.96	0.00	0.00	329,653.96	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIII - 1997-1998	551,727.55	0.00	551,727.55	105,084.53	0.00	446,643.02	125,000.00	500,500.00
XXII - 1996-1997	478,202.02	0.00	478,202.02	98,570.05	0.00	379,631.97	125,000.00	583,500.00
XXI - 1995-1996	301,341.20	0.00	301,341.20	0.00	0.00	301,341.20	125,000.00	550,000.00
XX - 1994-1995	742,475.66	131,500.89	873,976.55	375,008.70	0.00	498,967.85	125,000.00	475,000.00
XIX - 1993-1994	790,940.62	384,856.28	1,175,796.90	590,423.89	116,717.23	468,655.78	125,000.00	450,000.00
XXVIII - 1992-1993	326,552.77	0.00	326,552.77	0.00	0.00	326,552.77	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVII - 1991-1992	227,966.12	18,957.77	246,923.89	0.00	0.00	246,923.89	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVI - 1990-1991	92,322.17	0.00	92,322.17	0.00	0.00	92,322.17	75,000.00	355,000.00
XV - 1989-1990	190,455.56	0.00	190,455.56	0.00	0.00	190,455.56	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIV - 1988-1989	175,816.44	0.00	175,816.44	0.00	0.00	175,816.44	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIII - 1987-1988	217,603.90	0.00	217,603.90	38,761.50	0.00	178,842.40	75,000.00	300,000.00
XII - 1986-1987	189,446.09	0.00	189,446.09	0.00	0.00	189,446.09	75,000.00	300,000.00
XI - 1985-1986	56,964.54	0.00	56,964.54	0.00	0.00	56,964.54	75,000.00	260,000.00
X - 1984-1985	160,033.76	0.00	160,033.76	0.00	0.00	160,033.76	75,000.00	260,000.00
IX - 1983-1984	109,583.65	0.00	109,583.65	0.00	0.00	109,583.65	75,000.00	260,000.00
VIII - 1982-1983	184,851.55	0.00	184,851.55	18,990.00	0.00	165,861.55	75,000.00	260,000.00
VII - 1981-1982	103,135.97	0.00	103,135.97	0.00	0.00	103,135.97	75,000.00	260,000.00
VI - 1980-1981	323,071.44	0.00	323,071.44	112,199.00	0.00	210,872.44	75,000.00	225,000.00
V - 1979-1980	932,566.70	203,409.91	1,135,976.61	782,116.94	141,859.67	212,000.00	75,000.00	212,000.00
IV - 1978-1979	40,498.05	0.00	40,498.05	0.00	0.00	40,498.05	75,000.00	212,000.00
III - 1977-1978	153,929.85	0.00	153,929.85	36,878.52	0.00	117,051.33	50,000.00	150,000.00
II - 1976-1977	61,216.79	0.00	61,216.79	0.00	0.00	61,216.79	50,000.00	150,000.00
I - 1975-1976	63,402.99	0.00	63,402.99	0.00	0.00	63,402.99	50,000.00	150,000.00
	\$11,342,001.44	\$2,033,366.47	\$13,375,367.91	\$3,291,043.22	\$258,576.90	\$9,825,747.79		



*Serving the insurance needs
of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.
of NEW YORK, INC.**

Diocesan Lay Employee's Retirement Fund

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2011

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2009	June 30, 2008
ASSETS				
Accrued Income	\$28,836.48	\$40,113.63	\$70,299.10	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable	\$91,994.76	\$125,802.46	44,190.58	20,554.00
Investments	\$25,259,932.71	\$21,322,358.35	20,674,813.27	28,332,067.06
TOTAL ASSETS	\$25,380,763.95	\$21,488,274.45	\$20,789,302.95	\$28,352,621.06
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Due for Office Expense	\$289,826.85	\$124,248.90	\$182,214.82	\$441,879.61
Deferred Revenue	\$177,104.34	\$478,148.41	655,455.39	2,872.37
Fund Balance	\$24,933,732.76	\$20,885,877.14	19,951,632.74	27,907,889.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$25,380,763.95	\$21,488,274.45	\$20,789,302.95	\$28,352,621.06

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2010	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2011
ADDITIONS				
Employer Contributions	\$1,411,318.64	\$1,310,033.00	\$16,526,383.57	\$17,937,702.21
Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)	3,976,081.08	810,661.20	9,238,802.23	13,214,883.32
Investment Income	621,232.53	599,619.66	14,591,323.27	15,212,555.75
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$6,008,632.26	\$2,720,313.86	\$40,356,509.07	\$46,365,141.28
DEDUCTIONS				
Benefit Payments	\$1,764,123.31	\$1,596,972.39	\$15,598,743.75	\$17,382,867.07
Administration Expense	196,853.33	189,097.09	3,871,477.50	4,068,130.83
Loss on Security Deposit	0.00	0.00	410.62	410.62
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$1,960,776.64	\$1,786,069.48	\$19,470,631.88	\$21,431,408.52
NET (ADDITIONS MINUS DEDUCTIONS)	\$4,047,855.62	\$934,244.40	\$20,885,877.14	\$24,933,732.76

INVESTMENTS

	Book Value	Market Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$358,469.45	\$358,469.45
U.S. Government & Agency Obligations	\$4,505,579.22	\$4,531,478.46
Corporate Obligations	81,925.55	96,863.45
Equities	5,937,878.12	6,779,288.08
Manning & Napier Advisors Investment Funds	6,839,545.85	7,873,626.01
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets	1,034,250.00	1,013,961.31
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Multi-Asset Fund	3,795,925.00	4,529,186.99
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund	83,040.00	73,492.00
Commonfund Realty	6,586.96	6,586.96

TOTALS

\$22,840,200.15 \$25,259,932.71

Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$32,855.00	\$33,344.00
August 31, 1969	\$105,040.00	\$97,828.00
August 31, 1970	\$167,236.00	\$144,704.00
August 31, 1971	\$244,322.00	\$248,784.00
August 31, 1972	\$328,375.00	\$341,430.00
August 31, 1973	\$397,979.00	\$357,121.00
August 31, 1974	\$442,091.00	\$374,519.00
August 31, 1975	\$485,652.00	\$502,393.00
August 31, 1976	\$651,402.00	\$661,536.00
August 31, 1977	\$746,759.00	\$758,276.00
June 30, 1978	\$907,676.00	\$873,290.00
June 30, 1979	\$1,091,077.00	\$1,066,747.00
June 30, 1980	\$1,333,304.00	\$1,240,533.00
June 30, 1981	\$1,637,330.00	\$1,468,851.00
June 30, 1982	\$1,966,375.00	\$1,685,948.00
June 30, 1983	\$2,332,800.00	\$2,766,951.00
June 30, 1984	\$2,866,861.00	\$2,832,430.00
June 30, 1985	\$3,314,597.00	\$3,748,256.00
June 30, 1986	\$4,200,610.00	\$5,189,275.00
June 30, 1987	\$5,686,447.00	\$6,363,937.00
June 30, 1988	\$6,280,104.00	\$6,713,049.00
June 30, 1989	\$6,849,652.00	\$7,569,606.00
June 30, 1990	\$7,716,476.00	\$8,434,613.00
June 30, 1991	\$8,285,622.00	\$8,951,313.00
June 30, 1992	\$9,025,501.00	\$10,401,337.00
June 30, 1993	\$11,107,408.00	\$11,674,275.00
June 30, 1994	\$11,653,168.00	\$12,127,575.00
June 30, 1995	\$12,338,738.00	\$13,734,082.00
June 30, 1996	\$13,031,227.00	\$15,645,877.00
June 30, 1997	\$14,013,278.75	\$18,380,013.00
June 30, 1998	\$15,646,840.00	\$21,676,585.00
June 30, 1999	\$16,243,414.85	\$24,534,082.00
June 30, 2000	\$18,392,037.89	\$27,831,968.70
June 30, 2001	\$21,013,619.31	\$23,928,040.75
June 30, 2002	\$21,362,600.49	\$20,539,548.82
June 30, 2003	\$19,524,487.79	\$20,622,312.68
June 30, 2004	\$22,017,665.13	\$22,691,213.55
June 30, 2005	\$22,914,541.47	\$24,896,701.34
June 30, 2006	\$24,356,734.29	\$27,020,394.56
June 30, 2007	\$25,561,684.80	\$30,676,999.67
June 30, 2008	\$27,564,499.16	\$28,332,067.06
June 30, 2009	\$23,030,415.60	\$20,674,813.27
June 30, 2010	\$21,625,470.32	\$21,322,358.36
June 30, 2011	\$22,840,200.15	\$25,259,932.71

Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2010
ASSETS		
Money Market	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investments (DTF)	351,135.30	291,120.09
Due From Operating Fund	(250,843.83)	(247,372.99)
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$100,291.47	\$43,747.10

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserve For Claims*	0.00	30,000.00
Fund Balance	100,291.47	13,747.10

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

\$100,291.47 \$43,747.10

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010
INCOME		
Unemployment Premiums	\$134,374.38	\$147,260.40
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	60,015.21	24,242.03
Investment Income	7,333.22	6,279.33
TOTAL INCOME	\$201,722.81	\$177,781.76

EXPENDITURES

Claims Paid	\$126,861.72	\$165,004.71
Consultant	6,270.00	6,270.00
Diocesan Administration	12,046.72	11,014.73
Transfer to Other Funds	0.00	0.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$145,178.44 \$182,289.44

EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES

\$56,544.37 (\$4,507.68)

*Reserve for Claims was closed to Fund Balance in 2010-11.

Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011

	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$66,801.98	\$59,213.33
RECEIPTS		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$37,459.59	\$43,217.33
Missionary Coop Collection	10,487.70	7,186.55
Parish OPA Donations	0.00	0.00
Interest	2,034.05	1,429.45
Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
General Donations	2,782.20	6,158.00
Bequests	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	52,763.54	57,991.33
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$119,565.52	\$117,204.66
EXPENDITURES		
Office Supplies	\$1,065.08	\$263.76
Advertising	1,420.00	1,917.66
Budget Grants and Donations	28,723.39	48,221.26
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	31,208.47	50,402.68
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30-	\$88,357.05	\$66,801.98

Diocesan Health*/Disability Benefits Program
 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
 July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2010
ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable	\$538.00	\$1,890.00
Cash & Money Market Funds	5,235.06	5,235.06
Investment in Deposit & Loan Fund	230,775.38	139,389.82
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$236,548.44	\$146,514.88
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Reserve for Claims**	\$0.00	\$70,000.00
Deferred Revenue	1,983.56	1,884.00
Due To Operating Funds	3,789.50	(64,758.94)
Fund Balance	230,775.38	139,389.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$236,548.44	\$146,514.88

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

	July 1, 2010 June 30, 2011	July 1, 2009 June 30, 2010
INCOME		
Premiums	\$118,836.00	\$117,168.00
Retiree Drug Subsidy	0.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	0.00	0.00
Investment Income	4,181.70	2,901.99
TOTAL INCOME	\$123,017.70	\$120,069.99
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$48,475.04	\$51,465.55
Administrative Fees	9,782.40	9,654.60
Health Insurance - Retired Priests	26,281.26	22,677.59
Fiscal Office Administration	17,093.44	19,124.23
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$101,632.14	\$102,921.97
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	\$21,385.56	\$17,148.02

*Self insured health insurance program was terminated August 31, 1997

** Reserve for Claims closed to fund balance at June 30, 2011.

Priests' Retirement Fund

The Fund Balance Has Accumulated As Follows:

1968	\$17,500.80
1969	10,330.23
1970	20,579.08
1971	19,265.60
1972	27,914.97
1972-1973	5,070.97
1973-1974	18,329.14
1974-1975	55,740.80
1975-1976	44,465.90
1976-1977	36,976.48
1977-1978	54,045.99
1978-1979	66,581.55
1979-1980	133,679.84
1980-1981	113,242.58
1981-1982	22,235.30
1982-1983	99,793.90
1983-1984	173,959.28
1984-1985	30,889.45
1985-1986	153,452.78
1986-1987	111,359.14
1987-1988	204,214.85
1988-1989	188,566.80
1989-1990	226,548.99
1990-1991	143,441.06
1991-1992	445,497.41
1992-1993	272,881.17
1993-1994	463,490.02
1994-1995	491,107.10
1995-1996	960,060.25
1996-1997	1,021,061.17
1997-1998	408,417.16
1998-1999	829,004.36
1999-2000	719,110.30
2000-2001	660,809.56
2001-2002	(1,184,839.10)
2002-2003	330,280.74
2003-2004	1,009,257.04
2004-2005	693,492.98
2005-2006	722,134.05
2006-2007	1,178,509.12
2007-2008	(1,037,244.76)
2008-2009	(1,814,310.57)
2009-2010	92,956.71
2010-2011	1,351,134.50

FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2011

\$9,590,994.69

Priests' Retirement Fund

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2011

	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009	July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$8,239,860.19	\$8,146,903.48	\$9,961,214.05	\$10,988,458.81
ADDITIONS				
Share (60%) of Christmas Collection	\$252,226.76	\$255,163.01	\$252,340.16	\$257,939.06
Assessment (\$500) Per Priest	33,750.00	33,750.00	36,500.00	37,590.02
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	8,956.00	9,298.58	10,167.00	9,582.64
Bequests and Donations	75,897.13	0.00	320,992.18	155,314.82
Departmental Grant	90,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment Income	239,795.64	199,600.59	191,594.83	213,429.25
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	1,635,048.55	588,955.85	(1,680,679.65)	(\$693,535.57)
TOTAL ADDITIONS	2,333,672.08	1,086,768.03	(869,085.48)	(\$219,679.58)
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS	\$10,573,532.27	\$9,233,671.51	\$9,092,128.57	\$10,778,779.23
DEDUCTIONS				
Payments to Retired Priests	\$728,364.00	\$746,704.50	\$717,584.00	\$576,600.00
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	157,365.01	155,925.71	152,893.75	153,577.02
Diocesan Administration	95,808.57	91,181.11	74,747.34	87,386.16
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	982,537.58	993,811.32	945,225.09	817,563.18
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	\$9,590,994.69	\$8,239,860.19	\$8,146,903.48	\$9,961,214.05

FORTY-THREE YEAR SUMMARY	
1968-2011	
ADDITIONS	
Share (60%) of Christmas Collection	\$6,215,036.66
Assessment (\$500) Per Priest	1,487,279.70
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	344,334.37
Bequests and Donations	2,345,193.38
Investment Income	5,674,187.60
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	8,307,046.28
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000.00
Loan Account Interest	119,838.70
Loan Account Grant	30,000.00
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$24,514,416.66
DEDUCTIONS	
Payments to Retired Priests	\$12,258,787.34
Retired Priests Health Insurance	1,571,881.58
Diocesan Administration	1,094,753.05
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	14,925,421.97
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2011	\$9,590,994.69

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS		
	Book Value	Market Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$142,164.54	\$142,164.54
Accounts Receivable	\$9,324.95	\$9,324.95
Due to Operating Fund	(234,663.12)	(234,663.12)
Interest Receivable	9,873.62	9,873.62
Stocks	2,519,274.92	2,806,301.48
Bonds	1,684,175.32	1,698,623.52
Manning & Napier Funds	2,892,623.27	3,225,176.38
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Multi-Asset Fund	1,417,875.00	1,662,339.55
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund	32,400.00	28,075.00
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities	364,750.00	360,835.35
Commonfund Realty	2,341.22	2,341.22
TOTAL ASSETS - JUNE 30, 2011	\$ 8,736,039.92	\$ 9,590,994.69

More 'confusion than clarity' about HHS mandate, Cardinal Dolan says

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said there is more "confusion than clarity" in the revised federal contraceptive mandate.

In a March 1 blog entry on the New York archdiocesan website, the cardinal said the U.S. bishops will "keep up advocacy and education on the issue" and "continue to seek a rescinding of the suffocating mandates that require us to violate our moral convictions."

San Francisco Archbishop George H. Niederauer in a Feb. 27 column in the San Francisco Chronicle said the troubling aspect of the revised HHS mandate was "not about contraception, but about religious liberty."

The mandate, announced Jan. 20 by Health and Human Services' Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, requires no-cost coverage of all contraceptives approved by Food and Drug Administration, including some that can cause an abortion, as well as sterilizations, as part of preventive health services for women.

A narrow religious exemption applies only to those employed by houses of worship.

In a revision announced Feb. 10, President Barack Obama said religious employers could decline to cover contraceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage.

U.S. bishops and other religious leaders continue to press for rescission of the HHS contraceptive mandate, saying it violates religious liberties.

Cardinal Dolan, in his blog posting, said he is putting more hope in finding a reso-

lution to this issue through Congress or the courts than the White House. "We have to be realistic and prepare for tough times," he said.

The U.S. bishops will 'keep up advocacy and education on the issue' and 'continue to seek a rescinding of the suffocating mandates that require us to violate our moral convictions'

He also disputed the opinion expressed in an editorial in the March 5 edition of America magazine, which said the bishops' objection to the revised mandate is primarily "a difference over policy" and seemed to "press the religious liberty campaign too far."

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, also took issue with the editorial in a March 2 letter to the editor. In reference to the editorial's call for civility and a "conciliatory style," he said: "Maybe Moses wasn't at his best when he confronted Pharaoh. Maybe the Good Shepherd was a bit off his game when he confronted the rulers of his day."

In his column, Archbishop Niederauer acknowledged "the issue of contraception is extremely important in American society," but also pointed out that there are "frameworks though which the government's desire to make contraceptives widely available and affordable, and the Catholic Church's desire not to be involved in supplying contraceptives that conflict with Catholic faith, can both be accomplished."

In a March 1 congressional subcommittee hearing, Sebelius said she was confident an acceptable compromise

could be reached in the health care law to allow self-insured religiously affiliated institutions to provide contraception access without violating their religious beliefs.

"There are a variety of arrangements already in place in the 28 states that have this law already in place and we intend to be informed by that when we propose the rules," Sebelius told members of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee during a hearing about the HHS's 2013 budget proposal.

"Whether it's through a third-party administrator or a side-by-side plan or many other arrangements, we will offer a variety of strategies to make sure that religious liberties are respected," she said. Sebelius was responding to a question by Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., who asked about possible penalties for religious employers that fail to comply with the HHS mandate to offer contraceptive drugs that violate their religious principles.

Upton said a Catholic hospital in his state would likely be subject to fines of more than \$1 billion.

Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., who chaired the hearing, read a statement from Catholic Charities USA emphasizing that the organization did not endorse the revised HHS mandate and shared the "goal of the U.S. Catholic bishops to uphold religious liberty."

More than 4,500 women have signed a letter urging Obama, Sebelius and Congress "to allow religious institutions and individuals to continue to witness to their faiths in all their fullness."

The open letter from women was organized by Helen Alvare, who teaches law at George Mason University School of Law, and Kim Daniels, former counsel to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Special prayer service, Mass mark cardinal's New York homecoming

NEW YORK (CNS) -- On a day devoted to festive public celebrations of his new leadership role in the Catholic Church, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan repeatedly described his elevation to the College of Cardinals as a reflection on the Archdiocese of New York and the larger New York community, rather than an honor reserved to himself alone. Cardinal Dolan, head of the New York Archdiocese since April 2009, led a mid-morning prayer service and celebrated a later afternoon Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Feb. 25, exactly one week after he received his new title from Pope Benedict XVI at a consistory in Rome. Invited guests filled the Fifth Avenue landmark for the services. At the mid-morning prayer service, members of Cardinal Dolan's family shared the front pew with New York civic leaders Gov. Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins. Plume-hatted Knights of Columbus lined the main aisle for the processional that included auxiliary bishops of New York and local ecumenical and interreligious leaders. Waves of applause erupted from the worshippers as Cardinal Dolan made his way to the sanctuary accompanied by the full-throated notes of St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir. In his homily at the prayer service, Cardinal Dolan said his elevation is a tribute to the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of New York, an affirmation by the "pastor of the church universal" and a reflection of the wider fellowship that exists within the church and among other religious groups in New York. He said the morning event showcased New York at its best, because it drew people from many ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds "to share a moment of joy with a man who arrived three years ago as a rookie, not aware of the difference between corned beef and pastrami."

Preparing for synod, bishops look at role of family in evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Making final preparations for the world Synod of Bishops on new evangelization, a committee of cardinals and bishops discussed how difficult it is today to transmit the faith to others. "There was talk about the 'current fruitlessness of evangelization,' including because of the presence of certain influences from modern culture that make the transmission of the faith particularly difficult," said a Vatican press release issued Feb. 27. The ordinary council of the general secretariat of the Synod of Bishops met at the Vatican Feb. 16 to discuss a draft of the working document for the synod, which will be held at the Vatican Oct. 7-28. The theme of the gathering will be: "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith." In a discussion about challenges to faith and to handing on the faith, the council members focused particularly on the role of the family, the statement said. Within the family, it said, young people "learn both the content and the practice of the Christian faith. The irreplaceable work of the family is continued in the catechesis offered by church institutions and, especially, through the liturgy with the sacraments and the homily."

HHS mandate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

to the Thomas More Law Center, under the banner, Women Speak for Themselves (<http://womenspeak-forthemselves.com>).

"No one speaks for all women on these issues," the letter says. "Those who purport to do so are simply attempting to deflect attention from the serious religious liberty issues currently at stake."

The Senate voted 51-48 March 1 to table the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, also called the Blunt amendment for its chief sponsor, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo.

The Blunt Amendment would have allowed church-affiliated organizations, including Catholic charities, hospitals, schools and universities, to opt out of mandated contraception coverage and would have extended exemptions to any

nonreligious employer with a moral objection to such coverage.

Under the amendment, any employer also would have been allowed to refuse to cover any other preventive health care procedures required under the rule if they held a moral or religious objection.

Bishop Lori said in a statement after the vote that the bishops will continue their strong defense of conscience rights for all people.

"The need to defend citizens' rights of conscience is the most critical issue before our country right now," Bishop Lori said. "We will continue our defense of conscience rights through all available legal means."

"Religious freedom is at the heart of democracy and rooted in the dignity of every human person," Bishop Lori said



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said March 1 that there is more "confusion than clarity" in the revised federal contraceptive mandate and urged U.S. bishops to continue their fight against "mandates that require us to violate our moral convictions." The archbishop of New York is pictured during the November 2011 meeting of the U.S. bishops' conference in Baltimore.

OUR READERS WRITE

NOT a 'good Catholic solution'

Regarding the Feb. 15 letter "A time for Socialism?" in a sense, the writer is correct—we already have Socialism lite in the U.S. and 50% of the public is clamoring for more.

A close examination of government policies, especially those of the Obama Administration and Democrats show the advance to government takeover of our lives because more and more people seem to want the government to take over paying our bills for everything.

What is the price? There are many costs to this change in our lives, but the one I want to address here is the loss of religious liberty and ultimately, the practice of our Catholic faith (or any faith for that matter). Yet, the writer is willing to do that because he only sees "a minor Catholic problem with socialized health insurance requirements." In total, there is no "advantage" of Socialism for Catholics. All we have to do is look at history and World War II. Hitler and Stalin both tried to kill, at least minimize, religion and God and make the State the replacement. That seems to be part of the problem—either we don't

know history or we have forgotten it to our peril. The writer seems to believe that Socialism will "... place the needs of the masses above the excesses of the elite..." I don't think so! Take a better look and you will find that it is the needs of the elite, the Socialistic, government elite, that are taken care of while the masses become slaves and scrape to stay alive.

Catholic doctrine is to help the poor, etc. This is our Corporal works of mercy and that is what we each, as individuals, must do and the Church does through our support of Catholic agencies, such as Catholic Charities, etc. Sadly, the writer has been deceived into thinking that the government must completely do what we are called to do. That is not "... a good Catholic solution."

BONNIE P. FRANZ
OGDENSBURG

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

EXPERIENCE AND COMPASSION ALWAYS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MANNING & NAPIER
Foundation

Proud to Support
The Diocese of Ogdensburg

*Our mission is to help organizations like
The Diocese of Ogdensburg enhance our community through good
works and responsible financial stewardship*

ANTONY DESORBO
MANNING & NAPIER FOUNDATION, INC.
290 Woodcliff Drive ■ Fairport, NY 14450 ■ (585) 325-6880
www.manning-napier.com

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Lent: a time to bring faith to the public square

Our readings for this Sunday are heavy with righteous anger calling us to justice. In the first reading, we have Moses coming down the mountain bearing the ten commandments of a new covenant. They had been fused in fire and smoke on two stone tablets.

As you recall, Moses broke those tablets in his anger when he found the people worshipping a golden calf!

Only when he had "cooled down", and the people had repented, did he make two more tablets, writing down God's words from memory.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The first three commandments told the people that there is only one God, and Him alone should they worship every seventh day.

If they were faithful to God, then the other seven commandments, commanding right relationships with their neighbor; would be easy.

Just as Moses had displayed righteous anger because of the people's injustice, so we witness the right-

eous anger of Jesus toward their lack of respect for His Father's house. What a scene he creates, overturning tables, driving people

and animals helter-skelter in all directions! Once he has "cleaned house", He himself takes possession of the temple, and begins to teach the people.

Of course, the Pharisees object at once, demanding a sign that he has authority to do these things.

What a sign he gave! "Destroy this temple (meaning His Body), and I will rebuild it in three days".

Only when he broke through the rock of his tomb on Easter Sunday, did even his apostles understand what he meant.

There is a place for "righteous anger" in this year's Lenten journey.

The U.S. Bishops are angry with the attempt of our gov-

March 11

Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

ernment to force Catholic hospitals and charitable organizations to violate their consciences by paying for contraception and medications leading to abortion for workers that they must insure.

The government has no business forcing Catholics, or any other religion, to act against their conscience.

Do we share their anger

enough to speak and act with our bishops? Are we angry with our legislators for failing to treat immigrants justly in regards to their human dignity and aspirations for education, health, and security as persons? Are we angry enough to protest most loudly?

Are we angry at the poverty of so many of our citizens because of inability to find work or pay for transportation to get to work?

The readings for this Third Sunday provide much to help us shape our prayer, our fasting, and our almsgiving this year.

Lent is a time for Catholics to bring their faith into the public square.

PURSUING JUSTICE

NYS Catholics support: protection for the poor

Sixth in a series

The bishops of the eight dioceses of New York have released the New York State Catholic Conference 2012 Legislative Agenda. Among the legislative priorities is to "support emergency food programs, affordable housing and increased employment opportunities for low-income families and individuals."

Background

The current economic situation finds a growing number of New Yorkers experiencing significant financial difficulty.

Our state has a legal,

moral and ethical obligation to care for the poor and vulnerable.

As Article XVII, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution states, "The aid, care, and support of the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state..."

The New York State Budget is an important way in which government recognizes this responsibility.

No one can deny that these are difficult economic times and the state budget has to respond to a decrease in revenues available.

But it is also equally true that during these difficult

economic times the demand for services increase.

The budget cannot be balanced on the backs of those least able to make further sacrifices.

Supportive services for low-income families help to alleviate the severe financial strain they experience that undermines family stability and are necessary to allow for an existence that respects each individual's human dignity.

Supports, such as childcare, healthcare, transportation, and education and training programs, make it possible for families to achieve or maintain a level

of self-sufficiency.

Message points

- Access to safe and affordable housing is a basic human right. *Without adequate supportive services, many individuals and families will be unable to maintain appropriate housing.*
- Working families need quality child care and subsidies to make it affordable and safe for their children. *Adequate childcare funding in the State Budget is urgently needed.*
- More families are relying on emergency food programs to meet their needs.

These programs need to be expanded.

• Sufficient transportation is not available in many parts of the state, making access to existing jobs difficult. *This problem exists in both urban and rural areas.*

• In order to escape dead end jobs, many low income wage earners require education and training programs to help them develop skills that are in demand.

• The increase in the public assistance grant that was originally scheduled to be 10% in July of 2011 is now proposed to be 5% in July 2012 and 5% in July of 2013. This further delay is unacceptable; a commitment was made and needs to be honored. Recipients went eighteen years without an increase prior to 2009.

(This message is reprinted from www.nyscatholic.org)



Bring this ad in and receive \$1000 off the purchase of a new home!

**Plattsburgh
Wholesale Homes**

New or Used Manufactured
and Modular Homes

7109 State Route 9

518-563-1100 or 1-800-640-1833

www.pwmh.com

Religious Gifts For All Occasions

Medals
Bibles

Rosaries
Crucifixes

Statues
Prayer Books

*Farrand's
Flowers*



Next to Hep. Med. Ctr.
OGDENSBURG, NY 13669

118 KING STREET
(315) 393-5310

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

AT THE MOVIES

DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

"Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, nothing is going to get better." That's the urgent moral of a beloved children's book now translated into a 3-D animated feature as "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" (Universal). This action-packed, candy-colored film for the entire family retains the charm of the original 1971 fable by Theodore Geisel while enhancing its central message: To wit, it's not nice to fool with Mother Nature.

Or, in this case, Father Nature, in the guise of the title character (voice of Danny DeVito). The legendary "guardian of the forest," the Lorax is a grotesque furry creature with a broad mus-

tache. Chop down a tree or otherwise despoil the environment and you'll provoke a tongue-lashing from the Lorax - and a warning of dire consequences to come.

Since a spare, 61-page children's book does not a 94-minute film make, director Chris Renaud ("Despicable Me") and screenwriters Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio have considerably expanded Geisel's story, building their tale around a teen romance.

Our hip protagonist, Ted (voiced by Zac Efron, and named for Geisel), yearns for Audrey (voice of Taylor Swift, and named for Mrs. Geisel). Audrey, in turn, pines, so to speak, for just one thing - the sight of a real live tree.

You see, there are no trees in Thneedville, a town where every bit of the environment is artificial. Lord-

ing it over the locals is villainous Aloysius O'Hare (voice of Rob Riggle), who makes his fortune bottling fresh air and selling it to the public.

According to Ted's dotty Grammy Norma (voice of Betty White), who remembers the good ol' days, the environmental disaster was man-made. Go and find the recluse called the Once-ler (voice of Ed Helms), she tells Ted; he knows what happened to all the trees.

Indeed he does. As a young, ambitious entrepreneur, the Once-ler defied the Lorax's warnings and harvested the truffula trees to make a miracle fabric called thneed.

Consumed with greed, the Once-ler ravaged the valley, displacing the animals. Eventually, the shame-filled, Grinch-like creature de-



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL
Animated characters Grammy Norma, voiced by Betty White, Audrey, voiced by Taylor Swift, and Ted, voiced by Zac Efron, are seen in the movie "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax."

scended into madness.

"Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" offers a positive message about caring for God's creation while also respecting the needs of others. Its first-rate animation and catchy songs will make it an enjoyable outing for viewers of any age.

The film contains some cartoonish action. 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.



... Rx PLANS

MEDICARE ... ADVANTAGE

... SUPPLEMENTS

LOWER COSTS

Call

■ ■ McKinnon Benefits Group

■ ■ Ph: (315) 425-7111 Fax: (315) 479-9774

bmmckinn@twcny.rr.com

EMPLOYER GROUP HEALTH PLANS

Serving the needs of the Diocese since 1997

ADIRONDACK

RUMMAGE SALE

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School will be having a Rummage Sale.

Date: March 10

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

Place: School Gym

Features: Donations can be dropped off at school during school hours. You can also rent your own table for \$20.00 and sell your own items and keep the profit. Please call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771 for more info or to rent a table.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Lake Placid – A St. Patrick's Day Dinner to benefit St. Agnes School is set.

Date: March 13

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Comfort Inn Conference Center
Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$6

Features: Corned beef and cabbage or baked ziti. For more information call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-377

HC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Saranac Lake – St. Bernard's Parish is sponsoring a presentation of the IHC Mystery Players.

Date: March 15

Time: 8 pm.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: The IHC Mystery Players present the Stations of the Cross through the use of special lighting, music, pantomime and reflective narrations.

"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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a spaghetti dinner.

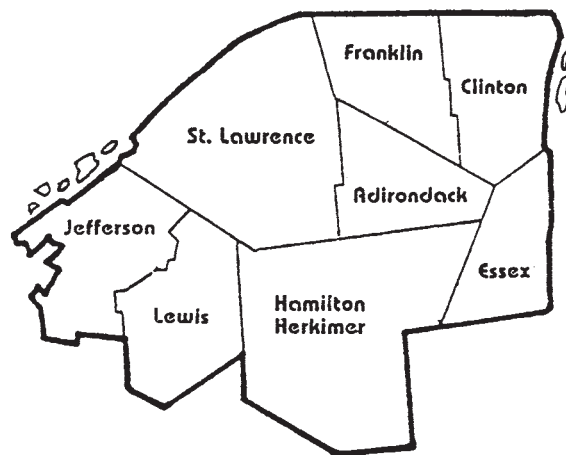
Date: March 17

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center
Cost: \$7.50 per person, \$3.50 for children 6 to 12, free for children 5 and under. Take-outs are available

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club presents their Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast.



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.

Date: March 11

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: Parish Center.

Cost: \$6; Children 5 and under, free.

HEALING MASS

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will hold Healing Mass.

Date: March 17

Time: 10 a.m.

Features: Father Doug Decker will preside at Mass followed by Anointing and individual prayer. Light lunch to follow.

Contact: RSVP: by March 15, olaprayrhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

CHICKEN & BISCUITS

Mooers Forks – St. Joseph's Fundraising Committee will be sponsoring an All You Can Eat Chicken & Biscuit dinner.

Date: March 17

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Ann's Church Hall; Take-outs are available by calling 236-6118.

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

TAIZE PRAYER

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish will gather to spend time in silence, song, and meditative prayer at the foot of the cross.

Date: March 21

Time: 7 p.m.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: March 25

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church Hall

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

SETON OPEN HOUSE

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic is holding an Open House.

Date: March 14

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Features: Accepting registrations for grades 7-12. Catholic faith woven into entire program. Middle States accredited program; Extracurricular Activities.

Contact: 518-561-4031 or visit the website at www.setoncatholic.net

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

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

Peru – CDA Court St. Monica will hold a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

Date: March 10

Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine's Parish

Cost: \$8; Children ages 12 and under, \$4

Contact: Helen Bisallion at 643-2638 or Christa Reyell at 566-6404

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

ESSEX

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's Church, will hold a St. Patrick's Day Dinner, featuring corned beef and cabbage or ham

Date: March 11

Time: 2 p.m. to 6

Place: parish hall

Cost: Adults: \$9. Children under 12: \$5. Take-outs be available after 1:30 p.m

ADULT FAITH SHARING GROUP

Port Henry – The Adult Faith Sharing Group will be viewing Fr. Robert Barron's video series "Conversation".

Dates: March 8 & 22

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

FRANKLIN

MYSTERY/DINNER THEATER

Brushton – St. Mary's Church is to present "The Hilarious Hillbilly Massacre", an interactive murder mystery/dinner theater performed by The North Franklin Theater Group.

Date: March 24

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$25 per person

Contact: Eileen Miller at 518-529-7713 (leave message) to make reservations by March 14

TESTIMONY AND HEALING SERVICE

Brushton – An evening with Richard Bingold has been planned

Date: March 19

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Those seeking physical or spiritual healing will be prayed over with the 'Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary' ad 'Relic of the True Cross'.

Contact: St. Mary's at 518-529-7433

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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus will be having a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

Date: March 10

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

DOLLAR DINNER

Watertown – The Watertown Council of Knights of Columbus will be preparing a Dollar Dinner.

Date: March 14

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

Place: IHC Intermediate School

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

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Lowville – Franciscan Mystery Play will be presenting a dramatic presentation of the passion and death of Jesus.

Date: March 9

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Harrisville – The annual Irish Dinner by the Fraser/Miller families to be held.

Date: March 10

Time: 4 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Francis Solanus Church

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, free

Features: Music provided by the Fraser Family, take-outs will be available.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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

Special funds: Appeal for East Africa

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

We continue to appeal for financial help for the Church in East Africa to support the network of diocesan directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies engaged in ongoing pastoral work, supporting their outreach to those most affected by this crisis.

Father Celestino Bundi, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Kenya, wrote late last year with gratitude for the help sent to the Church in East Africa through the generosity of U.S. Catholics.

The support sent for local priests, religious and lay catechists serving those in greatest need was a "very humbling, yet consoling act of charity as 'one family in mission,'" he noted.

Complicating the devastating effects of drought and famine are ethnic clashes and other fighting in the country, spurred by inadequate resources of food, water and grass for animals. As a result of this insecurity, many families living in the area have abandoned their homes and all schools have been closed.

"We are still struggling with unreliable food distribution," Father Celestino explained. Other challenges include a rise in related illnesses, including pneumonia and malaria, tensions within families, and the issue of children dropping out of school to find food.

What can you do right now? Prayer. First and foremost prayer is the greatest form of expression. Solidarity that can be offered to our brothers and sisters in East Africa. However, funds are much needed.

If you think you can help, please send a donation to the SPOF/Mission office at PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Thank you and God Bless.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith"
when writing or changing your Will.
www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice



D.L. CALARCO
Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

Service Available

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — Joseph H. Kowalik Jr., 53; Funeral Services March 10 at Holy Name Church.

Carthage — Walter P. "Walt" Barker, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage — Viola "Yola" (Pacific) Franck, 91; Funeral Services March 3, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in Old St. James Cemetery.

Champlain — Donald A. Arno, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain — John Paul Tetreault, 81; Funeral Services March 3, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Croghan — Walter J. "Willie" Brownell, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2012 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan — Harold M. Martin, 89, funeral services March 5, 2012 at St. Stephen's Church, burial in parish cemetery

Dannemora — Betty P. (Pike) Miner, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Deferiet — Paul Anthony Ventiquattro, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2012 at St. Rita's

Church.

Glenfield — Delilia "Tootsie" M. (Maciejko) Gorczyca, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Philomena "Mae" Thompson, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2012 at St. Regis Catholic Church.

Lowville — Dorothy (Weller) Dufflo, 88, Funeral services March 7, 2012, at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan

Lyon Mountain — Muriel G. (Hansen) Denny, 89; Funeral Services March 2, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Morningside Cemetery, Malone.

Malone — Gail B. "Mac" McGovern, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena — Anna M. (Yuhasz) Salamon, 87; Funeral Feb. 29, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks — Geneva A. (Miller) Gadoway, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2012 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Mooers Forks — Isabell M. (Superneault) Peete, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2012 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's

Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Gloria A. (Monett) Arquette, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Ogdensburg - Hilda (McGrath) Hollis, Funeral Services March 3 at St. Mary's Cathedral, burial in parish cemetery

Plattsburgh — Florence R. (LaBombard) Avery, 82; Funeral Services March 1, 2012 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry — John "Jack" R. Carpenter, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Joe Reilly, 87; Funeral Services March 3, 2012 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Saint Valentine Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Loretta (LaMere) Berard, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — David Gregory Maring, 47; Funeral Services March 2, 2012 at Cummings Funeral Home Service, Inc.; burial in Lakeside Cemetery, Sackets Harbor.

Watertown — Mary (Paluzzi) Misercola, 76; Funeral Feb. 29, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Order your 2012 Diocesan Directory!



The Official 2012 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Make checks payable to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$15.00
each

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

Soaring with Strength

By Tracy Leonard

Parishioner, St. Mary's, Evans Mills

Why do good things happen to bad people? Why, why, why? What is the purpose for this and how can this be real? Is there really a God?

I'm sure these are questions we've all asked ourselves at one time or another, and if not self-directed, we've heard them uttered by others who are perhaps confused, struggling, ill, hurt or suffering.

Over the past year, I know these aching thoughts have entered my mind on various occasions. Difficult situations such as broken relationships, terminal illness, loss of a loved one, abortion, job loss, marital or family struggles, financial

strain, addiction, homelessness, etc. are hard to bear, yet I've come to understand that there are two choices when you find yourself in difficult circumstances such as these: you can give up or you can go on.

Only you can make that choice, but if you choose to go on, you can encourage many others throughout your life who are faced with the same choice you had to make.

Hold onto your hope, realizing that a trying circumstance can turn into a wonderful testimony in a matter of minutes. God uses difficulties to make us people He can trust and people He can use. Take time to wait on God and allow Him to renew your strength so you can soar.

Acknowledge that you



Tracy Leonard

don't always grow or become strong during life's good times, rather you grow when you press through difficulties, challenges or tragedies without giving up.

How do you not give up?

Well, one of the best gifts you can give yourself is time alone with God- con-

nect with Him in awesome ways in places of deep peace and quiet. If you give God time, He will give it back to you.

Spend time with Him. Trust Him. Praise, worship and thank Him for life's blessings and joys. Pray and mediate for encouragement and strength during the tough times. Know that God wants you to be strong enough to soar over the storms of life and to fulfill all the plans He has for you... build your spiritual body to do so.

This presence of God will help you to overcome life's fears or uncertainties. If you know by faith that God is with you, you can take on any challenges with confidence and courage.

You may not always feel God's presence, but trust

His word, knowing that He will never leave or forsake you. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Also, the next time you are confronted with unavoidable suffering, it can become meaningful if you prayerfully unite it with the sufferings and redeeming love of Christ. In faith, accept your own suffering and share in the sufferings of others with compassion and love.

As we journey through this Lenten season Lord, help us to find hope in the resurrection, thus helping us to soar through the storms of life. With God, nothing is impossible!

Around the Diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

ST. LAWRENCE

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: March 11

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16

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.

CORN BEEF/HAM & CABBAGE

Heuvelton – Msgr. Robert Giroux Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef, ham and cabbage.

Date: March 17

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

Cost: \$8 donation, under 5, Free

LENTEN SOUP MEAL

Heuvelton – St. Raphael's Parish is holding a Lenten soup meal.

Date: March 11

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Place: St. Raphael's Parish Hall

Features: Fr. Jay Seymour, Pastor, will speak about his 500 mile journey across northern Spain to the tomb of St. James. Donations Accepted by not required

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

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Clifton Park, NY – Catholic Lay Healers and Evangelists to offer healing and Renewal Days on two weekends in 2012.

Dates: April 20-21, 2012 featuring Maria Vadia of Glory God Ministries and Oct. 12-13, 2012 featuring Bob Canton.

Place: St. Edward the Confessor, 563 Clifton Park Center Rd, Clifton Park, NY

Information: 518-237-7391 or 518-371-7911 or dcn.jmgrigaitis@aol.com

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – The Diocese of Syracuse will be sponsoring Ignite 2012, Catholic Men's Conference.

Date: March 31

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: SRC Arena on the campus of Onondaga Community College

Speakers: Mass begins at 9am with Bishop Cunningham as celebrant; The speakers Will include Mike Piazza, major league catcher; Sean O'Hara, a successful entrepreneur; and Father Thomas Williams, LC, a professor at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Athenaeum in Rome.

Cost: \$55

Contact: www.ignitecatholicmen.org