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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 67, Number 2

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 18, 2012

To find the risen Lord

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - With Easter flowers still decorating St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI held his weekly general audience and encouraged Catholics to let the risen Lord into their hearts and to share his peace with the world.

As he did with the disciples after Easter, "even today the

risen Lord can enter into our homes and hearts even if, sometimes, the doors are closed," the pope said April 11.

"He alone can roll back the burial stone that man often puts over his feelings, relationships and behavior; stones that sanction death,

division, hatred, anger, jealousy, mistrust, indifference," Pope Benedict said.

Focusing his audience talk on the disciples' encounters with the risen Jesus, Pope Benedict looked particularly at the story of Jesus meeting the disciples on the road to Emmaus as they were leaving

Jerusalem saddened and dejected after his death.

As Jesus walks with them and explains the Scriptures to them, the pope said, the "meaning of everything - the law, the Scriptures, the Psalms - unexpectedly opens and becomes clear before their eyes."

Diocesan Youth Rally April 28 at IHC

The annual diocesan Youth Rally will be held April 28 at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

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

The keynote speaker for the day will be speaker and musician Chris Padgett from Steubenville, Ohio.

In addition to the keynote address, the day will feature workshops geared toward young people and youth leaders.

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Using energy to save some

Youth at Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere take on a parish energy-saving project
FULL STORY, PAGE 7

I BAPTIZE YOU....



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

During the Easter Vigil at Holy Family Church in Watertown, Father Steven Murray baptized three members of the Mercer family, Brad Mercer, and two sons Brendan, age six baby Avery James Preston whom the mother, Corinne Mercer, holds.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Keeping our promise



The Diocesan Safe Environment Office offers its annual report about diocesan efforts to protect the children taking part in Church programs. The report includes a letter from Bishop LaValley who notes that the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been found consistently compliant with standards for the protection of children established by the national bishops' conference ten years ago.

SPECIAL PAGES, PAGES 8-9

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR HOLY FATHER: Pope Benedict turns 85 this week... p. 11

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Protecting children

Each year during April – in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month – the Safe Environment Office of our diocese provides an update of the efforts to ensure that every child entrusted to our care is protected.

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, the safe environment coordinator, has prepared the report that appears on pages 8-9 of this week's NCC. The faces behind all the statistics include children in our Catholic schools and religious education programs and those enjoying our summer camps.

And they include every single priest, deacon, Religious, diocesan employee and parish volunteer. Whether we work with children or not, we take part in special training and background checks. Regular updates help us to recognize potentially dangerous situations for children and to remain vigilant.

It's been ten long years since news about the clergy sex abuse scandal in the exploded across

the country.

Like most of us, Bishop LaValley was shocked by the "scope and depth of the evil that had infiltrated the Body of Christ."

As he writes, "the sexual abuse of children and other vulnerable individuals by some deacons, priests and bishops and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have cause enormous pain and anger to those victimized as well as to their family members, the Church-at-large and to the thousands of faithful, holy priests."

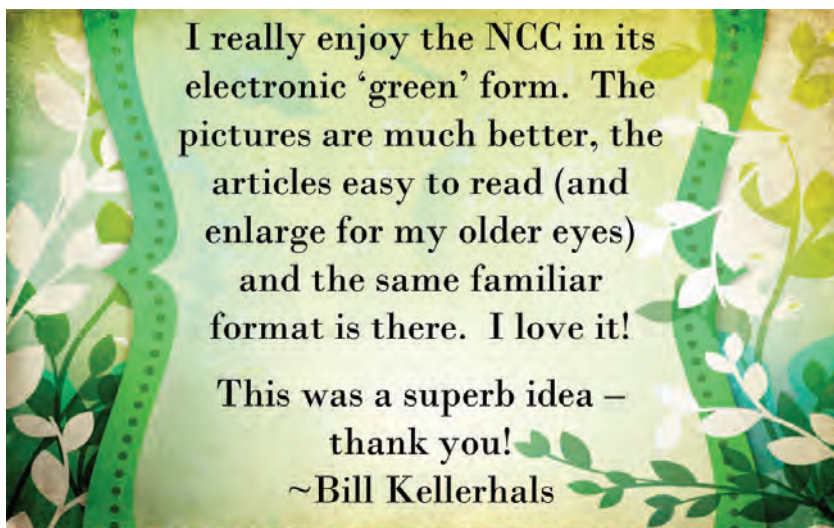
Ten years after the scandal, the diocese continues to review policies and explore ways to make sure our children are protected from anyone who would hurt them.

It would benefit every Catholic in the diocese to carefully review all the information presented on these special pages.

We each have the responsibility to do everything in our power to insure the safety of our precious little ones.



Mary Lou
Kilian



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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Witnesses of the Gospel

3rd Sunday of Easter - April 21-22

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

"You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48).

What are we witnesses to? The apostles and disciples of Jesus were witnesses to Jesus' death and resurrection, and "to that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." T

he mission of evangelization began and we, the Church, the Family of Faith, continue the same mandate. How do we become an evangelizing people? We keep God's commandments. What are these commandments? They are the way of life we witness in Jesus.

The commandments enjoin us to be loving, forgiving, and compassionate to the poor and outcast. In observing the commandments, we model ourselves on Jesus and become more like Him.

Keeping the commandments deepens and brings to fulfillment the loving relationship that Christ has established between God and us.

Our faith in Christ, the relationship with the risen Jesus that we entered through Baptism, has certain specific consequences. It involves believing the full truth about Jesus, human and divine, but it also calls for behavior that is consistent with our faith relationship, consistent with the life and teachings of Jesus. It is attachment to the Person of Jesus Christ.

No detail of our life is ever too small to serve as an expression of our faith in Christ or expressing our love for one another in Him.

The way we come to know the risen Lord is to allow Him to live in us and we in Him. Like Jesus, we will be asked to suffer with Him, possibly to the point of death. This is not an easy road to travel. Few seek this road with enthusiasm and eagerness.

As Luke has portrayed in his Gospel, the "must be's" in following Jesus as His disciples, will be the way of suffering the demands of the faith for Jesus' sake. This form of martyrdom has consistently been associated with witnessing to one's faith, beliefs, and values to the point of death.

But our faith will be strengthened by recognizing that Jesus is alive in us. We are an Easter people. He is among us in the Church, as a Family of Faith right here and now.

To understand more deeply our relationship with the Risen Lord and our place within the life of the Church, we need to spend time in prayer with Jesus.

Read and pray the Scriptures with Him, pray with Him, ask questions with Him, and see the signs of His presence within us. He will strengthen His presence among us.

Knowledge of Christ, in the biblical sense of acceptance and commitment, is the essence of the Christian life.

Once we are confident that Jesus is alive in us, we will be able to announce and demonstrate this good news to our neighbors.

Our example of prayer, joy, peace, forgiveness, and charity is the best form of witnessing. Others will see by our lifestyle and our relationships that Jesus' Gospel values are alive and operative. It is the best way to witness the resurrected Christ in our midst.

We are the only face of Christ that some will ever meet. This is the best form of evangelization: we are who we say we are—disciples and apostles of Jesus Christ. "You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48). How do you measure up?

How do you give testimony to the risen Jesus?

How are the commandments good news to you?

To what extent do you love others as Christ loves you?

NY state budget addresses several Catholic concerns

ALBANY - The 2012-13 state budget which passed last month addressed several concerns of the state's Catholic Bishops that relate to the care for the poor and vulnerable.

"We recognize the continuing fiscal difficulties the state finds itself in, and therefore especially appreciate that Gov. Cuomo and the state legislature avoided the temptation to balance the budget on the backs of those most in need," said Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference.

"While this budget does not address all of the concerns related to care for the poor and vulnerable, it represents a big step in the right direction," Mr. Barnes said.

Among the budget items applauded by the Conference were:

- A 10 percent increase in the public assistance grant this year, in the final installment of a multi-year 30 percent increase. The enacted budget calls for five percent on July 1 and another five percent on October 1 of this year. This agreement fulfills, before the end of the calendar year and in this budget cycle, a commitment that was made three years ago.

- The establishment of the Office of New Americans, which the Catholic Conference anticipates will focus on important immigrant issues. The conference is hopeful

that the new program in the office of the Secretary of State will receive adequate funding to enable it to continue the valuable immigration and refugee resettlement work that was previously done under the auspices of the Bureau of Refugee and Immigration Assistance at the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, while also pursuing new initiatives.

- Reform of the juvenile justice system that will place court adjudicated youth close to their home communities. It should present substantial opportunities to assist youth to achieve rehabilitation and avoid recidivism. The conference is hopeful that New York City can be prepared for the transition in the ambitious timeframe that has been set.

- Doubling in funding over last year for the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation, which provides grants to programs providing pre- and post-natal care to poor and at-risk women. Funding increased from \$299,500 to \$599,500.

The Catholic Conference represents New York State's Bishops in matters of public policy.



Winners of the 2012 Knights of Columbus essay contest at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown were, front from left, Shelby Exford, Collin Clark, Allison McElheran and Addie McMamimon; missing was Korine Clark. In back are Michael Deline, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, No. 259, James Fraser, Knights of Columbus essay contest chairman, and St. Joseph Sister James Marie Kelly, school representative.

K of C essay winners named

WATERTOWN - Five students of Immaculate Heart Central School were named local champions of the 2012 Knights of Columbus Essay Contest.

The Watertown Council No. 259 sponsored the contest students in grades 8,9,10,11 and 12 attending the school.

Each contestant wrote their essays on the theme of: "The Responsibility of the

Catholic Citizen In a Free Society."

The winners are: first place, Addie McMamimon; second place, Allison McElheran and third place Collin Clark all in the 8th grade.

In the 10th grade, Korine Clark was an Honorable Mention and in the 11th grade, first place was Shelby Exford.

The goal of the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is

to give students the opportunity to define the role of a Catholic citizen in a free society, and to strengthen the bond between the Knights of Columbus and their local schools.

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Sr. Ellen represents diocese at religious vicar gathering

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, Episcopal Delegate for Religious, represented the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the 45th Assembly of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious held March 18-22 at the Felician Sisters Convent in Chicago.

Cardinal Francis George supported the theme of the conference "Consecrated Life: Imaging the Gospel" with a presentation entitled, "The Ecclesial Identity of Consecrated Life."

Cardinal George noted that religious life contributes to the unity of the Church by its gift of radical discipleship to Jesus for the sake of his people.

Other speakers included Dominican Sister Mary Hughes, prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, who spoke on The Ecclesial Reality of Consecrated Life.

Noted theologian and author, Holy Ghost Father Anthony Gittins, also addressed the group, emphasizing consecrated life as a dynamic component of true Christian discipleship. Father Gittins gave three conferences on the research of the concept of Mission of God and traced the theological understandings through the lens of the events in the life of Jesus.

Because the ministry of the Vicar or Delegate for Religious addresses all forms of consecrated life, the distinguished canonist, Oblate Father Francis G. Morrisey, offered insights on new movements of consecrated life in the Church and the challenges which contemplative communities are facing today.

Holy Cross Brother Paul Bednarczyk contributed an additional perspective with his update on the National

Religious Vocation Conference initiative, Moving Forward in Hope – a program in support of the collaborative efforts of religious in the United States to promote vocations.

Oblate Father Henry Lemoncelli, representing the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, updated the Conference on issues currently being addressed by the Congregation.

He also thanked the Vicars/Delegates for Religious for their dedicated commitment and ongoing support of consecrated life in the United States.

Father Lemoncelli stated that there will be a general report sent to all American religious from the Apostolic Visitation. There will also be a report which will be given to the individual Congregations.

A life filled with pizza...and prayer

By Michelle Beagle
Staff Writer

LYONS FALLS- On route 12 in southern Lewis County is a family pizzeria named Marinos. Besides delicious fare and sports memorabilia lining the walls in the dining area there is something that separates it from other pizzerias you may have entered.

What is unique is a crucifix hanging on the wall behind the checkout counter.

Joseph Scheve, a communicant of St. Mary's in Constableville, knew from a young age he wanted to own a restaurant / pizzeria, and that when he owned one he would hang a symbol of his faith on the wall.

Raised in a Catholic home, his mother Virginia was his earliest mentor in faith. Joe and his four brothers and sister were raised to attend Mass and other special services.

As a family they would recite the rosary, go to the Stations of the Cross during Fridays in Lent, read the bible, and say Grace before meals.

Faith was a family affair. Joe's Aunt Joan kept the books for her church, and another aunt is a sister of St. Joseph's.

One of his earliest memories was spending time with St. Joseph Sister Carol Kraeger, when he was eight or nine and Sister Carol took him for pizza at Stefano's Pizzeria in Watertown. He saw a crucifix hanging above the counter and knew that some day he would own a pizzeria and hang a crucifix on the wall of his business.

Another mentor of his faith was Atonement Sister Mary Oliver Bridin who taught religious education for years in the South Lewis School District. She had a jovial smile and Irish brogue that made children eager to listen and learn about being Catholic.

Joe and his wife Renee



Joseph Scheve

have two boys; Andrew fourteen and Sage three. Even though they are busy running the business they find time for active participation at St. Mary's where Joe is a lecturer, Eucharistic minister and a substitute religious education teacher.

When asked what being Catholic means to him he responded, "Everything. It is a part of who we are."

His particular devotion of faith is reciting the rosary principally while commuting and uses drive time as reflective time.

His favorite church celebration, he said, is "Christmas. I love everything about it; the decorations, lights, music, gift giving and the more profound the birth of Jesus."

When asked in what ways does faith influence his life and how does it affect decision making he stated, "Every way."

Joe uses his foundation of faith to guide the way he lives and interacts with others. If someone in the community needs assistance Joe tries to assist. The windows of his pizzeria are filled with posters of upcoming fund raisers for churches and people who are going through difficult times. On the counter are raffle tickets for the fire department, local ATV/snowmobile clubs, or you can buy a candy bar to benefit the Relay for Life.

Joseph Sheve is a man of faith who not only talks freely about God but walks the walk of a faithful man.

WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Bree Parry, wife of David Parry, Warrant Officer at Fort Drum, and the mother of four small children, was baptized during the Easter Vigil at Holy Family Church in Watertown. Looking on is Brendan Bruso, altar server; Father Steven Murray, pastor; Deacon Michael Allan and Maureen VanWormer, sponsor.

A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE



A surprise birthday party was held for Eileen Docteur at All Saints Church in Chaumont March 21. She turned 95 on Thursday, March 22. Eileen was born on Wolfe Island in 1917 and came to Cape Vincent across the ice by horse and sleigh in February 1923 with her family. She has lived in the Cape Vincent-Chaumont area since then.

Youth rally set for April 28

WATERTOWN-The annual diocesan Youth Rally will be held April 28 at Immaculate Heart Central School.

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

The keynote speaker for the day will be speaker and musician Chris Padgett from Steubenville, Ohio.

In addition to the keynote address, the day will feature workshops geared toward young people and youth

leaders.

There will also be an interactive park with tables featuring SportsCamp and Guggenheim, Vocations and scouting, family life office and Catholic Charities and the Respect Life office. In addition, there will be the opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and

the participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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

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

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To enhance quality of life for seniors in the Adirondacks

Mercy Care to hold educational forum

LAKE PLACID— Mercy Care for the Adirondacks has developed and Paul Smith's College will host an educational forum featuring presentations from two of New York State's leading Livable Communities experts.

Richard Ianello, Executive Director of Albany Guardian Society, will present "Building a Stronger Voice for Crafting Livable Communities in Rural, Small-town Settings" and Michael Burgess, Public Policy Consultant, New York StateWide Senior Action Council, will present "Advocacy Strategies to Build Public Support for Community Services for Older Adults." The forum will be held on the Paul Smith's College campus May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30.

There is no fee to attend

the forum but pre-registration is required by May 7. To reserve a place, please send e-mail to sschneck@adkmercy.org or call 518-523-5583. Registrants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Richard Ianello is Executive Director of the Albany Guardian Society, an operating foundation that undertakes projects to improve the quality of life for seniors. He was formerly Executive Director of LTC Eddy, Inc., and served on New York State Office for the Aging NY Connects Council.

Mr. Ianello make the point that even though Adirondack communities are rural, seniors can experience "aging in place" successfully. He will describe how improved communications, common sense,

and community empowerment permit people to enjoy safe, productive, and enriched lives in this regions of the State.

Michael Burgess was appointed the Director of the New York State Office for the Aging by Governor Eliot Spitzer and then re-appointed by Governor David Paterson. He has played a role in the passage of significant legislation for older New Yorkers including the EPIC senior drug program.

Burgess will present an advocacy workshop to explore how to use public education, research, networking, and public communications to identify issues and frame and promote them to build support for enhancing services for older adults.

Donna Beal, Executive Di-

rector of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks remarked, "Learning how to express the unique needs of older adults in our small-town communities and work effectively for services to help elders age in place more successfully is a goal for this forum. We welcome community residents of all ages, local government officials, media representatives, healthcare providers, social workers, religious, and planners to attend.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy to extend mercy to elders in order to enhance the fullness of their lives. Its work is carried out through a Friendship Volunteer Program, a Faith Community Nurse Program, and an Education and Advocacy Program.

CSJ jubilarians are honored

LATHAM, NY - Two Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet with North Country ties were among 30 honored for 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of Religious life.

A community celebration was held March 17 at Saint Joseph's Provincial House.

From Saranac Lake

Sister Janice Marie O'Neil, CSJ, (Sister Elizabeth Michael), is celebrating 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph this year. She was born in Saranac Lake and was a member of St. Bernard's Parish.



Sr. Janice O'Neil, CSJ

After graduating from Saranac Lake High School, she attended The College of Saint Rose, Albany.

On March 19, 1952, Sister Janice entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Troy, NY.

For over 50 years, she taught elementary grades and secondary French, English and Latin in schools in the Albany and Syracuse Dioceses.

Sister Janice currently re-

sides at St. Joseph's Provincial House, Latham.

Watertown native



Sr. Donna Bradle, CSJ

Sister Donna Marie Bradle, CSJ, who is celebrating 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph, entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown on June 24, 1962.

During her 50 years in religious life, she has taught in elementary schools in Watertown, Malone, Dannemora, Massena, Ausable Forks, Ticonderoga, Peru, Malone, Syracuse and Schenectady.

Sister Donna Marie is currently a member of the Community Life Team at St. Joseph's Provincial House in Latham; the team administers the care of the 170 Sisters who reside in the facility.

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen men who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

April 19 – Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Laramee, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961

April 20 – Rev. James Igo, 2007

April 21 – Msgr. Michael Fogarty, 1936

April 22 – Rev. Daniel Sullivan, 1933

April 23 – Rev. L. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921

April 24 – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. T. Egan, S.J., 1994

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

Bishop LaValley' Schedule

April 19 – 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Augustine's, Peru, Catholic Community of Keeseville, and Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph at St. Augustine's Church.

April 20 – 10 a.m., Mass and Visit to Holy Name School in AuSable Forks; 6:30 p.m., Mass at the Women of Grace Retreat at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

April 21 – 11 a.m., Confirmation for Holy Family, Watertown, St. Patrick's, Watertown, and St. Anthony's, Watertown at Holy Family Church; 5 p.m., Mass at St. Paul's Church in Black River; 6 p.m., Founders' Day Dinner honoring the 130th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Carriage House Inn/Best Western in Watertown.

April 23 – 10 a.m., Mass and Visit to St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga.

April 24 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Joseph's, Malone, Notre Dame, Malone, St. John Bosco, Malone and St. Helen's, Chasm Falls at St. Joseph's Church.

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

April 23 – 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone

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

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

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Youth group helps parish with energy saving projects

Kids use their energy to save energy

By Kathryn White
Contributing writer

CAPEVINCENT- Anywhere energy is used, there are opportunities to increase efficiency. In most cases, energy efficiency measures will pay for themselves over time in the form of lower energy bills.

Understanding this, and knowing the church could reduce its monthly utility expenditures, Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Pierre Aubin, pastor of the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere, took steps toward realizing the goal of reducing energy usage through implementation of energy saving tactics

Editor's note

Kathryn White, a parishioner and parish council member of the Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont Community, works as the Community Educator for the North Country Energy Smart Communities (a NY-SERDA program). Her husband, Tim, is an energy engineer with Duke Energy. Together they coordinated the energy upgrade project detailed here.

by applying to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA's) Small Commercial Program.

Free energy audits were conducted in early February at the All Saints Rectory in Chaumont and the St. Vincent of Paul Church in Cape Vincent.

Reports were received a few weeks later recommending many energy-saving projects which, while requiring little monetary investment by the church, did require "people power".

This is when the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere's Youth Ministry stepped in with volunteers.

Eleven members were the crew and Tim White, a parishioner and engineer with Duke Energy, and Mark Stewart, parent volunteer, were the supervisors.

It turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for the group to learn about energy efficiency, perform community service, and complete upgrades which are projected to save the parish over \$1200 each year.

They learned to weather-strip doors, install pipe insulation, replace incandescent

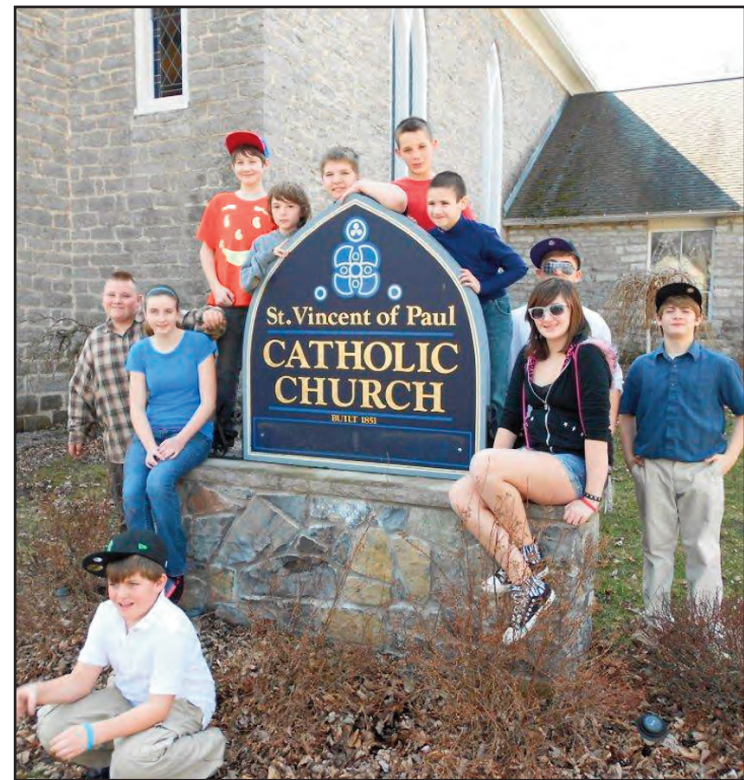
lightbulbs with CFL bulbs, wrap water tanks and insulate attic doors.

The teens experienced firsthand good stewardship, by improving the operational expenses of the church through completing these small steps to improve energy efficiency.

Many thanks to a great crew consisting of Skyler, Paul and Colby Stewart, Jason and Garrett Thompson, Zack, Mariah, Jesse and Kelsi Turner, Patrick Knapp and Amity Schoff for a job well done!

The New York Energy Smart Communities (ESC) Program offers local, convenient, community-based access to NY-SERDA energy-efficiency and research and development (R&D) programs. NY-SERDA works with coordinators throughout the State to help extend NY-SERDA program outreach to residential, commercial, institutional, municipal, and industrial customers.

The North Country Energy Smart Community coordinators can be reached at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County office in Watertown at (315)788-8450.



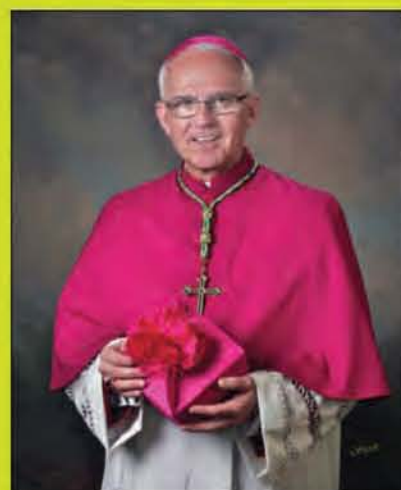
Members of the youth group of the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere volunteered to assist with a number of energy saving projects for the churches. Pictured, from left, clockwise, are Jason Thompson, Amity Schoff, Zack Turner, Patrick Knapp, Garrett Thompson, Jesse Turner, Skyler Stewart, Mariah Turner, Paul Stewart and Colby Stewart.



Colby Stewart holds insulation in place while his father, Mark, and Tim White take measurements.



Garrett Thompson nails weather-stripping around Church front doors.



Dear Friends in Christ:

Ten years ago, the Church was racked with news that some of its leaders failed miserably in their sacred responsibility to care tenderly for the most vulnerable among us. At the time, we (at least I) had no idea of the scope and depth of the evil that had infiltrated the Body of Christ.

The sexual abuse of children and other vulnerable individuals by some deacons, priests, and bishops, and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have caused enormous pain and anger to those victimized, as well as their family members, the Church-at-large, and to the thousands of faithful, holy priests.

When the revelations began to surface, I, and so many others, felt disbelief, revulsion and shame by association. What can one say or do when so many lives have been devastated? *We continue to express sorrow and contrition for our failures. But words alone are not enough.*

The Diocese of Ogdensburg offers immediate pastoral care to those who have suffered abuse by clergy or other Church personnel. I encourage those who have suffered such abuse to contact our Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Terriane Yanulavich at 518-569-0612 so that healing may begin and justice served. The local authorities are automatically notified by the Church when an allegation is received. Victims are also encouraged to notify the local authorities at the time the abuse occurs.

Responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis in 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established standards to provide safe environments for our children in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (revised June 2011). At the same time, a new diocesan directive: *Policy Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests, Deacons, or Other Church Personnel*, was promulgated.

Clearly, as the title of the Charter indicates, a sacred charge has been placed upon the Church: **Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal.** *Because We Care* deeply for the vulnerable among us, the Church of Ogdensburg continues to review our policies and explore ways to ensure that our children are protected from all who would harm them. This week's issue of the *North Country Catholic* provides information reflecting our continuing efforts on behalf of our children. As you will note, there are many elements to a sound safe environment program.

Under the direction and guidance of Sister Ellen Donahue, SA, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, the Diocese of Ogdensburg diligently seeks to ensure that the national and diocesan policies established to provide safe environments for our children are implemented fully here in the North Country. With the strong support and cooperation of our pastors and pastoral leaders, we have taken seriously this responsibility. For the last ten years, independent audits have been conducted here to determine compliance with these standards. Every year we have been found to be in complete compliance.

We are grateful to all those individuals who assist with the implementation of our safe environment programs. Many have given countless hours in our parishes and schools to train adults in providing safe environments for our children. Your continuing cooperation and prayers help us all keep the promise to protect and the pledge to heal. Please spend some time reviewing the information presented in these pages. You will see that, as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, showed constant care for the vulnerable, your local Church is seeking to do likewise.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



WHAT HAS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

Policies, Programs, Control of Access, Monitoring and Communication Channels are in place.

Go to <http://www.dioogdensburg.org/Safeenv/protect.html> and view Video Power Point Presentation, *How Does the Diocese Protect Children & Young People?*

- 5, 628 individuals working with or near your children have undergone criminal background check ADP Screening from its inception in January 2004 through 2/22/2012
- 330 Virtus training sessions were held from 8/18/2003 - 12/31/2011, 38 of which were held in 2011
- 4,997 individuals have taken Virtus *Protecting God's Children* Training from 8/20/2003 - 12/31/2011
- \$291,267 has been spent by the Diocese for Safe Environment training
- PROVISION OF DIOCESAN ASSISTANCE IN REPORTING ABUSE
Victims' Assistance Coordinator:
Terriane Yanulavich: 518-569-0612
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sister Ellen Donahue, SA: 315-393-2920, ext. 440
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy:
Reverend James Seymour: 315-393-2920, ext. 340

DIOCESAN STATISTICS 2011 NATIONAL AUDIT

- 5,030 students attended Christian Formation
- 2,253 students attended Catholic schools
- 360 youth attended Guggenheim Summer Camp
- 250 adults and children attended Family Guggenheim
- 63 youth attended Sports Camp



WHAT HAS THE CHURCH DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN NATIONALLY?

The Church has done more to protect children than almost any other organization in the U.S.

- 1.8 million volunteers in Catholic parishes and schools are trained to create safe environments and to protect children.
- 249,000 employees are likewise trained.
- 2.2 million employees and volunteers have undergone background screening.

The Church has worked hard to protect children, but more needs to be done.



WE MUST LOOK BEYOND STATISTICS IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

WHAT CAN YOU DO??

- You can be trained in safe environment practices. Virtus training dates are printed in the North Country Catholic weekly.
- You can take advantage of protective research sites for your family.
- You can monitor the computer use in your home. One in seven youth online (10 to 17 years old) receives sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet.
- You can report Child Abuse or suspicions of Child Abuse.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- A report of child abuse is made every **ten** seconds.
- More than **five** children die every day.
- Approximately **80%** of children that die are **under the age of 4.**
- **MORE THAN 90% KNOW THEIR PERPETRATOR IN SOME WAY.**

Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education. (www.childhelp.org)

The most prevalent crimes facing children today are bullying and sexual abuse. 50% of students are bullied or bully others. 25% of girls and 17% of boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. (www.childluresprevention.com)

CRIMES OF AGGRESSION AND ABUSE ARE PREVENTABLE.

Research Sites:

www.virtusonline.org/virtus
www.kidsafenet.org
www.netsmart.org

If you suspect a child has been harmed or is at risk, DIAL

1-800-342-3720

to report what you have seen or heard to Child Protective Services. When you call, they will tell you that if this is an immediate emergency call the local police, if not press one for English, two for Spanish, and you will be guided from there. You can remain anonymous.

Catholics urged to resist unjust laws

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - American Catholics must resist unjust laws "as a duty of citizenship and an obligation of faith," a committee of the U.S. bishops said in a new statement on religious liberty.

Invited to join in 'fortnight for freedom'

Titled "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty," the 12-page statement by the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty also calls for "a fortnight for freedom" from June 21, the vigil of the feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, to July 4, U.S. Independence Day.

"This special period of prayer, study, catechesis and public action would emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty," the committee said. "Dioceses and parishes around the country could choose a date in that period for special events that would constitute a great national campaign of teaching and witness for religious liberty."

Made public April 12, the document was approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee during its March meeting for publication as a committee statement.

The ad hoc committee opened its statement with several "concrete examples" of recent threats to religious liberty, saying that "this is not a theological or legal dispute without real-world consequences."

Cited first was the Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that most

health plans must include contraception, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free of charge, even if the employer is morally opposed to such services.

"In an unprecedented way, the federal government will both force religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching and purport to define which religious institutions are 'religious enough' to merit protection of their religious liberty," the statement said. "These features of the 'preventive services' mandate amount to an unjust law."

Among other examples of "religious liberty under attack" the bishops named:

- Immigration laws in Alabama and other states that "forbid what the government deems 'harboring' of undocumented immigrants - and what the church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to those immigrants."

- An attempt by the Connecticut Legislature in 2009 to restructure Catholic parishes.

- Discrimination against Christian students on college campuses.

- Government actions in Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia and the state of Illinois that have "driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services" because the agencies would not place children with same-sex or unmarried heterosexual couples.

- A New York City rule that bars small church congregations from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, while allowing such rentals by non-religious groups.

- Changes in federal contracts for human trafficking grants that require Catholic agencies "to refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching."

The statement quotes the Founding Fathers and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to bolster its arguments.

Rev. King, writing from jail in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963, described an unjust law as one "that is out of harmony with the moral law," and said he agreed with St. Augustine that "an unjust law is no law at all."

"An unjust law cannot be obeyed," the bishops' statement said. "In the face of an unjust law, an accommodation is not to be sought, especially by resorting to equivocal words and deceptive practices."

"If we face today the prospect of unjust laws, then Catholics in America, in solidarity with our fellow citizens, must have the courage not to obey them," it added. "No American desires this. No Catholic welcomes it. But if it should fall upon us, we must discharge it as a duty of citizenship and an obligation of faith."

The bishops also distinguished between conscientious objection and an unjust law.

"Conscientious objection permits some relief to those who object to a just law for reasons of conscience -- conscientious objection being the most well-known example," the committee said. "An unjust law is 'no law at all.' It cannot be obeyed, and therefore one does not seek relief from it, but rather its repeal."

The statement also raised the issue of religious freedom abroad and said "the age of martyrdom has not passed."

"Assassinations, bombings of churches, torching of orphanages -- these are only the most violent attacks Christians have suffered because of their faith in Jesus Christ," the bishops said. "It is our task to strengthen religious liberty at home, ... so that we might defend it more vigorously abroad."

The statement called on "American foreign policy, as well as the vast international network of Catholic agencies" to make "the promotion of religious liberty an ongoing and urgent priority."

The bishops assigned special responsibility for advancing religious freedom to



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

Fireworks light up the sky around the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument on Independence Day last year. In a new statement released April 12, an ad hoc committee of the U.S. bishops' outlined examples of threats to religious liberty and urged Catholics to resist unjust laws. It called for "a fortnight for freedom" from June 21 to July 4 for prayer, study and public action emphasizing the Christian and American heritage of liberty.

several groups:

- Those who hold public office must "protect and defend those fundamental liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights," regardless of their political party.

- Leaders of Catholic hospitals, universities and social service agencies "who may be forced to choose between the good works we do by faith, and fidelity to that faith itself" were encouraged to "hold firm, to stand fast and to insist upon what belongs to you by right as Catholics and Americans."

- Priests must offer "a catechesis on religious liberty suited to the souls in your care," a responsibility that is shared with "writers, producers, artists, publishers, filmmakers and bloggers employing all the means of communications."

In addition to the "fortnight for freedom" June 21 to July 4, the bishops designated the feast of Christ the King -- Nov. 25 this year -- as "a day specifically employed by bishops and priests to preach about religious liberty, both here and abroad."

Editor's note

The full text of "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty" is available at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/our-first-most-cherished-liberty.cfm.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

More than 10,000 educators attend annual NCEA convention

BOSTON (CNS) -- A national and international crowd of Catholic educators converged on Boston April 11 to kick off the National Catholic Educational Association 2012 Convention and Expo. According to organizers, more than 10,000 participants registered for the three-day event at the John B. Hynes Convention Center. The NCEA provided attendees more than 400 workshops on topics relevant to Catholic education, an exhibit hall showcasing 267 education-related vendors, and a list of nationally recognized keynote speakers. Oblate Father Ronald Rolheiser, president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, gave the opening keynote address titled "It's a Big Enough Church." He focused the talk on delivering a message of tolerance among the faithful, enemies and even political rivals. He addressed the danger of becoming bitter and responding to attacks with attacks, anger with anger, and intolerance with intolerance. "There is just no virtue in that, you are simply giving back the energy received and we are hard-wired for that. We are not hard-wired for forgiveness," Father Rolheiser said. He said the faithful need to be influenced by the writings of the Gospel, and particularly the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Father Rolheiser used the image of Jesus removing his outer garment as revealing his true self. "He took off his outer garment and he was able to then reach across in ways we cannot reach across when we have our 'outer garments on.'" After the keynote, Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley celebrated the convention's opening Mass in the nearly filled Veteran Memorial Auditorium, which seats 3,000.

Bill banning late-term abortions awaits AZ governor's signature

PHOENIX (CNS) -- The executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, said he was pleased the Arizona Legislature has passed a bill to outlaw abortions past 20 weeks gestation. "It's very exciting news," Ron Johnson told The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Phoenix Diocese. "It's on its way to the governor's office now and we're very hopeful that she will sign this bill." In the past, Gov. Jan Brewer has consistently supported pro-life legislation. She had until April 16 to sign it into law or let it become law without her signature. Either way it is to go into effect this summer. Johnson said the bill passed the House April 10 with 37 votes, although only 31 were needed for passage. He noted that one Democrat, Rep. Catherine Miranda, voted for it even though her party doesn't usually support that type of legislation. "We're very appreciative that she made it a bipartisan bill, voting yes on this as a Democrat," Johnson said. He also lauded the efforts of the Alliance Defense Fund and the Bioethics Defense Fund in helping craft the measure and working for its passage. The Senate approved the bill in March. Some six other states already ban abortions after 20 weeks, largely based on the argument that fetuses are capable of feeling pain at that phase in their development. Johnson said that supporters of the bill not only argued that fetuses suffer pain in abortion, but that mothers face a greater risk in late-term procedures

Papal milestones prompt celebration, speculation

VATICAN LETTER

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI's 85th birthday, April 16, and the seventh anniversary of his election, April 19, are obviously occasions for wishing the pope well and reflecting on the events of his reign thus far.

Inevitably, however, these milestones also prompt speculation about what Vatican officials and observers refer to diplomatically as "papal transition."

Pope Benedict, after all, is already the sixth-oldest pope since the 1400s, when records became available. It has been almost two years since he told a German interviewer, "My forces are diminishing" and that, when it comes to public appearances, "I wonder whether I can make it even from a purely physical point of view."

Last fall, the pope stopped walking in processions up the main aisle of St. Peter's and started riding a mobile platform instead; in March, it was revealed that he sometimes walks with a cane. The pope's schedule grew lighter last year, as he stopped meeting one-on-one with most visiting bishops. During this year's Holy Week liturgies, television viewers around the world could see unmistakable signs of fatigue on the pontiff's face.

While none of this suggests that the pope does not have years of life ahead of him, a number of commentators have asked in print, and many more have done so off the record, if he might be getting ready to step down. Pope Benedict himself has said that a pope might have an "obligation to resign" once he "is no longer physically, psychologically, and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office." Americans may be

especially inclined toward such speculation at the moment, encouraged by last month's release of the Italian movie "We Have a Pope," in which a fictional pontiff flees from the demands of office.

Happy Birthday, Pope Benedict!

As tempting as filmmakers and journalists might find so dramatic a scenario, the evidence for it is less persuasive when seen in proper context. Consider, for example, that the public first saw Pope Benedict walking with a cane as he was about to board a plane for a 14-hour flight to Mexico, the first stop on a six-day trip that also took him to Cuba. Less than 78 hours after returning from Havana to Rome, the presumably still-jet-lagged pope was offering Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square, the first celebration in his busiest week of the liturgical year.

No clear-eyed observer can deny that Pope Benedict is unusually robust for his age. He is reportedly at work on the third volume of his bestselling "Jesus of Nazareth" series and is presumed to be writing at least one encyclical: on the theological virtue of faith, to follow his works on charity ("Deus Caritas Est") and hope ("Spe Salvi"). The pope will be traveling to Lebanon this September, and the Vatican has done nothing to discourage the widespread assumption that he will follow established papal precedent by attending World Youth Day celebrations next summer in Rio de Janeiro.

As the pope told former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, also 85, in Havana in March: "Yes, I'm old, but I can still carry out my duties."

Pope Benedict's vitality is strikingly clear when one compares his physical and

mental state with that of his predecessor. The current pontiff is already older than Blessed John Paul II was when he died in 2005, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease and other ailments.

The contrast between the two men is especially significant when one considers that Blessed John Paul seriously considered resigning on at least two occasions, his 75th and 80th birthdays, according to books by his former personal secretary and the postulator for his canonization.

The postulator, Msgr. Slawomir Oder, has written that Blessed John Paul sought the guidance of experts as he pondered resignation, "consulting in particular then-Cardinal (Joseph) Ratzinger," now Pope Benedict.

Whatever Cardinal Ratzinger may have advised, Blessed John Paul finally decided that it was, in his own words, his "duty to continue to carry out the job for which Christ the Lord has called me, as long as he, in the mysterious designs of his providence, will want."

If a leader as traditional as Pope Benedict does not consider Blessed John Paul's example a binding precedent, he clearly sees it as an inspiring standard for his own conduct. Concluding his homily at Blessed John Paul's beatification Mass last May, Pope Benedict paid a personal tribute to his predecessor's "witness in suffering."

"The Lord gradually stripped him of everything," Pope Benedict recalled, "yet he remained ever a 'rock,' as Christ desired. ... In this way he lived out in an extraordinary way the vocation of every priest and bishop to become completely one with Jesus, whom he daily receives and offers in the church."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Singing our 'Alleluias' with strong conviction

We celebrate Easter as one long feast day from Easter Sunday itself all the way to Pentecost.

Our readings each day describe many exciting events that happened following the Lord's rising from the dead.

Today's first reading describes a scene in the Temple. It happens in Solomon's Portico just after Peter has cured the lame man.

As the man leaps for joy, a very large crowd gathers (later reports put the number at three thousand). Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, declares that it

is God who has worked this miracle, and that what they have seen is another proof that the man, Jesus, whom they crucified, was truly God's Son.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

We can imagine how those words must have pierced many hearts with terrifying guilt.

They were the ones who had cried "Crucify Him!" just a short time ago.

Memories of God's terrible punish-

ments in years past must have crowded their minds.

What were they to do?

Peter's words reassure them. Since they acted out

of ignorance, God offers them salvation if they repent and believe.

They must be baptized in His Name, and in the Father and the Holy Spirit. And they must spread the Word. This is the mission of every follower of Jesus!

The Gospel for this Sunday is even more exciting.

This is Luke's account of the commissioning of the apostles. Scene one takes place in the upper room, where the two disciples to whom Jesus appeared on their way to Emmaus, have just returned, breathless and bursting with the news that Jesus is alive.

Even as they speak, Jesus suddenly appears to the

APRIL 22

Third Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

1 John 2:1-51

Luke 24:35-48

whole assembly, throwing them into consternation and fear.

With powerful persuasion, Jesus convinces them that he is not a spirit, but a human person, very alive.

He asks them for something to eat. They give Him a piece of baked fish which he eats in their presence!

From the upper room,

Jesus leads them out to Bethany where the crowd had acclaimed Him as King.

According to Luke, Jesus ascends from here and disappears into the heavens.

The greater news is that Jesus' is still with us—in the Eucharist, in the Spirit that dwells within us, and in our loving encounters with one another.

He is here in our sorrows, supporting and strengthening us, keeping us on the journey that will inevitably lead to fullness of life, if only we are faithful.

With stronger and stronger convictions flowing from our joy, may sing out our "Alleluias" ever more loudly.

RESPECT LIFE

Saving our precious Catholic schools

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

Next month my first-born child will graduate from college. He is the product of many years of Catholic education. Images from those years are still fresh in my mind: stringing rosaries together in second grade, dressing him up as his patron saint, rehearsing for Communion and Confirmation, class trips to sing for the elderly at the nursing home and bring food items to needy families.

There were important lessons learned in those years, and this past Easter weekend, when Joey was home, my heart burst with pride to realize that some of them have stuck: they are evident in the honesty with which he fills out job applications, the deferential respect he gives to his grandmother, the patience he exhibits in dealing with the new puppy, his openly-expressed gratitude for the guidance of his parents.

To be sure, Joe is not a

saint. If he set foot in the campus chapel more than twice over the course of his four years in college, I would be surprised. But he is a kind and decent human being, a young man of integrity who has a strong relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is ironic that Joey will graduate from a Catholic institute of higher education at the same time that his Catholic elementary school in our home parish in has been slated for permanent closure.

The announcement by our diocese left me breathless. St. John the Evangelist School was our partner in Christian education; together with my husband and me, it gave my children a solid foundation in much more than academics --it taught them respect, compassion, right from wrong.

I no longer have children in that school and my pain is palpable; what a tragedy for the families who do. What a lost treasure for our community.

The national statistics are sobering: according to the National Catholic Educa-

tional Association (NCEA), last year 34 new Catholic schools opened in the United States, while 172 of them either closed or consolidated. Families across the North Country are fortunate not to have lost any Catholic schools in the past couple of years, but fiscal challenges remain.

The NCEA notes the average cost of Catholic elementary school tuition is \$3,383; secondary school tuition starts at \$8,787. The sad reality is that hard-working mothers and fathers in today's economy simply can't afford that.

We must do more to make tuition affordable for parents seeking a values-based quality Catholic education for their children.

Thankfully, the recently-enacted New York State budget contains some welcome news. The 2012-2013 state budget increases reimbursement to religious and independent schools by \$20 million over the previous

year. It also restores the original (and just) formula for calculating reimbursement for certain mandated services.

And while this funding is not a gift – the money is actually owed to religious schools for expenses incurred by them in compliance with state mandates – every dollar counts.

The state paying off its debt to Catholic schools will help school administrators balance their budgets and hopefully keep tuition increases to a minimum.

Gratitude for these accomplishments goes to state legislative leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and to Governor Cuomo.

But most deserving of thanks are the thousands of Catholics across the state who rallied, e-mailed, called and visited legislators in support of Catholic education. These victories demonstrate that legislative

advocacy works. Advocacy matters!

Because it is part of our moral responsibility, and because Catholic schools can literally transform the world, all of us are called to advocate for them, not just the principals, teachers and parents of children in the schools. If you've not already done so, please join the Catholic Action Network (www.nyscatholic.org) and help make the Catholic voice heard.

The ultimate objective in education advocacy is genuine parental choice: direct financial aid to families to help them pay tuition.

As we continue to work toward that goal, we take heart in important steps along the way, steps like these that will help lessen the funding crisis facing our schools, and keep our precious Catholic schools a viable option in the education marketplace.

Because Catholic schools produce capable and honorable young leaders, like my son, with moral compasses pointing our nation in the right direction.



Kathleen
Gallagher

AT THE MOVIES

THE THREE STOOGES

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

A lot of shtick, a little dance, a big live lobster down someone's pants. That's about what you'd expect from an updated version of "The Three Stooges" (Fox).

Far less predictable, and most unwelcome, is the assault on the dignity of those in religious life that also characterizes this highly uneven comedy.

The inclusion of such a discordant element is all the sadder, given that the directing team of brothers Bobby and Peter Farrelly, who co-wrote the screenplay with Mike Cerrone, clearly intended their project as a sweet-natured tribute to the antics of the original performers. Moe Howard, his brother Curly, and Larry Fine are collectively much beloved for their series of theatrical shorts, later a longtime television staple for kids.

The classic physical comedy and bits of twitching business are reproduced by Chris Diamantopoulos, Sean Hayes and Will Sasso (Moe, Larry and Curly, respectively) as faithfully as if they were performing kabuki theater.

The boys are shown, in a series of "episodes," to have grown up in an orphanage run by the Sisters of Mercy. Never having been adopted, they emerge as true adult innocents, and sally forth into the outside world intent on raising the \$830,000 it will take to keep their home facility from closing.

The Stooges' is, of course,



CNS PHOTO/FOX
Chris Diamantopoulos and Sean Hayes star in a scene from the movie "The Three Stooges."

filled with eye pokes, sledgehammer whacks and power tool-driven mayhem. So it's not really objectionable to find visiting Msgr. Ratliffe (Brian Doyle-Murray) on the receiving end of a punch ... well, a lot of punches, really. And, let it be said, he gives as good as he gets, delivering the famed triple-slap to the boys.

A sharp-tongued nun played by Larry David is also on the receiving end of a lot of head whacks. The abuse of authority figures or of people taking themselves too seriously in general is completely within the internal "Stooge logic." But a drag nun obviously propels the script a big step in the wrong direction.

What really crosses the line, however, is the highly offensive name David's character is assigned: Sister Mary-Mengele. And "she" is called that, not once or twice, but throughout the film.

A joking reference to a Nazi war criminal in a film presumably aimed at a young audience constitutes

not only a cheap shot at Catholic sisters; it's a descent into tastelessness that should be deplored at all levels.

Additionally, near the end of the film, a sexualized young nun figure in a revealing swimsuit puts in a brief appearance.

It's unusual for a fictional feature, particularly a comedy, to use the name of an actual religious order. But here the nuns are clearly identified as Sisters of Mercy. Turns out, that's because the Farrelly brothers have a link to the order: two aunts, it seems, are members of the community.

If referencing their congregation is meant as a shout-out to them, in this context, it's certainly not a kind one.

The film contains irreverent and occasionally offensive humor directed at clergy and religious, some crude comedy and extensive physically abusive slapstick. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.



Support And Pray
For Vocations

DINNER FOR TWO



Planning is underway for a Dinner for Two to be held at St. Stephen's in Croghan April 21. The planning committee includes Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, Father Dan Chapin and, pictured in front, Bobbiesue and Frank Murphy. "Dinner for Two" is a parish Marriage Enrichment program.

Founders' Day

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

April 21, 2012



You are cordially invited to the Founders' Day 2012 Dinner
Saturday, April 21, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

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

Presentation of:

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

Remarks by: Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Proceeds to benefit the IHC Endowment

Reservations Limited, \$50 per person

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

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

IHC Schools: A Foundation for Life

Visit our re-designed website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!

CLINTON

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – Peru Boy Scout Troop 49 will host a spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 21

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; children 6-12, \$3.50; under 5, free

Features: Take-outs will be available. The scouts are raising money for their trip to Washington D.C.

BOOGIE BASH

Plattsburgh – Our Lady of Victory Church will be having a Boogie Bash.

Date: April 22

Time: 5 p.m. to 8

Cost: Donation to the Gabriel Project which helps pregnant women

Features: Try five different dances. Beginners, couples and singles welcome

BENEFIT DINNER

Coopersville – St. Joseph's Church will be having its 9th annual benefit dinner featuring a full course Turkey Dinner.

Date: May 6

Time: Noon to 2 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall, Champlain

Cost: \$9; children 5-12, \$5; under 5, free

Features: Raffle and door prizes, you do not need to be present to win.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: April 22

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Hall

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

BLUE & GOLD SPRING FLING BALL

AuSable Forks – Holy Name School is celebrating its 99th year with a semi-formal dinner dance.

Date: April 21

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Rainbow Banquet Hall Gold Room

Cost: \$35 per person

Features: There will be door prizes throughout the evening and 50/50 raffles.

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

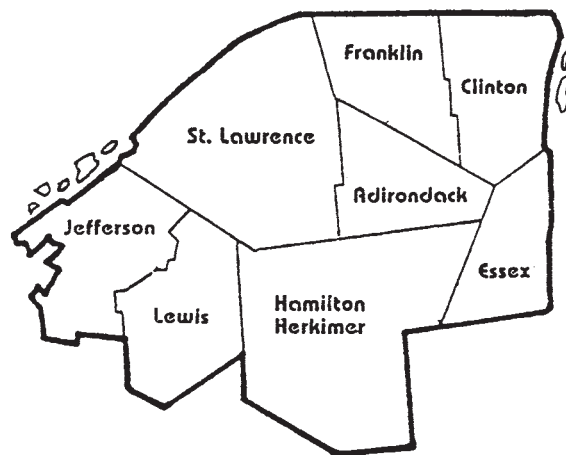
SOAKING PRAYER

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer have soaking prayer.

Date: Every 3rd Monday.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11

Features: An hour to come and be



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.

immersed in prayer with individual prayer time for your specific needs.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having a monthly prayer meeting.

Date: April 29 (every last Sunday)

Features: Please bring a dish to pass and RSVP to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

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

Date: May 5

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11

Features: Father Bill Edwards will preside at Mass and hear Confessions. This devotion is for the reparation of sins committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary as revealed at Fatima. The remaining dates are June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, and Sept. 1.

Contact: RSVP for light lunch to follow to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

LECTO DIVINA

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having Lectio Divina (Divine Reading), every Friday.

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Features: Meditation on the following Sunday's readings and Rosary.

HEALING MINISTRIES SCHOOL

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks house of Prayer will be offering Christian Healing Ministries School of Healing

Prayer Training

Date: July 26-29

Features: This course offers a scriptural basis for God's gift of healing prayer and teaches the student how to be an effective prayer minister. Topics include: Scriptural Foundations for Healing, History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Introduction to Deliverance Prayer, and more. This will be the 1st of 3 level. Nominal fee for materials.

Contact: Register by June 1 by email to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

Date: April 21

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: April 26

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

ECUMENICAL BEREAVEMENT

Watertown – A bereavement meeting will be held.

Date: April 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Fred Garry, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church on "Why is Grief so Tiring?"

MINISTRY TO MINISTERS

Watertown – A program for Commissioned Lay Ministers of the Jefferson Deanery has been set

Date: Thursday, May 3rd, 2012

Time: Doors open at 5:30, Mass at 6. A light meal is served.

Place: St. Anthony's, Arsenal St

Cost: \$10.00

Program: Father Al Hauser who will focus on Co-Workers in the Vineyard - Lay Ministry- Needed more than ever!

Contact: Rose Morgan at 583-5101 or rosetmorgan@hotmail.com

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Port Leyden – Boy Scout Troop 92 will host their 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: April 19

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

Place: Port Leyden Community Hall

Cost: \$6; Students, \$3; under 5, free

Features: Bake sale will also be featured. Take-outs and deliveries available. Contact 348-6738

BULLHEAD FEED

Harrisville – The Knights of Columbus will be having a Bullhead feed.

Date: April 20

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

Place: Harrisville Fire Hall

Cost: Adults, \$11 for Fish, \$9 for Ham; Children 12-5, \$6; under 5, Free

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – The South Lewis K of C will be having an All You Can Eat Brunch.

Date: April 22

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: Adults, \$6; children 5-12, \$3; under 5, free

ST. LAWRENCE

CIRQUE DU SOLIEL

Ogdensburg – Notre Dame Altar & Rosary will be sponsoring a trip to Syracuse to Cirque du Soliel.

Date: June 10

Cost: \$115 per person includes, bus fare, the show and lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

Features: You now have the opportunity to see this extravaganza at the On-center in Syracuse. S & W tours will be driving from the Donut King parking lot

Tickets: from any Altar & Rosary member or call 393-4457

CHICKEN DINNER

Heuvelton – St. Raphael's Parish will be having a chicken dinner.

Date: April 21

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

Place: St. Raphael's Parish Center

Cost: \$7; under 5, free

OGDENSBURG SHOWTIME

Ogdensburg – The A.D. Charbonneau Council #258 Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring Showtime.

Schedule: April 21, 7:15 p.m.; April 22, 1:30 p.m.; April 23, 7:15 p.m.

Place: OFA Auditorium

Cost: \$5; Seniors, \$2; students, \$2

LIFE CHAIN PLANNED

Potsdam – A Life Chain has been planned, rain or shine.

Date: May 12

Time: 2 p.m. to 3 Gather and pick up signs at 1:45 across from Roxy Theater

Place: Along Market and Main Streets

Features: All ages are encouraged to participate, especially children (with proper supervision) and the elderly. Don't forget chairs, hats and Water

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Nocturnal Adoration continues through the night

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's holds Adoration every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church.

Features: First Friday of each month is preceded by Benediction.



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

Protecting God's children

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

Each summer, the Diocese of Ogdensburg participates in the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg collection. This collection is completed in one half of the Diocese each July. This year, the collection will occur in the West side Deaneries of St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis.

With the help of Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

The proceeds of this collection are used to fund different projects and emergency grants on a global basis where missionaries from the Diocese of Ogdensburg are still working closely.

This past month, several different Mission Aid Societies were gifted grants from the collection and have already sent back notes of gratitude.

I thought that it would be fitting to share some of their words with you in our column this week.

The Augustinian Friars recently wrote saying, "...would like to thank you, the Bishop and the Church of Ogdensburg for their continued support of the food project for the Zulu in our mission school in South Africa. The school has grown since the friars began serving the mission and we are now able to serve almost 700 children, up from 300 several years ago...."

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart recently wrote saying, "...thank you for the generous donation to the Missionaries. Especially in Colombia at the moment is in real need of assistance. We have almost 20 students in formation, and all are from very poor families. So we need to find resources to help them. Your gift is timely."

Lastly, the Mission of Hope's Sister Debbie Blow recently wrote after a donation was made to help a priest in need of neurosurgery in Nicaragua "...we are most grateful to you and Bishop LaValley for the help....."

Be assured of the gratitude that our missionaries around have for the Diocese. They are doing the work of the Lord, protecting God's Children and healing the sick.

I am so grateful for their efforts and deeds. I am also grateful to the people of the Diocese for the generous support.

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

OBITUARIES

Jean Rizos

MALONE – A Mass of Christian Burial for (Dorothy) Jean Rizos, 88, was held April 9 at St. Joseph's Church. She died April 4; burial was in Notre Dame Cemetery.

A Third Order Carmelite, Mrs. Rizos was a longtime communicant of Notre Dame Church, where she served as catechist, lector, and Eucharistic minister; she was also a former member of the Notre Dame School Board of Education.

Articulate and passionate in her defense of life, Mrs. Rizos was a founding member of the Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, and Malone Birthright organizations. She served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Families in the Carter administration, and later represented the Diocese of Ogdensburg on the statewide Cardinal Cooke Pro-Life Commission.

The daughter of A. Thomas and Julia Harmon Kerin, Mrs. Rizos was born January 9, 1924 in Crafton, PA. She graduated from Central Catholic High School in Allentown, PA, in 1940 and attended Seton Hill College in Greensburg, PA.

On March 1, 1949 she was united in marriage to George L. Rizos, who predeceased her March 7, 1993.

She is survived by six sons and three daughters, James and Mary of Denville, NJ; William of Malone; Robert and Christine of Plattsburgh; Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli of Malone; Gigi and Hank Oset of Jensen Beach, FL; Kevin and Fatima of Malone; Brian of Malone; Neil of Rileyville, VA; and Eileen and Mel Denehan of Rexford, NY; 18 grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Granddaughters M. Anastasia Pietropaoli and Claire Therese Denehan predeceased their grandmother, as did her sister Mary E. Pastore, her brother John F. Kerin, and her parents.

Adams – Dorothy A. Creighton Countryman, 90; Funeral April 9, 2012 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brownville – Timothy Daniel Queior, infant; Memorial Services April 12, 2012 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Burke – Donald A. Smith, Sr., 62; Funeral Services April 10, 2012 at St. George's Church; burial in Ridgeway Cemetery.

Canton – Shirley I. (Conklin) Elliott, 81; Funeral Service April 12, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Henry's Cemetery, DeKalb.

Carthage – Donald George Everard, 79; Funeral Services April 9, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Gerard L. Filion, 77; Funeral Services April 13, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Colton – Joan L. (Lake) Deugaw, 75; Funeral April 10, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Patrick Angus Chubb, 86; Funeral April 13, 2012 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Sarah "Kwanen'tawi" (Peters) Mitchell, 87; Funeral Services April 10, 2012 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Akwesane.

Keeseville – Irene (Simkiw) Sobol, 95; Funeral Services April 13, 2012 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Placid – Dr. Carl Eberl's, 87; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Helen Julanne "Judy" A. (Amidon) Kieffer, 81; Funeral Services April 10, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Massena – Leonard Allen "Alkie" Wilkins, 85; Funeral Services April 12, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Norfolk – William L. Almasy, 61; Funeral Services April 6, 2012; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Anna (Roshirt) Gore, 88; Funeral April 11, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Gerald "Jerry" Burns, 100; Funeral Services April 16, 2012 at St.

Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Thomas J. Darrah, 61; Funeral April 14, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Sally A. (Lancto) LeClair, 68; Funeral Services April 10, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium.

Plattsburgh – Mary Lillian (Aguilar) Stein, 82; Memorial Services April 21, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio Texas.

Rosiere – Edward J. (Ned) Lawrence, 87; Funeral Services April 13, 2012 at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Saranac Lake – Robert K. Martin, 52; Funeral Services April 12, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Robert Clarence Woodard Sr., 66; Funeral Services April 7, 2012 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Neal Allen Beaudette, 60; Funeral Services April 13, 2012 at Holy Name Church.

Watertown – Melvin L. Bray, 72; Funeral Services April 11, 2012 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Sanford's Corner Cemetery, Calcium.

Watertown – Mary Pacific Crescenzi, 93; Funeral April 10, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Frances Ann Capone Empie, 79; Funeral Services April 12, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Louis Grieco, Jr., 75; Funeral Services April 14, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Christian Michael Honan, 36; Funeral Services April 13, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, NY.

Watertown – Patricia A. (Ames) Quinn, 89; Funeral April 11, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Leyden – Dorothy E. (Gibbs) Nellenbach, 86; Funeral April 11, 2012 at St. Mary's Nativity Church; burial in St. Peter's & Paul's Cemetery, Fish Creek.

IN TIMES OF PRAYER AND LEARNING

FACES OF YOUNG FAITH



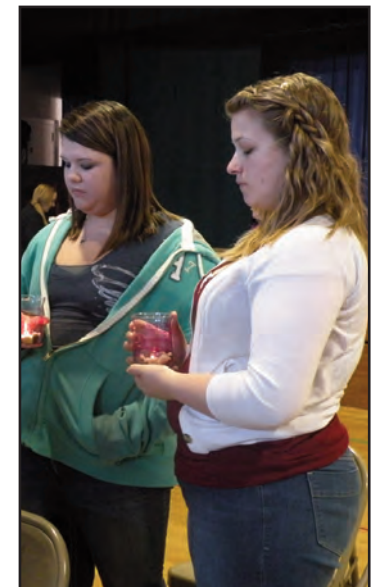
Young parishes from grades five through eight acted out the Stations of the Cross at Holy Name Church in Tupper Lake March 16. It was a very moving production, as students stood behind a sheet to create shadows of Christ, Mary, Simon of Cyrene and the principal players in the Passion story. Pictured, back, from left, are Heath Benware, Mason Tabolt and Katie Zurich, middle, Andrew Trudeau, Jackson Clement and Alyssa Tarbox; and front, Jonas Tabolt, Sophia Martin, Kimberly Hall, Katelyn Rabideau, Ben Jones.



The first penance class at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh gathers to celebrate the gift of God's forgiveness. Father William Reamer joins the class with parents and friends to thank everyone after the Lenten penance service.



Confirmation candidates from The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew's parish in Au Sable Forks and Black Brook recently participated in a retreat as preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Augustine's Church in Peru April 19 Above, Father Roger McGuinness, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy who directed the retreat is shown with Nicole Booth, Meghan Strong, Jamie Coolidge and Bradley Deyoe. At left, the students are shown with their pastor Father Kris Lauzon. Bottom to top, left to right, are Naomi Peduzzi, Emily Patenaude, Emily Maicus, Father Lauzon, Meghan Strong, Jeanna Manning, Nicole Santa Maria, Nicole Booth, Bradley Deyoe, Jamie Coolidge and Matthew Caito



Confirmation candidates from Morristonville reflect on their spiritual journey during a recent retreat day held in Plattsburgh.