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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 25, 2012

Inspired by the Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - While the text of the Bible is fixed, the same Holy Spirit that inspired its writing continues to inspire its proclamation and interpretation in the church, Pope Benedict XVI said. The Catholic Church's understanding of the Bible grows through time thanks to the Holy Spirit's guidance and to

reflection, study, prayer and preaching, the pope said in a message to members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, an international group of scholars who advise the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

While the act of revelation ended with the death of the last Apostle, Pope Benedict

said, "the revealed word continues to be proclaimed and interpreted by the living tradition of the church. For this reason, the word of God fixed in the sacred texts is not an immobile deposit within the church, but becomes the supreme rule of its faith."

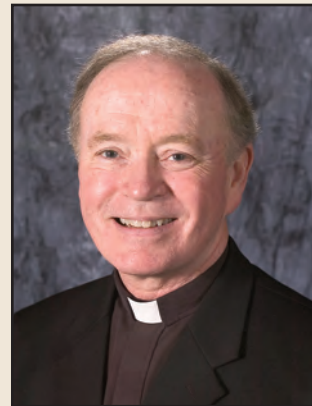
Pope Benedict said no one

can really understand the Bible without recognizing that it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

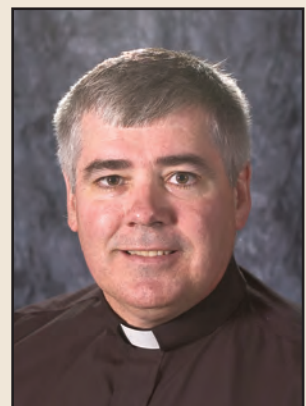
But, as he told the biblical commission, "it is not possible to apply the criterion of inspiration or of absolute truth in a mechanical way, extrapolating a single phrase or expression."

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

New Moderator of the Curia



Msgr. John R. Murphy, above, who has served the diocese as Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services since 1994, will return to full-time parish ministry in June. Bishop LaValley has named Father Kevin J. O'Brien, current pastor in Brownville and Dexter, as his successor.



FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Bishop's Fund surpasses 2011 goal

Through the support of over 10,350 households across the diocese, the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal has surpassed its goal of \$1.25 million. As of April 18, the total received in cash and pledges was \$1,262,285.45

Bishop Terry R. LaValley said, "such a remarkable response to the Bishop's Fund Appeal is a wonderful affirmation of the wide variety of ministries and programs provided by the Church."

"Directly or indirectly, our Church touches the lives of virtually thousands of persons, he said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Catholic Charities

The Diocesan Catholic Charities
offices announces its annual

Mother's Day Appeal
FULL STORY, PAGE 5

CREATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PARISH



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

The tabernacle in St. Augustine's Church in Peru is resting on a new Altar of Repose, which Father Alan Shnob dedicated on Easter Sunday at the 8 a.m. Mass. St. Augustine's parishioner Carlo Amico, shown above left, handcrafted the altar using local granite and wood. St. Augustine's parishioner Howard Plumadore began the process by cutting an oak tree that Father Shnob had found on the grounds of St. Patrick's Oratory. Parishioner Donald Provost cut the wood into lumber at his local sawmill. Carlo Amico finished the oak lumber, purchased the polished green granite from an Ausable Forks quarry and handcrafted the Altar using wooden pegs rather than nails or screws. From left are Carlo Amico, Father Shnob and Doreen Amico.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: The grace of getting 'it'... p. 16

NORTH
COUNTRY
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Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Good news and
not so good news

It's been a 'good news-bad news' kind of week around the diocesan offices.

The good news is actually *great* news - this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal reached its goal, surpassing \$1.25 million.

As Bishop LaValley said, "that's a lot of money!"

It means that those of us who work for the Church of Ogdensburg will have the resources we need to follow our various missions.

And, as the bishop said, it shows "the vitality, the very heart and soul, of our Diocese."

Hooray for us!

The bad news is mainly just bad for all of those same people who work in the offices of the diocese: Msgr. John Murphy is leaving his position as Moderator of the Curia to become a full-time pastor.

This, of course, is excellent news for the parishioners of Norfolk or Raymondville but it will be a distinct challenge for those of us who have been able to depend on Monsignor's wise counsel for decades.

Bishop LaValley made the announcement that Msgr. Murphy has been granted his request to devote all of his priestly attention to his parishioners after calling a surprise meeting of the diocesan employees last Tuesday morning.

We've probably been summoned to five of these gatherings over the past five years and they always make us nervous. *We wouldn't hear about another new bishop, would we???*

Thank God, we didn't.

Thank God Msgr. Murphy can add a little sanity to his life with a subtraction of trips to Ogdensburg and diocesan headaches.

And, thank God we have another priest with the talent and willingness to begin to fill his shoes.

Bishop LaValley followed up his announcement about Msgr. Murphy's departure with the word that Father Kevin O'Brien would be taking his place.

That sounded like pretty good news for all of us.

We hope Father O'Brien, (aka, our new boss) thinks so, too!

Mary Lou
Kilian

Welcome Spring

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

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Exp. / /

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Jesus, the Good Shepherd
4th Sunday of Easter - April 28-29By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. The primary role of a shepherd is to take care of the needs of his flock and to make sure they are protected from various threats of any kind. He knows exactly how to provide for them.

Throughout the history of the Church, we have been blessed with good leaders, our pastors and bishops. The Bishop's staff or crosier is a symbol of his function as a bishop to protect and to attend to the needs of his people under his care. The Bishop is the shepherd of the flock of the people of God in the jurisdiction of his diocese. He is the pastor of his people.

Church leaders, especially our Bishop and pastors, have a great responsibility to hand on the traditions and the teachings of the Catholic Church that lead the faithful to salvation given to us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is not an easy task for our Bishop and pastors. Their own actions must not be tainted with the worldly values of power, wealth, ambition, or status. The Bishop and the pastor must know his people well in order to meet their needs. This means careful and attentive listening that requires patience, understanding, and compassion.

Guiding and directing the flock requires daily prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and counsel.

Today, the Bishop and pastors know only so well the attractions of the world that offers us hopes, dreams, and promises that bombard us from many directions. We hear them from politicians, media, advertisements, etc. hoping to find help and support to keep us from hurt and harm. We, the pilgrim people of God, continually search for such answers as we journey together with our shepherd.

There is only one true salvation: the Lord Jesus that the apostles proclaimed at the beginning and that the Church proclaims now.

As the pilgrim people of God, we journey with our pastor and Bishop, to learn the truth of the Good Shepherd. It is with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that we discern God's call and God's viewpoint, to articulate His mission to continue to build up the Kingdom of God.

The pastor and the people must come to know one another. Each brings unique talents, gifts, and wisdom to the journey. Together, we discern God's call and God's viewpoint. Together, we try to articulate and model that mission in our everyday lives. We have to be ready and open to accept challenges from each other's perspective.

Being able to dialogue together the mysteries of our faith implies trust. It is the responsibility of the Bishop as shepherd to be faithful to the tradition and teachings of the Church and articulate them in light of the Holy Spirit's guidance.

As a community of faith, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to help us discern the wisdom of God and His will with compassion and concern for all His people so that we may continue to articulate Jesus' mission for our day and time. The Holy Spirit will guide us with His wisdom, discernment and courage to act with confidence and assurance. How do you work with your pastor and Bishop to discern God's will for your parish community and diocesan family? How do you use your gifts and talents to further the mission and ministry of your parish community?

If we are seen as a community of concern and care, people will recognize us not simply as the Catholic Church, but as the people among whom Jesus still lives and ministers.

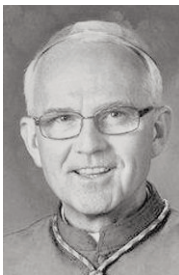
FOLLOW ME

'I am humbled by this remarkable sign of support'

"Our Faith – Our Family" was the theme for the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal. I am very grateful to all the members of our faith family who have so generously contributed to this year's Appeal enabling us to surpass the challenging goal of \$1.25 million. That's a lot of money!

I am humbled by such a remarkable sign of support, particularly, as we continue to struggle through high unemployment rates; pay for exorbitantly high medical bills; and dole out more and more of our

hard earned money at the gas pumps.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

For too long, here in our North Country, we have been struggling through such a sour economic state.

Yet, the faithful of our Diocese continue to live out what it means to be family.

When a brother or sister is in need, we respond, even when we might have to go without something ourselves.

Such a remarkable response to the Bishop's Fund Appeal is also wonderful affirmation of the

wide variety of ministries and programs provided by the Church.

Directly or indirectly, our Church touches the lives of virtually thousands of persons.

The vitality, the very heart and soul, of our Diocese is evidenced in such giving.

I, also, wish to thank and commend our pastors, pastoral leaders, and the diocesan staff (Mrs. Valerie Mathews, Mrs. Janice Shoen and Mrs. Renee Grizzuto) for their hard work in helping to facilitate the success of the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

We do what we do because, after all, it is Our Faith – Our Family.

2011 Bishop's Fund reaches goal

By Valerie Mathews
Director, Bishop's Fund Appeal

Through the generous support of over 10,350 households across the diocese the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal has surpassed its goal of \$1.25 million

This generosity will enable the Diocese of Ogdensburg to respond to the spiritual, social and educational needs of every Catholic across the North County.

Upon hearing that the goal had been reached, Bishop LaValley said, "What wonderful news! I am so grateful to all who have shared generously their blessings in helping us surpass the goal set for the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

"On behalf of those families who have benefited from emergency grants and the thousands of beneficiaries of the diocesan programs supported by the Bishop's Fund:

Thank You." the bishop said "Even in the midst of such a sour economy, so many individuals have sacrificed to help our sisters and brothers. God bless you all for such a remarkable response to this year's appeal!"

As of April 18, the total received in cash and pledges is \$1,262,285.45. Included in the total is \$65,038.90 in outstanding pledges.

The Bishop's Fund Office will continue to receive payments on the 2011 pledges until the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2012.

If you have not had the opportunity to make a gift to this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal, please prayerfully consider supporting this vital appeal.

Donations can be sent to Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or to make a gift online, please visit www.diogodensburg.org/development and click on "Donate."

Bishop announces changes in administrative staff

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that Msgr. John R. Murphy, who has served as Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services since 1994, will be relieved of those diocesan responsibilities to assume full time parish ministry.

Since June 2011, Msgr. Murphy has served as administrator at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk and St. Raymond's in Raymond while continuing his work for the diocesan offices.

Father Kevin O'Brien, current pastor in Brownville and Dexter, will succeed Msgr. Murphy as Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services.

The work of the Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of

Ogdensburg includes:

- General coordination and direction of the various diocesan offices
- Day to day supervision of the order of the house in the various offices
- Specific personnel functions for the diocesan central offices
- Special projects: Quinquennial

Report, Bureau of Indian Missions Grant application, etc.

•Representing the Diocesan Bishop in the conduct of day-to-day matters with the department, office, and program heads assigned to the Moderator for supervision

The appointments will become effective when other pastoral assignments take effect in June.

Msgr. Murphy

Msgr. Murphy, a native of Saranac Lake was born Oct. 4, 1947. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and the Gregorian University in Rome before his ordination July 2, 1973 in Rome by Bishop James Hickey.

Father Murphy's first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. John's in Plattsburgh and head of the religion department at St. John's Central School.

In 1976, he was named assistant chancellor of the diocese and assistant pastor in Canton.

He returned to Rome in 1978 and earned a degree in moral theology from Academia Alfonsiana.

He later earned a master's degree in church administra-

tion from Catholic University in Washington.

Upon his return to the diocese, Father Murphy was named vice-chancellor and pastor in Morristown.

He served the diocese as chancellor from 1982 to March 1990.

He was also pastor in Madrid from 1988 until his appointment as pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam from 1990 to 1994.

In 1992, he was named a monsignor by Pope John Pope Paul II. He also served the diocese as dean of St. Lawrence Deanery.

In 1994, Msgr Murphy was named Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services.

He served as administrator in Canton for a short time in 2002 and was named pastor in Heuvelton and Lisbon in 2003 before becoming full-time Moderator of the Curia later that year.

Father O'Brien

Father O'Brien, pastor in Brownville and Dexter, since 2003, has previously served as pastor of St. John's in Plattsburgh from 1999 to 2003 and as pastor in Carthage, Natural Bridge and Deferiet from 1997 to 1991.

He was born May 10, 1955 in Ogdensburg and grew up in Norwich, NY. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and the North American College at Rome and was ordained Sept. 5, 1981 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father O'Brien later earned a law degree from the University of Buffalo.

His pastoral assignments have included appointments as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sacred Heart in Massena, St. Patrick's in Watertown, in Alexandria Bay and Brownville and Dexter and St. Mary's in Potsdam.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Msgr. Murphy



Father O'Brien



PHOTO BY SR. BETHANY FITZGERALD, SSI

An Ecology and Faith group, with members from throughout the diocese, has been meeting regularly to discuss how the Catholic faith offers guidance to meet challenges to the environment. In front are Emmy Bodrogi, Mary Centrofanti, Eunice Trombley and Kathy Robinson; back, Ursuline Sister Sheila Murphy, Alan Trombley, Polly Ohman, Tom Kalinowski, Sheila Harrison, Jack Beaumont and St. Joseph Sister Carol Kraeger.

Caring for God's creation

By Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSI

Member, Sisters of St. Joseph Peace and Social Justice Committee and the Social Justice Committee of the Council of Religious.

Living in the North Country and worshipping in this Diocese, it can be easy to take for granted the many incredible gifts of Creation.

In our modern, fast-paced society, many people simply overlook the wonders and grandeur of the natural world and the manner in which we are contributing to the destruction of God's earth.

In response to the increasing threats posed to our living environment, a small and enthusiastic group from various parts of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has gathered for the past several months.

The purpose of this Ecology and Faith group is to explore how our Catholic faith, rooted in the Scriptures and in the recent Catholic Social Teaching "Care for God's Creation" written by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops can provide us, as Catholics, with a guide to meeting this present challenge.

The group has been discussing such questions as: How is the Catholic mission connected to the sustainability and health of the planet upon which all life depends? What is our role as care-taker of God's Creation and of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers? How can our increasing awareness of this inter-connectedness between environment and faith be incorporated into the practical, everyday choices we make? How can we heighten awareness of these connections with the wider Catholic community? What other interested religious and secular groups are

there in our local areas that we might work together with on specific local environmental concerns.

An essential part of each of our meetings has been prayer, for as Thomas Merton reminds us "we need to be contemplatives in action." With St. Ignatius Loyola we pray that all of our actions be guided by the Spirit and done "for the greater honor and glory of God." It is prayer that will help us see more clearly how we are to follow in Jesus' footsteps today in light of the words of Pope John Paul II, "...respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of Creation, which is called to join man in praising God."

One action the group has taken is to provide weekly items for an "Environmental Stewardship" column appearing in the bulletin of The Churches of the Mountains and Lake in the Saranac Lake area, as well as in the bulletins of a few other interested parishes. Each week's entry includes some teaching of our Church on the environment and a few practical suggestions for action. If anyone/parish would like to receive these items, email: stbernardbulletin@roadrunner.com.

New members for the group are welcome. Current members are from Plattsburgh, Malone, Saranac Lake, Lake Clear, Lake Placid, Hammond, Norfolk, Ogdensburg and other locales in the Diocese.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 18 at 10:00 – 2:00pm in St. John in the Wilderness Parish House, Lake Clear. (pot-luck lunch) If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, call Sister Bethany at 315-324-5718/212-6592(cell) or email srbeth@cit-tele.com.

Moderator

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Father O'Brien also served the diocese as associate director of the diocesan mission office and as a philosophy professor at Wadhams Hall Seminary College.

Moderator of the Curia

In his new position, Father O'Brien will have the following responsibilities:

- Supervision of all hiring for diocesan central offices in consultation with the Chancellor; supervision of any due process procedure as needed; overseeing the development of personnel policies, employee evaluations, pay scale revisions

- Responsibility for elements of order in our offices such as the maintenance of hours of work

- Service as Bishop's liaison with the Diocesan Staff, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission

- Membership, Diocesan Planning Committee

- Development of agendas for meetings of the Episcopal Council

- Development of annual goals for the assigned offices; monitoring of progress toward goals and mentoring toward fulfillment; acceptance and review of annual reports from the departments, offices, and programs assigned to the Moderator

- Resolution of routine questions developed by department, office, and program heads assigned to the Moderator

- Response ad hoc to issues and emergencies by assignment of Bishop, or in response to requests from department and office heads

- Responding to inquiries and complaints that are of a "pastoral" nature, usually by referral from Bishop

- Conducting routinely through specific meetings and regular conversations collaboration with and supervision of the Diocesan Fiscal Office; overseeing that work including giving direction and offering insights as appropriate

- Serving as senior staff member of the Diocesan Finance Council; serving as a member of the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee

- Membership, together with the Chancellor and Diocesan Fiscal Officer on the Deposit and Loan Advisory Committee; oversight of the Deposit and Loan Fund; approval on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop of all new loans to be issued by the Fund

- Preparation of Parish Spiritual Report forms, including the scheduling of the Deans' visits; reception of these reports as they are returned to the diocese

- Preparation of Parish Budget forms; distribution to parishes; review of budgets received by the diocese

- Preparation and distribution of Parish Financial Report forms; communication with pastors regarding analysis of annual financial reports, developed in collaboration with the Diocesan Fiscal Office

- Liaison with Diocesan Attorney; formulating and monitoring the position of the diocese in lawsuits brought against it

- Developing the annual budget for the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund; reviewing its periodic financial reports; serving as the primary person to facilitate specific gifts and grants from the fund on behalf of the Bishop

- Overseeing the coordination of diocesan mailings, done with the assistance of the Diocesan Receptionist

- Monitoring and follow-up regarding Wills naming the diocese, its parishes and institutions

- Overseeing preparation for the annual Harvest Mass

- Review of Parish Pastoral Council Constitutions

- Appointment of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- Overall responsibility for planning and implementing maintenance of our four buildings supervision of Maintenance Director for the diocesan offices

2012 Catholic Charities Annual Mother's Day Appeal is set

Lord, when did I see You?

By Sr. Donna Franklin, DC
Diocesan director, Catholic Charities

"I don't know what I would have done without Catholic Charities. Your counselor was kind and understanding." (A counseling client)

"Thank you for helping us with the house repairs. Catholic Charities makes us proud to be Catholics." (Retired Couple)

"My children and I are now safe and we were able to take our belongings with us. The caseworker at Catholic Charities stuck with us until we had everything ready. She listened to me and helped me find the strength I needed to change my life for me and my children. Thank you Catholic Charities. (Victim of Domestic Violence);

"Catholic Charities caseworker was kind, nonjudgmental and so helpful. She treated us with respect and gave us back our hope" (Recently unemployed couple)

Healthy families are the foundation of healthy communities. Supporting individuals and families during times of crisis and stress is the measure of a community's commitment to care and concern for all of its members.

It is no secret that we are faced with the reality of economic challenges. The newspapers and the TV news programs are filled with reports and stories of high unemployment and growing numbers of individuals and families who are becoming stressed and depressed as they face the new economic reality of their lives.

Think about it. How many of us know of a relative, friend neighbor or coworker who is struggling financially and/or emotionally?

Catholic Charities is committed to responding to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Catholic Charities makes us proud to be Catholic

The individual or family, who is working hard, at a low income job, they are vulnerable.

The retiree who is adjusting to a new income level and lifestyle, they are vulnerable.

The single mother with a child who is experiencing difficulty in school, they are vulnerable.

The teen who has been the victim of childhood abuse, he/she is vulnerable.

The list goes on and on. Catholic Charities is there to respond, support and help individuals and families build bridges to healthier lives.

Government, on all levels, is reducing its support for social protection programs. As the funds dry up, agencies like Catholic Charities are compelled to seek additional sources of funding for important and effective services and programs.

Counseling, financial assistance, community and parish outreach, adoption,

maternity services and advocacy are all core services of Catholic Charities.

Through networking and collaboration with other agencies and organizations, Catholic Charities identifies gaps in the continuum of services.

Catholic Charities, then, works to design and implement programs that assure all of our people access to the support services they need.

Catholic Charities staff and volunteers served over 18,000 people throughout the 12,000 square miles of the North Country.

Modern technology assists Catholic Charities in responding to individuals and families in the remotest parts of the North Country. A phone call, a fax or an e-mail can connect the agency with a parish, agency or individual/family needing assistance.

A caseworker from Catholic Charities, always responds. The agency is committed to responding to 100% of appropriate referrals/requests.

But the ability to respond depends on the resources available.

You can help.

The 2012 Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal will take place on the week-

end of May 13.

Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$500 or more will be used to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Every person is worthwhile. Each individual life, from conception to death, is sacred. Individuals and families deserve support and compassion during the crisis times of their lives.

You can help them regain their dignity and their hope.

Your gift to Catholic Charities says that you understand that those in need are not invisible or mere statistics.

The challenge contained in the question, "Lord, when did I see you?" is for each of us.

Please consider your own resources and then be as generous as possible in

your gift to Catholic Charities.

For more information, you are invited to visit our website: www.cathcharities.org. You can make a donation online. Catholic Charities accepts credit card donations (MasterCard/VISA). You can mail in your donation. Please remember to identify your parish. All mail in or online donations will be credited to the identified parishes. Consider a larger donation by making a pledge. By pledging, you can make your donation in 3 or 4 payments.

Whichever way you choose to make your donation, Catholic Charities will be grateful for your support.

If you have any questions, please call Catholic Charities at: (315) 393-2255.

Visit our re-designed website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

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JOB OPENING

Director of Advancement

St Mary's School in Ticonderoga NY is seeking to hire a person for the position of Director of Development/Marketing. While we are eager to develop relationships with local business and philanthropists in the greater Northern NY area, we are also desirous to connect to prospective donors outside of our area. This position will report to the Pastor while working closely with the Principal. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: donor cultivation, major gifts, planned giving, annual appeals, parish stewardship and grant writing. In addition to working closely, with the Principal of the school, the Pastor of the Parish, along with respective councils this individual will also provide collaborative leadership to our annual fundraisers as well as the Annual Alumni Appeal.

For more information about the requirements for this job please go to www.sms.org or www.stmarysschoolticonderoga.org

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father,
we lift up to you these
and all the priests of the world.
Sanctify them.
Heal and guide them.
Mold them into the likeness and
holiness of your Son, Jesus,
the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to
you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord
inspires you to offer Him



DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG NY						
MAY 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAURDAY
		BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	1 REV. SONY G. PULICKAL VG	2 REV. PATRICK A. RATIGAN	3 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	4 REV. MARK R. REILLY
6 REV. MATTHIAS RENDON OFM	7 MSGR. PETER R. RIANI VF	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	10 REV. STEPHEN R. ROCKER	11 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	12 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR
13 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	14 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	15 POPE BENEDICT	16 REV. F. JAMES SHURTLIFF	17 REV. E. JOHN SILVER	18 MSGR. HARRY K. SNOW	19 REV. BRYAN D. STITT
20 REV. RICHARD S. STURTZ	21 REV. RAYMOND J. WERTMAN	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 MSGR. PAUL E. WHITMORE	24 REV. LEO A. WILEY	25 REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG	26 REV. RICHARD P. ZUK
27 REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN	28 REV. ANDREW J. AMYOT	29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 MSGR. JOSEPH G. AUBIN	31 REV. PIERRE AUBIN MSC	For more copies write to: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669	

For more information visit us online at: www.mprpapostolaie
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society www.myvocation.net
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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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Bishop LaValley' Schedule

April 26 – 11 a.m., Priests Personnel Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Confirmation for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown, Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter, and St. Andrew's, Sackets Harbor at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

April 28 – Diocesan Youth Rally at Immaculate Heart Central High School in Watertown, NY.

April 29 – 10 a.m., Confirmation for St. Cyril's Alexandria Bay and St. Francis Xavier, Redwood at St. Cyril's Church.

April 30 – 7 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg.

May 1 – 7p.m., Confirmation for St. Mary's, Massena, Sacred Heart, Massena, St. Joseph's, Massena, St. Lawrence, Louisville at St. Mary'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:
May 2 - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh
May 23 - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

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 24 – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. T. Egan, S.J., 1994
April 26 – Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998
April 27 – Rev. John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., 1908; Rev. Michael F. Ambrose, 1934
April 28 – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967
April 29 – Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999
April 30 – Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958
May 1 – Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

To Report Abuse

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

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Catholics across the diocese took part in "Too Few in the Pew" workshops in three sites of the North Country earlier this month. Above, Joseph Brosk, St. James Parish, Carthage, asks presenter Sister Louise Alff a question at the workshop session at Augustinian Academy, Carthage. Shown with Brosk are Larry Ambeau, Margaret



Briggs, Nina Hershey, Joanne Lazore and St. Joseph Sister Annunciata Collins. At right Sister Louise speaks to the participants at Trinity Catholic School, Massena, about the many practical ways a parish can become more welcoming in its invitation to reach out to the people in the pew.

At 'Too Few in the Pew'

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Director of Evangelization

Franciscan Sister Louise Alff, recently presented the workshop *Too Few in the Pew* in three strategic areas of the Diocese—Carthage, Massena, and Plattsburgh.

Sister Louise's own experi-

ence of evangelization, both on the parish and diocesan level, offered to the participants her own personal stories of reaching out to both active and inactive Catholics.

She quickly pointed out that the manner in which we try to reach out to inactive Catholics, alienated Catholics and to the unchurched is to begin each

day with prayer.

Praying to the Holy Spirit helps us to recognize that there are open doors of opportunities in which we encounter people who need to be listened to, supported and comforted, she said.

As baptized Catholics, we all have the responsibility to evangelize. A disciple is one who has the intention of following Jesus, to hear His word, to be fed by the Eucharist, and to go out to proclaim the Gospel.

Being a Christian is an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ and being His ambassadors radiating His love and passing on that love with those we touch.

Sister Louise helped participants understand in their encounters with people, that each person is unique, has various personalities and needs, and desires to be respected.

Some of the personalities Sister Louise described were people like Corporate Cory, Seeking Susie, Apathetic Annie, Angry Allen, and Hurting Henry and Hannah.

She suggested ways in which each could be invited

to a parish event, small community, spiritual reading, religious shrine, etc.

Within each of these personalities, there are five potential doors to open to begin a dialogue, e.g. questions that are asked, awakening of memories of happy experiences of parish or school events, reading portions of spiritual books or the lives of the saints, current Catholic events in the country, and major life events—birth of a child, death, illness.

Each of these doors can trigger stirrings within the heart to share a story. Leave the door open to future dialogue.

One of the greatest ways of reaching out is the value and gift of hospitality, Sister Louise said. The way of hospitality is the way of Jesus Christ—"I was a stranger and you welcomed Me." We can be welcoming in the way we greet people, introducing ourselves, offering peace, congratulating people, explaining the ritual, etc.

There are special moments of welcoming in our parishes e.g. Christmas, Easter, Sacra-

mental Events, Mother's and Father's Day, Weddings, Funerals, and Hidden Days e.g. Ash Wednesday. The person next to us may be one who needs a special welcome.

Sister Louise encouraged parishes to look at the United States document *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*. She gave practical ideas to the participants that were based on Goals I, II, and III of the document.

These strategies flesh out the goals: to form all Catholics to become more enthusiastic about their faith; to invite all people to hear the message of the Gospel so that they may come to join in the fullness of the Catholic faith; and to be increasingly transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

The workshop concluded with a prayer from St. Teresa of Avila recalling that we are the Body of Christ, the hands, feet, and eyes of Jesus Christ reaching out to do His work with compassion and love.



St. Joseph Sister Yvonne Cusson of Ausable Forks and other participants from Clinton, Essex, and Adirondack Deaneries greet each other in the opening prayer at the Too Few in the Pew workshop at St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh.

FACES OF FAITH

Catholics of all ages learn, share, pray



The four-year-old preschoolers at Holy Name School in AuSable Forks enjoy time with St. Joseph Sister Yvonne Therese Cusson after religion class. In front are Carter, Carson and Nicholas; back, Kari, Kymberlynn, Sister Yvonne, Logan, Abbey, and Elizabeth.

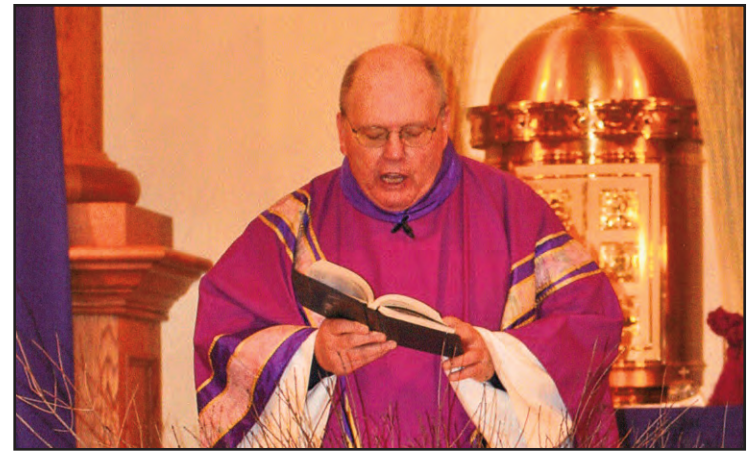


PHOTO BY ROBERT CAPONE

Father Michael J. Gaffney directed the annual city-wide Lenten Mission at the four parishes in Watertown this year. Father Gaffney, shown here during the opening of the service at St. Anthony's Church, preached each evening on the scripture of the day and how each reading inspires his prayer. The parishes of St. Patrick, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Holy Family and St. Anthony's participate in the mission each year



More than 35 parishioners of St. Martin's and St. John's in Port Leyden and Lyons Falls took part in Lenten Longings small group sessions. One of the activities the group undertook were donations to the Port Leyden Food Pantry located at St. Martin's Rectory. Crosses were made and laminated by two group members which had a food item listed on it. Each member took two or more crosses and then shopped for the items written on the crosses. Above, Fran Petersen and Betty Green place their food donations on the shelves at the food pantry.



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Father Timothy Canaan, pastor of St. John's in Plattsburgh, traveled to Watertown to offer a talk on the sacrament of reconciliation for the "elect" of Holy Family parish. In the foreground is Patrick Bates, Holy Family Pastoral Associate role-playing confession with Father Canaan. In the background is Joshua Smith-Elect, Scott Osborn- Holy Family Parishioner and Brad Mercer- Elect. The program was held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph who also attended which gave the Elect an opportunity to become more familiar with the religious life of the Sisters.

Religious liberty at center stage at prayer breakfast

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Religious liberty was topic A at the eighth annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, held April 19 at a Washington hotel.

"Never in the lifetime of anyone present here has the religious liberty of the American people been as threatened as it is today," warned Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, in remarks to the estimated 800 people in attendance.

"We must remind our fellow Americans, and especially those who exercise power, that religious liberty - the freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment -- has been essential to the founding, development and improvement of the American republic."

Anderson said, "Today we find a new hostility to the role of religious institutions in American life at a time when government is expanding its reach in extraordinary ways. And it is not only because of the Obama administration's HHS contraception mandate."

Besides the mandate requiring that most health plans cover the cost of contraception, sterilization and some drugs that can induce abortion, Anderson pointed to the Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC case, a court challenge to a Lutheran school's firing of a teacher. The attempt to more narrowly define who is a religious employee was unanimously rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

He also noted the revocation of a federal human trafficking grant awarded to the U.S. bishops' Department of Migration and Refugee Services because MRS would not offer its clients the "full range of reproductive services," including abortion.

"A government willing to affect the faith and mission of the church is a govern-



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, speaks on threats to religious liberty April 19 during the eighth annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington. Catholics in public office, church officials, religious and members of the Knights were among those in attendance

ment willing to change the identity of the church," Anderson declared.

"During his (2008) visit to Washington, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that 'Christians are easily tempted to conform themselves to the spirit of this age,'" he said. "The spirit of our age is profoundly secular. And secularism accepts religion -- if it accepts it at all -- only on its own terms. Under this view, religion is subordinated to the political interests of the secular state. And it is precisely this subordination of religion to the state that the First Amendment seeks to prevent."

Anderson recalled when British Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed Congress in December 1941, with England being subjected to Nazi bombing runs and the United States having just suffered the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor.

"In that worst of times, he scorned the enemies of freedom and defiantly asked, 'What kind of people do they think we are!' Today, with the same defiance, we can declare, 'What kind of Catholics do they think we are!'" Anderson said to applause. "Do

they really expect us to go gently into that dark night they are preparing for religious liberty in America? Do they know that people who believe in 'one holy catholic and apostolic church' can never agree to compromise our church by entangling it in intrinsically evil acts?"

While Anderson stuck to domestic issues, threats to religious liberty around the world was the subject of the keynote address by Archbishop Francis A. Chullikatt, apostolic nuncio at the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Archbishop Chullikatt noted repeatedly how Catholics and Christians are threatened on a regular basis for professing or exercising their faith. The former papal nuncio to Iraq, he expressed sadness over the Oct. 31, 2010, massacre at a church in Baghdad, where 52 people were murdered, including two priests he knew personally.

"Religious liberty is the first of human rights," Archbishop Chullikatt said. He quoted Pope Benedict XVI, who in his 2011 World Day of Peace message, said, "A freedom that is hostile or indifferent to God is self-negating."

"What is at stake here," Archbishop Chullikatt said, "is the future of humanity itself." He added freedom of religion is "not only a moral but also a civil right."

Such freedom, the archbishop said, "still awaits effective implementation in many countries." He cited statistics from a U.N. office that monitors discrimination and intolerance to human rights, which indicated that 70 percent of the world's people live in countries with a high degree of restriction on human rights, with 51 percent of the population lives in nations where the government has used force to keep citizens from exercising those rights.

Cardinal marks pope's birthday, defends teaching

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI does not want to undo the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, but he is working to ensure that "the foundation and heart of the Christian faith shines again," said Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch in a book released in time for the seventh anniversary of the pope's election.

Bishops, theologians and concerned Catholics have an obligation to help the faithful understand the theology and teaching of the pope, Cardinal Koch wrote in the book that was to be presented in Rome April 16, Pope Benedict's 85th birthday and just three days before the anniversary of his election.

"The theological and pastoral thought of Pope Benedict XVI continually is exposed to serious misunderstandings," the cardinal wrote in the preface of the Italian edition of "The Mystery of the Mustard Seed: Foundations of the Thought of Benedict XVI."

Cardinal Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said the two most common misunderstandings are that the pope is concerned only about a small, active portion of the Catholic faithful, and that he wants to take the church back to the time before Vatican II.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the pope had spoken on more than one occasion about his belief that the Catholic Church would get smaller and smaller, but that eventually the world would discover the hope and joy present in the small community of true believers and be attracted again to the Christian faith.

Cardinal Koch said, "A widespread criticism holds that the pope is not concerned" about the church as a whole but is focused on a small portion of his flock and "is content with that."

"The only thing that is true in this criticism is that, in reality, the pope is convinced that the true renewal of the church cannot begin with the masses, but only with small movements" inspired by the Holy Spirit and acting as leaven for the rest of the church, the cardinal said.

"Another deeper and frequently repeated criticism holds that Pope Benedict XVI has begun a march backward and wants to return to a time before Vatican II," he wrote.

"Pope Benedict absolutely does not want to turn back, but to go deeper just like the mustard seed that grows only from the depths of the earth. The individual reforms don't matter to the pope, what matters is that the foundation and the heart of the Christian faith shine forth again," which requires a return to basics about love, faith and truth, the cardinal wrote.

Invoking the Gospel parable about the minuscule mustard seed that grows into a great tree, the cardinal argues that the core of the pope's thinking and teaching rests in his conviction that great things always begin with small steps and that from the moment of creation God has chosen something seemingly small and insignificant to demonstrate his love and carry out the work of salvation.

"The mustard seed is not only a parable of Christian hope, but also demonstrates that the great is born of the small, not through revolutionary changes," but in a process that is slow, gradual and requires patience, he said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Fordham symposium explores use of language in new Roman Missal

BRONX, N.Y. (CNS) -- The language used in the new translation of the Mass has evoked a variety of responses, from highly enthusiastic to deeply distressed, and can be seen as both a gift and a challenge, according to speakers at a symposium April 16 at Jesuit-run Fordham University. The program, "Letting Us Pray: A Symposium on Language in Liturgy," explored the intricacies of the new English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal, in use in parishes since last November. A thorough appreciation of the new translation requires a firm grounding "both in the Gospel and in the history and tradition of Catholic worship, not some nostalgic, colorized version of the past" according to keynote speaker Mercy Sister Julia Upton, provost and professor of theology at St. John's University. Sister Julia said the new language could jolt people into a "second naivete," where old sacred symbols become newly accessible, without sacrificing either the symbol's integrity or the believer's modernity. "What has been called the 'new' Roman Missal is not new! It is the same Mass, but it sounds different," Sister Julia said. "This third edition of the Roman Missal was published in Latin in 2002 and took almost 10 years to translate." Announced by Pope John Paul II in 2000, the missal is the book of prayers used in the worship in the Latin-rite church. The English translation was a lengthy and rigorous process that took place through the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. It was approved in sections by the various bishops' conferences. It received final approval from the U.S. bishops in November 2009. The tension associated with the implementation of the revised translation can lead to new thinking and dialogue if worshippers remain open and hopeful, Sister Julia said. "There is a lot for all of us to learn in this process."

Citing doctrinal problems, Vatican announces reforms of nuns' group

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Citing "serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life," the Vatican announced a major reform of an association of women's religious congregations in the U.S. to ensure their fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women's ordination and homosexuality. Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle will provide "review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work" of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Vatican announced April 18. The archbishop will be assisted by Bishop Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, Ohio, and Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Ill., and draw on the advice of fellow bishops, women religious and other experts. The LCWR, a Maryland-based umbrella group that claims about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women's communities as members, represents about 80 percent of the country's 57,000 women religious. In Silver Spring, Md., the presidency of the LCWR issued a statement saying it was "stunned by the conclusions of the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Because the leadership of LCWR has the custom of meeting annually with the staff of CDF in Rome and because the conference follows canonically approved statutes, we were taken by surprise. "This is a moment of great import for religious life and the wider church. We ask your prayers as we meet with the LCWR National Board within the coming month to review the mandate and prepare a response," the statement said. A spokeswoman for the LCWR said its leadership would not be granting interviews until after a wider consultation with its members in May.

In letters to Congress: Bishops oppose proposed cuts in services to poor

WASHINGTON (CNS)-- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has expressed its concerns over proposed cuts in federal programs serving the country's poorest and most vulnerable people in a series of letters to congressional leaders since April 4 as debate over the fiscal year 2013 budget begins.

The letters from Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, urge Congress to draw a "circle of protection" around programs that serve "the least among us."

The letters were sent after the House of Representatives adopted on March 27 a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution - with a \$600 billion deficit - written by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis. The plan calls for massive spending cuts in nonmilitary programs, turning Medicaid into a block grant program administered by the states, reshaping Medicare over the next decade, and simplifying the tax code by closing loopholes and lowering individual and corporate tax rates.

A common message in the letters focuses on "shared sacrifice by all, including raising adequate revenues," the elimination of unnecessary military and other spending and fairly addressing long-term costs associated with health insurance and retirement costs.

In a letter to the House Agriculture Committee, Bishop Blaire said the House-passed budget "fails to meet these moral criteria."

A summary of each letter follows.

• April 4 to the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related

Agencies:

As one of the largest private providers of housing services for poor and vulnerable people, the Catholic community sees a growing need for assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Cutting funds for housing programs "could cause thousands of individuals and families to lose their housing and worsen the hardship of thousands more in need of affordable housing."

The bishops urge the leaders to protect funding for housing for the elderly, people with disabilities, and people with AIDS; Veterans Affairs-supported housing; McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs; Section 8 rental assistance; and other programs that ensure safe and affordable housing for vulnerable Americans.

• April 16 to the House Agriculture Committee:

A letter signed by Bishop Blaire urged the committee to "resist for moral and human reasons unacceptable cuts to hunger and nutrition programs."

Acknowledging that the committee is under instruction to cut \$33.2 billion from agricultural programs, the USCCB urged Congress to "protect essential programs that serve poor and hungry people over subsidies that assist large and relatively well-off agricultural enterprises."

The letter pointed particularly to proposed cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, and how such cuts will harm hungry children, poor families, vulnerable seniors and workers who can't find work.

"These cuts are unjustified and wrong. If cuts are necessary, the committee should first look towards reducing and targeting commodity

and subsidy programs that disproportionately go to large growers and agribusiness," Bishop Blaire wrote.

• April 16 to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies:

Support for 10 domestic and international food and nutrition programs that impact the lives of people worldwide was outlined in a two-page letter.

"Adequate nutrition is essential to protect human life and dignity. We urge support for just and sufficient funding for agriculture policies that serve hungry, poor and vulnerable people while promoting good stewardship of the land and natural resources," the bishops said.

They opposed cuts in domestic programs such as the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program; the Emergency Food Assistance Program for food storage and distribution grants in local communities; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Commodity Supplemental Food Program serving low-income seniors, pregnant and breastfeeding women and infants and children; Conservation Stewardship Program that helps farmers conserve and care for farmland and Value Added Producer Grants that help farmers and ranchers develop new farm and food-related businesses.

International programs cited as vital and undeserving of funding cuts include Title II Food Aid; the "safe box" provision to help chronically hungry communities build lasting agricultural capacity that minimizes the impact of severe weather and other catastrophes; and Local and Regional Procurement of food commodities to reduce food assistance costs and shorten delivery times.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The Good Shepherd: a model for our own lives

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Of all the many titles by which we address Jesus Christ, that of "Good Shepherd" is the most appealing to millions of Christians. And rightly so.

The image of Jesus as a caring, comforting, and gentle Shepherd can even be found on the catacombs of third-century Rome.

Even though He shares in the awesome power of the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus never forces us to remain in His sheepfold, never "browbeats" us into submission.

His love is everlasting and

constant, and His voice is ever clear, leading us to lightsome pastures that truly nourish and strengthen our souls.

It is a fact that there are many bad shepherds whose strident voices attempt to drown out the truth of His words, and the gentleness of His call.

We must not allow ourselves to be dominated by these shrill sirens of falsehood and evil. They are so effective in dominating the minds and hearts of many, including our youth.

We must not sit passively on the sidelines while our finest hopes for the future

are lured into danger. Many of them have already perished. Many others are being drawn toward a twisted and unhappy adulthood.

Jesus has laid down His life for these sheep, as well as for those who have faithfully stood by their baptismal and confirmation commitments.

How tragic if more are lost. It will not be the fault of the Good Shepherd, but the fault of those with whom Jesus has shared His role of guardian of the flock.

In the first reading, we continue to hear from Peter's speeches from the Acts of the Apostles.

The Sanhedrin had imprisoned Peter because of his alarming success in converting the Jews to the Good



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

APRIL 29

Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 4:8-12

1 John 3:1-2

John 12:11-18

News. Peter tells the leaders that "there is no salvation in anyone else."

In the second reading, John assures us that we are "children of God" and as yet we cannot grasp the full meaning of what we shall one day become.

These words give us encouragement for the present and challenge for the future.

The Gospel invites each of us to imitate Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd in His caring for His sheep, especially those who are most in

need. This reading also invites us to plan every day new ways in which we can be good shepherds.

Who are the ones in your family that need special care? Who are the ones that need extra love and understanding?

Start with them. And then, branch out to your friends who may need some shepherding. There are no limits to the opportunities life provides almost every day. The power and strength, after all, flow from the gifts of the Spirit we received from our Baptism, our Confirmation, and from frequent reception of the Eucharist.

May God bless us for our efforts to become shepherds after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY

Who will be able to get into heaven?

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service

It might surprise you to know that you don't have to be a Catholic to get into

heaven. For that matter, you don't even have to be a Christian, but you do have to detest evil.

All salvation will come through the redemptive

power of Jesus Christ.

Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical "Redemptoris Missio", wrote:

"The universality of salvation means that it is granted not only to those who explicitly believe in Christ and have entered the church. Since salvation is offered to all, it must be made concretely available to all. But it is clear that today, as in the past, many people do not have an opportunity to come to know or accept the Gospel revelation or to enter the church. ... For such people salvation in Christ is accessible by virtue of a grace. ... This grace comes from Christ; it is the result of his

sacrifice."

Does this idea cause you to wonder who can get into heaven?

A lot of people are like the Pharisees, who condemned Jesus for allowing a common prostitute to bathe his feet with her tears.

No one but God can judge someone else's level of holiness. Remember the words of Jesus: "The last will be first, and the first will be last."

Caryll Houselander wrote a beautiful book entitled, "The Reed of God."

In the book he writes: "How is it that people who do not believe in any creed, who have no moral standards and who do not recognize charity as a thing necessary for salvation are often conspicuously kind, warm-hearted, and tolerant; whereas professing Christians are often notoriously hard, censorious, and exacting? How is it that a person known to be 'religious' is often the very last person to

whom we would go with a burden of shame?"

Given these thoughts, here are some things to ponder:

1. Heaven is a place. There has to be "locus" because we are human beings; we are not pure spirits like the angels. Our bodies require a place to live and walk and be.

2. Heaven is also a state. It is a state of bliss, which comes from living intimately with God.

3. Heaven is a kingdom of justice. Like the angels and archangels, there may be different levels of holiness among heaven's citizens. The difference may be monumental in some cases, such as between Mother Teresa and the last wicked sinner, who managed to repent in time to be saved.

As Luke reminds us: "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

I really enjoy the NCC in its electronic 'green' form. The pictures are much better, the articles easy to read (and enlarge for my older eyes) and the same familiar format is there. I love it!

This was a superb idea –
thank you!
~Bill Kellerhals

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AT THE MOVIES

THE LUCKY ONE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Ah, how time flies. Wasn't it only yesterday that we were watching Zac Efron sing and dance his way through high school? And here he is in "The Lucky One" (Warner Bros.), all grown up and a Marine veteran of the Iraq War to boot.

This being a Nicholas Sparks property, we linger by the troubled rivers of Babylon only long enough to learn that Efron's character -- Sgt. Logan Thibault by name -- has earned the titular accolade by surviving at least two close calls. Logan attributes his good fortune to the photograph of an attractive young stranger he accidentally discovered in the midst of battle. So, on returning home, he seeks her out to thank her.

By identifying the light-

house that looms in the background of the image -- what are the odds? -- Logan finds himself in the Hallmark card-perfect rural setting of fictional Hamden, La. There the object of his search turns out to be local kennel owner Beth Green (Taylor Schilling).

Logan is too tongue-tied, during their first encounter, to explain the nature of his quest -- thus storing up plot complications for the future. But he makes a better impression on Beth's wise grandmother, Ellie (Blythe Danner), who hires him to help out with the dogs.

And Logan soon hits it off with Beth's clever-beyond-his-years young son, Ben (Riley Thomas Stewart), as well.

Despite some initial resistance on Beth's part -- it takes her a full 30 minutes of screen time to wake up and smell the pheromones --

and to the dismay of her scheming ex-husband Keith (Jay R. Ferguson), the black-hat town deputy, our two destined lovebirds inevitably fall for each other.

Director Scott Hicks crafts a serviceable date movie from Catholic author Sparks' novel, as written for the screen by Will Fetters. Attention is diverted from the jumbo improbabilities at work by Alar Kivilo's luxuriant cinematography of Cajun-country sunsets and such as well as by some wry observations from Granny and Ben.

But the generally amiable proceedings -- which register, at times, like a prolonged iced tea commercial -- are marred by a couple of overheated scenes glamorizing the as-yet unwed leads' serial bedroom encounters. Though relatively brief, they strictly preclude viewership by any but



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

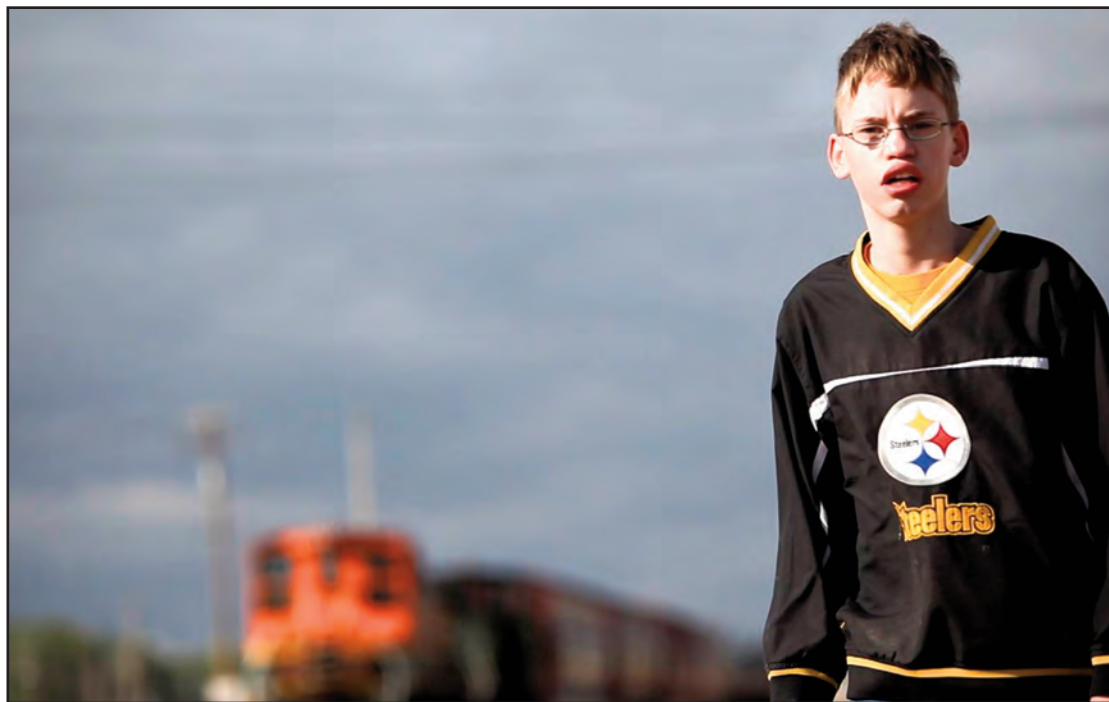
Taylor Schilling and Zac Efron star in a scene from the movie "The Lucky One."

adults.

The film contains a benign view and semigraphic portrayal of premarital sexual activity, a reference to out-of-wedlock pregnancy, at least one use of profanity and a handful of crude and

crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Alex Hopkins of Sioux City, Iowa, is seen in "Bully." In this poignant documentary filmmaker Lee Hirsch sheds light on a widespread and tenacious social problem and provides a valuable - though not unproblematic--starting point for important family discussions. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS PHOTO/OPENROAD

Guy Pearce and Maggie Grace star in a scene from the movie "Lockout." Framed for the murder of a fellow operative, a late-21st-century CIA agent (Pearce) is offered a reprieve if he rescues the president's (Peter Hudson) daughter (Grace) who's been taken hostage by rioting prisoners during a goodwill tour of an orbiting penitentiary. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III - adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 - parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

CLINTON

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

\$1000 JACKPOT BINGO

Champlain – St. Mary's Academy will be having a \$1000 Jackpot Bingo.

Date: May 7

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Features: Proceeds will benefit St. Mary's Church. There will be Pull Tabs and a Full Concession. Extra Bonus Jar \$600+. \$1000 Jackpot is only with 110 or more Admissions.

PRAYER MEETING

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church, St. Brother Andre' Chapel.

Features: Prayers and songs of praise followed by devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Divine Mercy Chapel/Novena, as well as prayers for individual, community, state, national and global concerns. Facilitated by Living Waters Healing Ministry. Open to all

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Soaking Prayer is offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month under the direction of the Living Water's Healing Ministry.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Upper room at St. Peter's

Features: A quiet prayerful environment, along with a focused instructional CD followed by soothing instrumental music, allows participants to be immersed/soaked in God's love and healing grace. Everyone is welcome

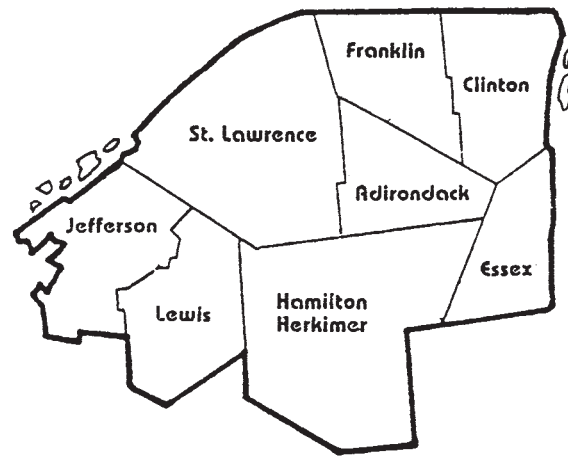
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

Contact: For more information about spending a special hour with Jesus weekly, or becoming a substitute, please call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com



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.

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: be immersed in prayer with individual prayer time for 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 olaprayhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Ellenburg – Or 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 olaprayhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

LECTIO 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 olaprayhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.

JEFFERSON

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

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

LEWIS

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Lowville – St. Peter's Annual Festival has been planned.

Date: May 18-20

Place: grounds of St. Peter's Church

Features: Ontario Amusement will provide Carnival rides including a special Saturday matinee with unlimited rides for \$12 per person from 1 p.m. to 5. Homemade food specialties including Shiskabob, Pizza, Clam Chowder, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fried Dough, and Pie & Ice Cream. Other booths will include "This-n-That", a Giant Bake Sale, and Games for all ages Bingo will be held Friday evening at 7 p.m. The festival concludes on Sunday with a Chicken Barbecue with all the fixings. Take-outs will be available.; at 4 p.m. the drawings begin for cash prizes totaling \$2000

ST. LAWRENCE

LASAGNA DINNER

Lisbon – St. Philip & James Church will be having a lasagna dinner.

Date: April 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: American Legion

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Seniors 60+, \$6; Children 5-12, \$5.50; under 5, Free; Parents and 3 or more of their children, \$25

Features: Take-outs will be available. Large orders please call 393-2090 after 2 p.m. The Lasagna is prepared by the Culinary Arts Class, northwest Tech Boces.

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: May 13

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

SPRING SOCIAL

Gouverneur – St. James Church will be having their Spring Social.

Date: May 10, 11 & 12

Features: Rides, games, food, fired dough, all three days. Bingo will be May 11 at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. Craft fair May 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact: Joseph Laurenza at 287-3193 for more information.

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

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.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – St. Marys Church is holding a special rosary to mark First Saturday

Date: May 5

Time: 3:15 PM

Features: Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to Her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace; 15 minute private meditation on the Glorious Mysteries; Confessions will be available.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL ROSARY

On Sunday May 6 there will be a continuous praying of the Rosary throughout the world.

Time: 2 p.m.

Features: Praying twenty decades of the Rosary on that day. The intention is: In this year of Faith, we ask to follow the spirit of Mary's; "Be it done to me according to Your Word." Our Blessed Mother is a force for Faith. Who better to lead and guide us than she who is the Mother of Faith. Pray alone, with family, or with friends. There are no other requirements. We encourage you to take part in this wonderful opportunity to join in prayer with our brothers and sisters, all over the world, who will be praying for Faith.



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

Working Boys Center sends its thanks

From Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Mission Director

Recently, the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg granted a donation to the Working Boys Center in Quito, Ecuador.

With the helpful guidance of Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, the Working Boys' Center provides food, education, child care, housing and education for thousands of children, men and women in the city of Quito - estimated to include 100,000 boys, some as young as 5, who work in the city's streets shining shoes, washing cars and selling gum to help support their families.

The boys provide up to 85 percent of their household income, and some of these families survive on two dollars per day.

Originally designed to serve the "shoeshine boys," the Center has changed to include the whole family, in order to make a difference in their lives.

In a recent note of thanks from the Working Boys Center, they stated, "your recent donation is a gift for which we are truly grateful. More importantly, our families in Quito could not participate in the formative programs of the Working Boys Center which stress ten important areas of life- loyalty, personal formation, family, religion, education, economy, work, recreation, health and housing - without YOUR generous support.

"On behalf of our entire team of general directors at the WBC, we'd like you to know that your support empowers us to feed 400 families of working children three meals a day, six days each week. In addition, our members are able to attend classes and participate in extra-curricular activities at each of our three locations in Quito as a result of your generosity.

The Good News is that your financial assistance is making a real difference in the lives of our WBC members...."

Thank you for your support of our endeavors, like the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Real generosity at home translates to real help abroad. God Bless!

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



OBITUARIES

Burke — Alice (Maciel) Candido, 86; Funeral Services April 17, 2012 at St. George's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery.

Canton — Katherine M. Sullivan, 62; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at the O'Leary Funeral Home.

Champlain — Stanley D. Castine, 72; Funeral Services April 14, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Churubusco — Chester L. Trombley, 79; Funeral Services April 19, 2012 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton — Rosemary F. (Cornaire) Stage, 91; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Colton — Ruth (Donnelly) Turcotte, 94; Funeral Services April 21, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Croghan — Richard William Steiner, 65; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Edwards — Theresa E. (Brunet) Perrin, 90; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Heuvelton — Jeanne K. Moore, 93; Funeral Services April 21, 2012 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Keeseville — James John Lattrelle, 51; Funeral Services April 19, 2012 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Long Lake — Mary JoAnne Flanagan, 61; Funeral Services April 14, 2012 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Louisville — Victor R. Castanier, 86; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church.

Lowville — Anthony W. "Tony" Pyrek, 95; Funeral Services April 19, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Madrid — Barbara A. (Welch) Erwin, 77; Funeral Services April 21, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Massena — Gladys A. (Bero) Allen, 79; Funeral Services April 21, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Teresa M. Schwartzkopf, 87; Funeral Services April 14, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moers — Henry J. "Joey" Cardin, 48; Funeral Services April 17, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Norwood — Clayton R. "Clayt" LaRose, 63; Funeral Services April 16, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Margarita Burke, 86; Funeral Services April 23, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Steven R. Harris, 59; Funeral Services April 17, 2012 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — George Swan, 77; Funeral Service April 18, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Earl W. Carpenter, 84; Funeral Services April 21, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Lawrence W. Doyle, 89; Fu-

neral Services April 13, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Francis A. "Gus" Lapham, 83; Funeral Services April 16, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Port Henry — Martin Frank Bezon, 90; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Potsdam — Raymond F. Petrosillo, 69; Memorial Services April 22, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Rouses Point — Bertha R. "Bea" Letourneau, 93; Funeral Services April 17, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Regina Marie (Pinto) VanCour, 68; Funeral Services April 20, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church.

Watertown — David L. Anthony, 71; Funeral Services April 19, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown — Lucille A. (Collier) Champine, 62; Funeral Services April 16, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

Watertown — John P. Flavin, 93; Funeral Services April 14, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Newark Cemetery, Newark.

Watertown — Ruth D. (Ward) Murphy, 93; Funeral Services April 18, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Old St. James Cemetery.

West Chazy — Maynard E. Pelkey, 65; Funeral Services April 13, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

The Grace of 'IT'

By Tracy Leonard
Contributing Writer

As a senior in 2004 at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, I had the honor and blessing of being a member of the IHC Mystery Players.

Since 2010, I've had the privilege of serving as an adult mentor in the group.

Certainly, my involvement both as a student and mentor has helped deepen my relationship with others, but ultimately and most importantly, with Christ.

One of the questions we often ask ourselves as Mystery Players is "will I get it?"

What is this "it" we speak of and how is "it" obtained?

To each, the answer to this question may vary, for it is uniquely different for every individual. I like to think of "it" as a personal experience with God. A moment of deep spiritual connection when faith and God's love engulfs your inner being and moves you to a new level of spiritual maturity and understanding.

I'm not even sure this explanation fully describes what I feel when I think I've "got it."

I believe "getting it" and understanding what it is you've got are two different things.

First of all, how do you "get it?" Well, let me try to explain my understanding. One who longs for this intimate connection with the Lord may think they merely need to go to church more often, say



Tracy Leonard

a certain number of prayers and avoid all serious sins. Doing this much calls one to holiness because he or she is in the state of grace and has God dwelling in their soul, but "getting it" calls us to something greater. "Getting it" aims further.

One who seeks this "it" we speak of, shall strive to live more fully for God by greater imitation of Christ.

He or she who really "gets it" genuinely tries to think, speak or act more like Jesus each day. For the greater one's success in "putting on" Christ, the greater your degree of intimate connection with Him.

So how do you know you've "got it" and what do you do with "it" once you've obtained "it?"

It is through everyday experiences that we may feel we've "got it," but the time I feel I've "gotten it" most is when I've become vulnerable and trust that God is working in and through me.

Some may experience this connection when they are struck with wonder and awe at the sight of Niagara Falls or a butterfly, at the peak of a mountain, at the birth of a child, through service at the soup kitchen or on a mission trip, celebrating a Sacrament, at the bedside of a loved one, or maybe even at a time of intense suffering.

To each his own, but the real question lies in what we do with this great gift of grace we obtain. Unless we "put on Christ" and share that gift, we've failed to grow in deeper connection with others and God.

So here is the challenge: try to become more aware of these moments when you've "gotten it" and take the opportunity He gives you each day to "get it"; but most importantly, pay it forward and ask God for the grace to understand and be thankful for what you've "got."

Indian River youth ministry program holds retreat

EVANS MILLS- The Parishes of Indian River youth ministry, in partnership with the Catholic Teen Ministry of Fort Drum, sponsored their first spiritual retreat Feb 25-26 at St



Young people from the Parishes of Indian River took part in their first retreat Feb. 25-26 at St. Mary's in Evans Mills. They are shown above with pastor, Father Thomas Kormmeyer.

Mary's Parish Center.

Twenty five youth from four parishes attended the event which challenged teens to consider their spiritual giftedness amidst the challenges that are posed to youth in today's culture.

Brigitte Gallagher, the parish's coordinator for youth ministry, said that the retreat was a huge success.

"I think youth ministry is absolutely essential to maintaining a future Catholic Church," she said. "Youth ministry shows teens and preteens that there are adults out there who want to spend time with them and listen to them, and who believe that they are worth their time and energy."

"When we (adults) can facilitate bringing these youth together, the effect is contagious, and we give our

youth the gift of solidarity in Christ," she said.

In the spirit of Lent, youth who attended the two-day retreat also participated in the sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Thomas Kormmeyer, pastor

As a follow-up to the retreat, youth were asked to commit several hours to community service.

As a result, 20 youth and parent volunteers participated in a service project at the Watertown Urban Mission which was held on March 10.

Gallagher noted that events like these energize youth who begin to feel less isolated in their faith.

"It takes parents, young people, older people and any other members of the Church who simply care about our youth," she said. "It takes a community."