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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 4, 2012

Find joy in Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI called on young people to not pursue power, money and prestige, but to find true joy in Christ and live a life of generous service to others.

In his message for World Youth Day 2012, he told the world's young Catholics to start making the world a bet-

ter, more just and humane place right now, even while they continue to pursue their studies, talents and interests.

Do not be content in giving the minimum, he said. "The world needs men and women who are competent and generous, willing to be at the service of the common

good," the pope said. Vatican and most dioceses around the world will mark World Youth Day on Palm Sunday, April 1. International celebrations of World Youth Day are normally held every two-three years. In the message, released March 27, the pope chose the theme from

St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always." The pope said: "Joy is at the heart of the Christian experience." In a world marked by so much sorrow and anxiety, "joy is an important witness to the beauty and reliability of the Christian faith."

Diocese bids farewell to Janice Shoen

Janice Shoen retired as executive director of the diocesan Office of Development March 31.

Over the past 23 years, in her work for the Bishop's Fund Appeal, Planned Giving, Stewardship, Bishop's Heritage Circle and the Foundation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Mrs. Shoen has helped to raise more than \$36 million to fund the work of the Catholic Church in the North Country. She served under five bishops.

She was honored at a retirement luncheon March 27.

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Faces of faith in Albany, Italy

This week's NCC features photo spreads from Catholics at the Capitol and the pilgrimage to Italy

PHOTOS, PAGES 5 and 8-9

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley prepares the oil of sacred chrism, a mixture of olive oil and balsam, during the annual Chrism Mass held March 29 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Also shown above are Deacon Kevin Mastellon of Watertown, Father Douglas Lucia, who served as master of ceremonies; and book bearer Shayne Hays from St. James School in Gouverneur. In addition to blessing the oil of the sick, the oil of catechumens and oil of sacred chrism, Bishop LaValley led the priests of the diocese in a renewal of their commitment to priestly service.

HOLY WEEK



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Jesus at the Last Supper is depicted in a stained-glass window at Christ the Redeemer Mausoleum in St. John Cemetery in the New York borough of Queens. The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, celebrated April 15 this year in the Latin-rite church. In his Follow Me column this Week, Bishop LaValley writes that we are now in "the most holy of weeks. Please enter the sacredness of the moment and join your parish family at the beautiful liturgies in the days ahead. With a deep sense of gratitude and unbridled hope, let us walk together, following Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Young adults answer a special invitation... p. 16

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A 'new' tradition

When I was growing up, I always loved Holy Week, most likely because I was quite diligent about keeping Lenten resolutions as a kid and was very ready to eat my sweets or sleep past 7 a.m. Mass.

But I also enjoyed taking part in the fascinating liturgies of the Triduum.

It was only once a year that we saw the bishop wash people's feet and lead the way in kissing the cross.

It was also a source of great personal pride that I had endured – without too much complaint – the longest liturgies of the year!

I remember, as well, though vaguely, that Holy Week was the time that the bishop blessed the holy oils for parish use in the months to follow. With the major celebrations of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, the annual Chrism Mass just didn't get much attention.

That all changed a few years ago when one of our bishops decided to move the Mass to a time before Holy Week, making it easier for priests and school children to travel to Ogdensburg.

This year, the Chrism Mass was held on March 29, and it seems to have developed into a wonderful tradition for our diocese.

From my vantage point, every part of our North Country family of faith was represented.

Most of the priests were present to renew their commitment to their ministry.

Rows and rows of children from Catholic schools and religious education programs filled the front.

And hundreds of Catholics from Lake Champlain to Lake Ontario joined in the celebration.

It really was a sign of the great vitality of the

Catholic faith in the North Country.

Coming just a couple days before Palm Sunday, the Chrism Mass has become an ideal way to kick off our observance of this holiest of weeks.

Listening to the priests renew their commitment and watching the bishop bless the oils that will be used to anoint our new priest and deacon, our confirmandi and sick ones we love, binds us together in a true community.

As we welcome hundreds of new Catholics into our family at Easter Vigils across the diocese, we can be confident that they are joining a church that is truly filled with faith, with hope and with love.

Mary Lou
Kilian

Welcome Spring

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Presence and Absence of Christ
Easter Sunday - April 7-8, 2012By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

In the death of a loved one, especially the death of a parent, a brother or sister, or a best friend, we have all experienced the painful loss. It is really the loss of our loved one's presence with us.

We can imagine how Mary Magdalene felt when she went to garden to find the stone rolled away and Jesus was not there.

How does the life of the risen Lord
manifest itself in your life?

There is an empty feeling of hopelessness until Mary runs back to Peter and the other disciple to share her story.

The story of evangelization begins here when Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb to see for themselves. T

here inside the tomb they find the winding sheets.

Peter and the other disciple "saw and believed".

The whole story of the Acts of the Apostles is also a story of evangelization fleshing out that Jesus is Risen and is among us.

He is the anointed one of God whose earthly ministry of healing and salvation was certified and validated by His resurrection from the dead.

Jesus' Resurrection was not just something nice that happened to Him, but a turning point in the story of salvation. T

he Resurrection identified Him as the one anointed Messiah of God. Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the apostles were witnesses to His life and to His return from the dead.

Their encounter with the Risen Lord empowered them to testify to His ongoing Messianic mission.

This testimony is not meant just for the Apostles, but for all who believe in Him. Cornelius and his household, to whom Peter had been sent, represent the whole wide world, called to share the life of the Risen Lord.

The Acts of the Apostles will continue to teach us throughout this Easter season how to be witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection.

If there had been no Peter to testify to what he had experienced, the Good News of Salvation might never have reached the ears of Cornelius and his household.

We are Church, A Family of Faith, who believe and have had some contact with the Risen Lord.

And so we must tell our story, our victory of life over death.

We all have a story of how Christ's healing power of His Cross and Resurrection has turned our lives around.

Your story is an Easter story of new life. If we do not share our story of the Good News of how Christ has touched our minds and hearts, then we are left as we might be at the end of the Gospel with an empty tomb, burial wrappings on the ground, and a failure to understand the Scriptures that Christ must rise from the dead.

We, too, look forward to our own final resurrection to be with the Lord and with those who have gone before us.

In the meantime, we continue the mission of proclaiming the Gospel: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." How does the life of the risen Lord manifest itself in your life?

How do you give witness to the presence of Christ in your life and the lives of others? How could you give better witness?

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Let us celebrate the joy of Easter!

FOLLOW ME

We begin the most holy of weeks

Passion Sunday Homily
St. Mary's Cathedral
April 1, 2012

I recently read about a dream. It was the end of time. Billions and billions of people were assembled on a great plain before the throne of God, waiting to be judged. Some were fearful but others were angry.

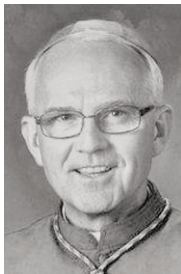
A woman said, "How can God judge us? What does He know about suffering? We endured terror, beatings, torture, death."

Then she pulled up her sleeve to show a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp on her arm.

Then a black man lowered his collar to show an ugly rope burn around his neck. "What about this?" he asked. "Lynched for no crime but being black. We have suffocated in slave ships, been wrenched from loved ones,

toiled till only death gave us release."

Next an old woman, who struggled all her life to wipe from her memory the long-ago emotional and physical torment she suffered from an abusive husband of forty-five years--she just sobbed on judgment day.



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

All had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He had permitted during their lives on earth.

How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred.

What did God know about human suffering?

They decided that God should be sentenced to live on earth - as a man. But because He was God, they would set certain safeguards to be sure He could not use His divine powers to help Himself.

Let Him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of His

birth be doubted so that none will know who is really His father.

Give Him work so difficult that even His family will think He is out of His mind when He tries to do it. Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends.

Let Him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury, convicted by a cowardly judge.

Let Him see what it means to be terribly alone, completely abandoned by every living thing.

Let Him be tortured and mocked.

Then let Him die.

Let Him die so that there can be no doubt He died. Let there be a great host of witnesses to verify it.

As each portion of the sentence was announced, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people assembled.

When they had finished pronouncing sentence, a long silence ensued. No one uttered a word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew. God had already served His sentence.

Our God came to live

among us. Put God on trial if you will. Shake your fist at Him, spit in His face, scourge Him, and finally crucify Him. What does it matter? It's already been done to Him.

It's a great comfort to us to know that Christ, the innocent and sinless One, has gone down the road of suffering before us, and gone down it to the end. On the Cross, He gathered up all human pain and made it His own.

Though the road of suffering is narrow and difficult, it is not the same since Christ traveled it. A bright light illuminates it. And even though it leads to Calvary, it doesn't end there. It ends at

Easter.

Those who link their sufferings to those of Christ become a source of blessings for others, and will share Christ's Easter glory.

Indeed, personal suffering can become a journey of hope for those who believe because of the One who has walked ahead.

Today, Passion Sunday, we begin the most holy of weeks. Please enter the sacredness of the moment and join your parish family at the beautiful liturgies in the days ahead.

With a deep sense of gratitude and unbridled hope, let us walk together, following Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

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Sponsorship opportunities are available.

IHC Schools: A Foundation for Life

After 23 years of raising funds for the work of the church of the North Country:

Janice Shoen is honored at retirement luncheon

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley called Janice Shoen "a beautiful reflection of the face of the Church" during a March 27 luncheon honoring the executive development director upon her retirement.

"There's no doubt about your professional competence and what you have done for the diocese over the years," the bishop told Mrs. Shoen, "but I will remember most the way you treated the people of the diocese. Whenever you made visits, your first concern was their well-being and their families.

"You gave them a tremendously valuable, beautiful face of the church," he said.

Mrs. Shoen completed her service for the diocese last week after 23 years of raising funds for the work of the church of the North Country. She came to the diocese in October, 1989, as the secretary/bookkeeper of the Bishop's Fund Appeal under Bishop Stanislaus Brzana and Msgr. David Stinebrickner.

Two years later, she was appointed co-director of the appeal with Msgr. Gerald Service and then, in June, 1997 was named Bishop's Fund director.

In August, 2006, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham appointed Mrs. Shoen as executive development director for the diocese, giving her oversight over the Bishop's Fund, Planned Giving program, Stewardship program and the Memorare Legacy Society.

In 2007, she took on addi-



PHOTO BY IAN FAUCETT

Janice Shoen, retiring director of the Diocesan Development Office is shown with members of the office staff and Bishop LaValley at Mrs. Shoen's March 27 retirement luncheon at the Gran View Restaurant in Ogdensburg. From left are Valerie Matthews, assistant director of development; Mrs. Shoen, Renee Grizzuto, office assistant; and Bishop LaValley.

tional responsibilities as director of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Mrs. Shoen has worked in close partnership with Valerie Matthews, assistant development director and director of the Bishop's Fund as well as the office assistants, Martha Payne for five years and, currently Renee Grizzuto.

Through the years, Mrs. Shoen has found that the most rewarding aspect of her career has been "working with such faith-filled people both at the Chancery Offices and all those I have met

throughout my career.

"The people of the North Country are such genuinely warmhearted people," she said.

The most challenging part, she said, was establishing the Planned Giving Office.

"So many people did not know what it was or how it could assist them in making gifts to the Diocese or any of its entities," she said. "Using the *North Country Catholic* with articles describing in depth about the ways people could make gifts certainly was a great asset.

After 23 years with the diocese, Mrs. Shoen can look

back on numerous accomplishments which have benefited the diocese including the opening of Planned Giving Office, the Memorare Legacy Society and her latest achievement, the establishment of the Foundation.

"As the head of the entire Development Office, including the Bishop's Fund Appeal, and with the assistance of the five bishops, Msgr. John Murphy, the moderator of the curia; and Valerie, the office has raised approximately \$36 million during my career," she said.

Succeeding Mrs. Shoen as diocesan development direc-

tor is Scott Lalone, who previously served as assistant director of the Claxton Hepburn Medical Center Foundation.

Mrs. Shoen offers just one piece of advice to Mr. Lalone: "Be proud to be part of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the accomplishments that the Development Office achieves year after year."

A native of Ogdensburg, Mrs. Shoen graduated from SUNY Canton with a BA in Secretarial Science and Business and completed the Sharpe Planned Giving Institute at William and Mary College.

She and her husband Bill, have been married for 40 years and have two daughters, Kelli and husband Tim Walsh and Kristi and husband Tom Reisinger and two grandchildren, Matthew Walsh, 14, and Kahlei Reisinger, 13.

Her plans for retirement include spending more time with her family.

"We will be traveling to Lancaster, Penn., to watch our grandson play basketball with his high school team and AAU teams and to Baldwinsville to watch our granddaughter play tennis for her high school and in USTA tennis tournaments," she said.

"I will also be spending time with Bill, golfing, and going south for a few weeks in the winter and volunteering will take up the rest of my leisure time," she said.

As she completed her last days in the office, Mrs. Shoen told the NCC that "working for the diocese has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. It has strengthened my faith and brought me so many personal treasures.

"The people I have worked with have supported me in my career and in my personal life," she said. "It was a very difficult decision to make but I have confidence that my replacement, Scott Lalone, and Val Mathews and Renee Grizzuto will continue to enhance the Development Office."



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ANNUAL CATHOLIC PUBLIC POLICY DAY HELD MARCH 13

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL

Large contingent from the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined 1,000 Catholics from across New York state who addressed issues including protecting the poor, preserving Catholic schools, community reintegration after incarceration, opposing an abortion bill, and assistance for immigrants



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, addressed the participants in a pre-recorded message due to his prior commitment at a USCCB meeting in Washington.



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, served on a panel which outlined the issues of the day. He spoke about support for programs that prepare incarcerated individuals to successful return to the community.



Msgr. Duprey and Father Mark Reilly, pastor of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes, process in with fellow priests from across New York State for the closing Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.



Pat Fontana, Jr., center, campus minister at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, is shown with IHC students Jared Pignone, left, and Dominic Uliano, who were chosen to be altar servers for the public policy day Mass.



The Plattsburgh contingent included, front, from left, Mallory Favreau, Seton Catholic senior; Terrence McCall, Peru Central ninth grader; and Caleb Larson, Seton Catholic senior; back, Jen Campbell, youth director at St. Peter's, Plattsburgh; Kelly Donnelly, English teacher at Seton Catholic; Andrew Lauria, librarian at Seton Catholic; and Therese Moen, DRE at St. Peter's.

Dates set for post-abortion Rachel's Vineyard retreats

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will offer two Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreats in 2012.

The spring retreat will be Friday June 8 - Sunday, June 10. The fall retreat will be Friday, October 5 - Sunday, October 7th (Columbus Day weekend).

Both retreats are held at the Guggenheim Lodge in Saranac Lake. The cost of \$100 covers lodging, meals and retreat materials. Pre-registration is required.

Confidential registration forms are on the Respect Life office website: www.dio-ogdensburg.org/pro-life.

The weekend includes daily Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Bryan Stitt will serve as chaplain for the spring retreat. Father Mark Reilly will serve as chaplain for the fall retreat.

Coordinator, Colleen Miner,

diocesan director of respect life ministry, said, "Witnessing the healing that occurs during the retreat experience is amazing. Women's and men's lives are transformed between Friday and Sunday - you can see it on their faces! It's God's mercy and grace!

"It's truly an honor to serve on the team," Mrs. Miner said. "Some keep in touch with the team and update them on how their lives have changed since the retreat. Testimonies from former retreatants are on the Respect Life website.

"If you know someone suffering from post-abortion syndrome (PAS), please encourage them to look into Rachel's Vineyard," Mrs. Miner said.

Retreat locations and dates are located at www.rachelsvineyard.org. Signs of PAS include: bouts of crying, depression, guilt, in-

ability to forgive oneself, intense grief and sadness, anger and rage, emotional numbness, sexual problems or promiscuity, eating disorders, low self esteem, drug and alcohol abuse, nightmares and sleep disturbances, suicidal urges, difficulty with relationships, anxiety or panic attacks, flashbacks and discomfort around babies or pregnant women.

"There is help available. You are not alone," Mrs. Miner said. "There are others who feel the way you do. Often a woman or man waits ten to twenty years before seeking help."

Further information about post-abortion healing, is available from pastors, from the Rachel's Vineyard hotline 1-877-HOPE-4ME; local coordinator Mrs. Miner 518-891-2309 or retreat facilitator Rita Mawn 518-891-1182.

Bishop LaValley' Schedule

April 5 -- Holy Thursday

9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

April 6 -- Good Friday

9a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. 3 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

April 7 -- Holy Saturday

9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. 8 p.m., Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

April 8 -- Easter Sunday

8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

April 10 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St.

Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.; 6 p.m., Diocesan Review Board Dinner and Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

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 4 -- Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 -- Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 -- Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 -- Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 10 -- Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

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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If 1400 tickets are not sold the raffle will revert to 50/50 cash drawing no other prizes will be awarded if this minimum is not met.

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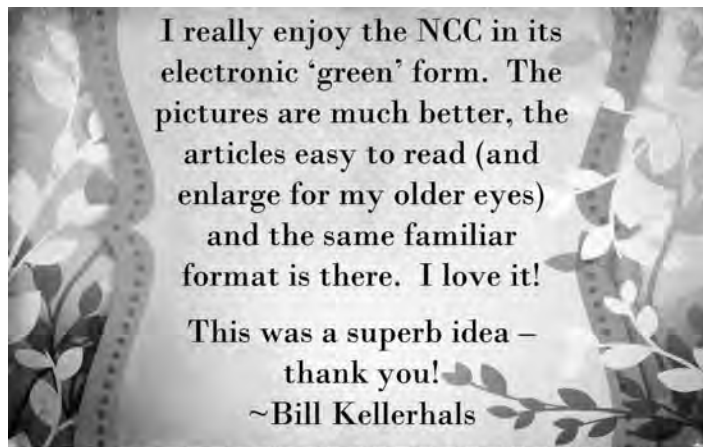
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~Bill Kellerhals

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GOOD FRIDAY

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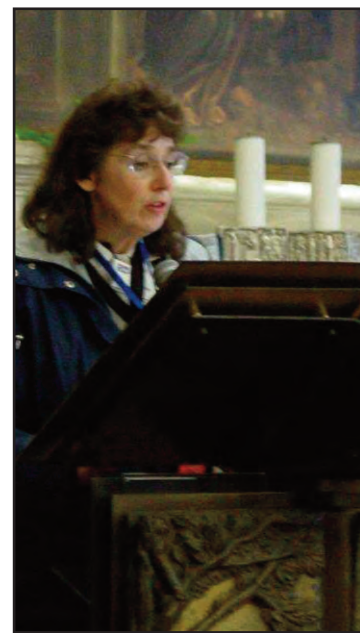


For more information about the Good Friday collection or the work of the Holy Land Franciscans, visit: www.myfranciscan.org

PILGRIMAGE TO CATHOLIC SITES IN ITALY

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Bishop LaValley and 71 pilgrims spend 12 days in March, walking and praying across the Italian countryside



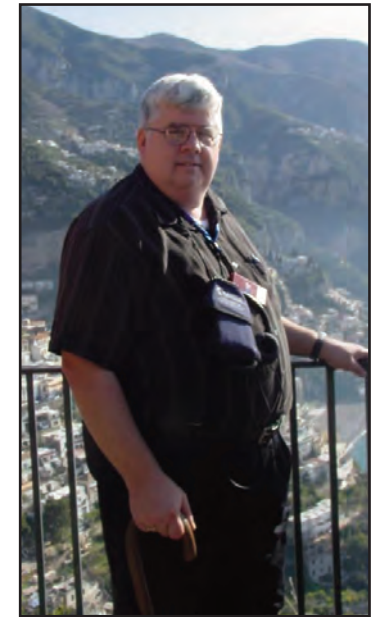
Laura Mae West of North Creek reads from the scriptures during the Mass at a parish church in Montecatini near Florence.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley was the spiritual leader for a March 12-23 pilgrimage that brought 71 travelers to Catholic sites in Italy, from Venice to Padua, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Sorrento, Capri, Amalfi, Pompeii and Rome. As the tour neared its end, the pilgrims posed in front of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.



Mary Enslow of Potsdam, Mercy Sister Janet Peters of Sackets Harbor and Kathleen Tabor of St. Albans, Vt., relax on the boat ride on the Adriatic Sea from the Italian mainland to Venice.



Bill O'Brien of Ogdensburg, who took many of the photographs on these pages is shown on a ledge overlooking the Amalfi coast

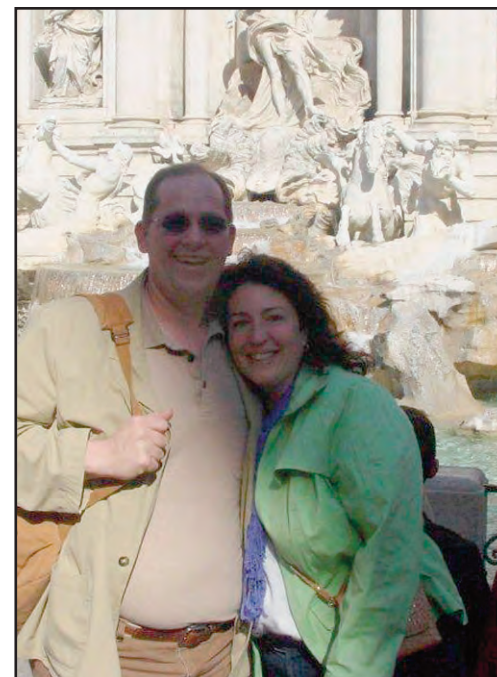


Members of Bishop LaValley's family made the journey with him. With the city of Florence in the background, the bishop is shown with his sisters Sheila Miller of Mooers Forks and Sherry LaBarge of Colchester, Vt.; and brother Scott LaValley of Mooers.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LANDRY
A highlight of the pilgrimage to Italy was the opportunity to celebrate Mass in St. Peter's Basilica March 22. Bishop LaValley presided at the Mass in a side chapel close to the main papal altar. Following the liturgy, the pilgrims took part in a guided tour through the Basilica, the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.



At the Casa Santa Maria in Rome, Bishop LaValley distributes communion to Paul Heckman of Clayton and Pat Bracey of Rouses Point.



Matt and Aimee Flynn of Ogdensburg enjoyed time at the Trevi Fountain in Rome.



Bishop LaValley, St. Joseph Slister Mary Eamon Lyng and Father Doug Lucia took in the sites of Venice on the first full day of the pilgrimage.



Both ends of the pilgrimage involved several hours of layover in the Paris Airport. Waiting to board the flight from Paris to Venice are, from left, Beryl Szwed of Saranac Lake, Norma Jean LaPoint, Hermon; Shirley Britton, Long Lake; Molly Shepard, Rochester and Mary Lou Kilian, Ogdensburg.

Pope, at Mass, calls for full religious freedom in Cuba

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

HAVANA (CNS) - Preaching at Mass in Havana's Revolution Square, location of the headquarters of Cuba's Communist Party, Pope Benedict XVI called for full religious freedom and greater respect for human rights on the island.

"In Cuba steps have been taken to enable the church to carry out her essential mission of expressing the faith openly and publicly," the pope said during his homily March 28. "Nonetheless, this must continue forward."

With President Raul Castro seated near the altar platform, the pope said, "I wish to encourage the country's government authorities to strengthen what has already been achieved and advance along this path of genuine service to the true good of Cuban society as a whole."

People started gathering for the Mass before 6 a.m. They prepared for the liturgy with songs and by listening to priests and a catechist explaining basic church teaching on baptism and the Eucharist, the role of the pope in the church and Pope Benedict's biography.

The Mass began at 9 a.m. under a clear blue sky with a light breeze blowing. As at the papal Mass in Santiago de Cuba March 26, thousands in the crowd were dressed in white T-shirts and baseball caps.

A priest led chants once the pope arrived and made

his way in the popemobile through the crowd. One of the priest's louder inventions was "Benedicto, Benedicto, confirmanos en Cristo," ("Benedict, Benedict, confirm us in Christ").

In his homily, Pope Benedict said that faith in God and Jesus Christ is the key to salvation, true happiness and authentic freedom, and that the daily lives and work of committed Catholics can benefit the whole society.

The truth about the human person created in God's image and saved from sin by Jesus is the foundation of an ethical code that all reasonable people of good will can share, he said.

The ethical code "contains clear and precise indications concerning life and death, duties and rights, marriage, family and society, in short, regarding the inviolable dignity of the human person," he said.

"Cuba and the world need change," he said, but that will happen only if each and every person "is in a position to seek the truth and chooses the way of love, sowing reconciliation and fraternity."

The Catholic Church is not asking for special privileges in Cuba, but for the recognition of the basic right to religious freedom and freedom of expression, which includes expressing one's faith in concrete acts of charity and service to society, the pope said.

To carry out its obligations to proclaim and live the Gospel, he said, the church

"must count on basic religious freedom, which consists in her being able to proclaim and to celebrate her faith also in public, bringing to others the message of love, reconciliation and peace."

Pope Benedict said the church's witness is usually expressed through "preaching and teaching," which is one of the reasons why the church hopes that "the moment will soon arrive" when it can operate schools and universities in Cuba.

Catholics want to be witnesses of love and respond to evil with good, he said. "Let us walk in the light of Christ, who alone can destroy the darkness of error. And let us beg him that, with the courage and strength of the saints, we may be able -- without fear of rancor, but freely, generously and consistently -- to respond to God."

The Vatican had said Revolution Square could hold about 600,000 people and it was about three-quarters full when Mass began.

Msgr. Jose Felix Perez Riera, assistant secretary of the Cuban bishops' conference and pastor of St. Rita of Cascia Church, told Catholic News Service March 27 that many of the people who were to be at the Mass were being brought by the Communist Party and other government-related organizations, while many Catholics in towns outside Havana were unable to get tickets or transportation to the event.

Emotional moment: seminarians have a chance to meet pope

By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

HAVANA (CNS) - Kenny Fernandez Delgado was 13 when Blessed John Paul II came to the tropical Cuban capital. He remembers little about the 1998 event other than arriving late for the Mass at Revolution Square with his mother and a brother.

Today, Fernandez is in his first year of theology studies at the new San Carlos and San Ambrosio Seminary. He called the chance to see Pope Benedict XVI March 28 an exhausting, emotional and unique opportunity.

That morning, the seminarians rose at 4 a.m., about an hour earlier than their normal wake-up call.

When the pope arrived at the morning Mass in Revolution Square, the seminarians were seated in a section close to the papal stage.

"We shouted and clapped; we were very motivated to see the pope, especially because we were promised to have a group photo with him," Fernandez said. "Some of us could touch the pope and kiss the fisherman's ring."

Fernandez was informed by an Italian-speaking security official that he was not among those who would be shaking hands with the pope. However, Pope Benedict addressed the group and told the seminarians they were in his thoughts and prayers.

"It was a very emotional moment; he said he wished us well and will pray for us," he said. "He is a very kind person, and a little shy. We also felt he was a little tired."

Fernandez said the pope's message at Mass was about reconciliation, which is a word Cubans almost never hear, and another word they never hear: family.

"Family is a word that is a little forgotten in the official



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
Kenny Fernandez Delgado

communications, and the family in Cuba is damaged by divorces and the treatment of the problem; the responses of the state are not enough," the seminarian said. "Benedict said families are the fundamental cell of society and for the domestic church."

Fernandez credited his Catholic upbringing to his family, specifically his mother. He said he was the only youngster in his secondary school class who professed his Catholic faith. His mother saw to it that he and his brother were catechized, received the sacraments and attended religious conferences.

"In Cuba, almost everybody is religious in some way, but few (are) Christians, and I don't remember any practicing Catholics growing up except some Christians from other denominations," Fernandez said.

The 26-year-old hopes to be a parish priest, and he expects to be given three or four parish assignments as part of his pastoral preparation. Cuba has few priests, he said, so he expects to be wearing many hats.

"I dream to be a bridge between God and the people," he said. "It is difficult to be a bridge because you have the weight of many people on your shoulders. The work of a priest is to be among the people and bring them hope that only Jesus Christ can give."



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Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. In this short dialogue thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love toward me and my love ones.
EM

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

In Mexico, pope says social change will come with revival of faith

SILAO, Mexico (CNS) -- Visiting Latin America for the second time in his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI offered a message of hope for social progress rooted in a revival of Catholic faith. The overriding message of the pope's public statements during his three days in Mexico, March 23-26, was that this troubled country, and the region in general, cannot solve their problems -- which include poverty, inequality, corruption and violence -- by following the prescriptions of secular ideologies. Instead, the pope said, peace and justice in this world require a divinely inspired change in the human heart. "When addressing the deeper dimension of personal and community life, human strategies will not suffice to save us," the pope said in his homily during an outdoor Mass at Guanajuato Bicentennial Park March 25. "We must have recourse to the one who alone can give life in its fullness, because he is the essence of life and its author." Echoing his earlier critiques of liberation theology, a Marxist-influenced movement that found prominent supporters among Latin American Catholics during the 1970s and '80s, Pope Benedict told reporters accompanying him on the plane from Rome that the "church is not a political power, it is not a party ... it is a moral reality, a moral power." Yet the pope made it clear that he was not encouraging believers to withdraw into a private kind of piety uninvolved with worldly affairs. "The first job of the church is to educate consciences," he said, "both in individual ethics and public ethics."

Vatican approves blessing rite for unborn children

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Just in time for Mother's Day, U.S. Catholics parishes will be able to celebrate the new Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb. The Vatican has given its approval to publication in English and Spanish of the new rite, which was approved by the U.S. bishops in November 2008, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced March 26. The blessing will be printed in both languages in a combined booklet. "I can think of no better day to announce this news than on the feast of the Annunciation, when we remember Mary's 'yes' to God and the incarnation of that child in her womb that saved the world," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities. The blessing was prepared to support parents awaiting the birth of their child, to encourage parish prayers for and recognition of the gift of the child in the womb, and to foster respect for human life within society. It can be offered within the context of Mass as well as outside of Mass, and for an individual mother, a couple or a group of expectant parents. "We wanted to make this announcement as soon as possible so that parishes might begin to look at how this blessing might be woven into the fabric of parish life," said Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. "Eventually the new blessing will be included in the Book of Blessings when that text is revised."

Religious ed. congress draws 40,000 to Anaheim

ANAHEIM, CALIF. (CNS) -- Catholics from 41 countries and 47 U.S. states gathered in Anaheim or watched the live webcast of the annual Los Angeles Religious Education Congress March 23-25, calling believers around the world to attend to the life-infusing voice of God.

More than 40,000 people came to the Anaheim Convention Center for the 2012 Congress centered on the theme, "Voice Infusing Life," which started with a daylong event of high-energy rallies, workshops and liturgies for 15,000 high school youths from several Western states March 22.

The live congress webcast drew viewers from 873 cities spanning the globe.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez and Sister Edith Prendergast, a Religious Sister of Charity who is archdiocesan director of religious education, led a March 23 morning opening rite and welcome.

"The voice of God is easy to recognize, but difficult to take to heart," said Sister Prendergast. "It is a voice that calls us away from old habits, inviting us to adopt more wholesome ones."

To hear God's voice, she continued, people need to be reflective and discerning.

"We have to recognize the voice of the shepherd -- and the voice of the stranger," she added. "At the heart of religious education is always a personal encounter with Jesus Christ."

Speaking on "The Urgency of Discipleship and Evangelization in Today's World" March 24, Father Anthony Gittins, a member of the Congregation of Holy Spirit, described voice as "a characteristic of human beings and, therefore, it is a characteristic of the God who made human beings."

"Some people, tragically, lack a voice. Some people are deprived of a voice and, therefore, some people become powerless," said the

priest, who currently is a professor of theology and culture at the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago.

"But our God is a God who speaks with power and with creativity," he continued. "And God's voice infuses life. God's voice is the very foundation of the Jewish and Christian religions. God speaks and things happen."

The former missionary and formation director said modern-day disciples are people who not only hear the word of God in today's hectic 24/7 world but then internalize it and, finally, put it into practice.

This inner knowledge and outward action comes not so much from learning facts about Jesus, he said, but following Jesus' life of serving others as he did in his day-to-day ministry.

"We cannot be disciples simply by knowing about Jesus or reading about Jesus or even hearing about Jesus unless he has an impact on our daily life, unless we are constantly and consistently internalizing the word of Jesus" said Father Gittins, a native of England.

"And we cannot simply come to Jesus and be with Jesus. This discipleship is not just 'me and Jesus.' Authentic discipleship is 'me and Jesus for you' and for the world," he said.

In his homily at the celebrated closing liturgy in the arena March 25, Archbishop Gomez urged the large assembly to reach out to others and "bring them to the Teacher" for "God's honor

and glory."

"(Bring them) to the encounter with Jesus Christ so that they realize he is here, that he is alive and present in our world and in our lives," the archbishop said. "Our task is to help others to hear the call of Jesus so that they understand that he is asking for them, that he wants them to follow him."

"Time is flying. Let us make use of the fleeting moments. They will never return," he said, citing the ministry of Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai.

A member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, she migrated from Germany to upstate New York, then served lepers in Hawaii for 35 years.

Her ministry in Hawaii came about because she responded to a letter sent to her by Hawaiian authorities seeking religious sisters to care for patients in their leper colony.

"Isn't that just that the way that sometimes we hear Jesus' voice?" Archbishop Gomez asked. "A normal letter, or through an encounter, or a conversation. And that's how Mother Marianne read this letter, as the voice of Jesus calling her."

Archbishop Gomez encouraged participants to help others come out of their self-made "prisons" such as selfishness, brokenness and sinfulness, into the "new light of the Resurrection." He urged the faithful to renew their faith every day by "always having that intimate friendship with Jesus."

Novena to St. Theresa

St. Theresa, the little flower, please pick me a rose from your heavenly garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee emlore. And tell him I will love him each day more and more.

Say the above prayer plus 5 Our Father's, 5 Hail Mary's and 5 Glory Be's.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord

What a difference there is between the feast days of Christmas and Easter. We are amazed and delighted at the birth of an Infant God.. We think we can understand Him now because He is so tiny. And with that comes the comfortable sense that we are somehow larger than He is. Since He is so small and helpless, we smile complacently at God as a kindly grandfather or doting aunt would.

Easter is different. The power of the risen Christ keeps us at a distance. His glorified body does not invite our touching. That stone rolled back from the empty tomb seems to mean that he has vanished from

our sight, and we don't know where to find Him.

Even Peter withhold judgment, and Thomas had some doubts.

Our "alleluias" ring out for the beauty and splendor of what has happened, but there is a danger that our Easter joy focuses more on bunnies and Easter eggs!

To prolong and deepen our joy takes real effort. It's so easy to let it all go in a misty chorus of Alleluias. As the music

fades, so often does our enthusiasm fade. It's back to life as usual.

But the truth of the Resurrection is supposed to transform us.

Just as Jesus broke through the rock into the freedom of new life, so this feast is meant to free our

souls to the possibilities of sin-free living.

Instead of Easter as the conclusion of Lent, it's the beginning of a new and more disciplined life, focused on holding firm to habits of prayer and devout living we found so refreshing during these last six weeks. Everything about Jesus' glorious breakthrough from death has implications for us. Whatever blocks our narrow vision to holy and creative living can crumble into dust if we only try.

The question is: how close do we want to follow Jesus as a disciple? The readings for Easter provide a clear record of how the early Church responded to the fact of the Resurrection.

In the Gospel passage, Mary Magdalene and John are the only two who give immediate acceptance.

APRIL 8

The Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18

Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14

Isaiah 55:1-11;

Baruch 3:9-15, 23:4-4

Ezekiel 36:16-17a 18:28;

Romans 6:3-11

Mark 16:1-7

Easter Sunday

Act 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4

Or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9

Or Mark 16:1-7

Or in the evening: Luke 24:13-35

When Peter witnesses the empty tomb, his faith lags behind his sight. It will take a few personal appearances of the risen Lord to strengthen it.

The first reading for Easter is from a much later and more mature sermon of Peter's. In this account,

there is firm and unquestioned testimony to this central belief of the Christian faith.

And St. Paul, in the second reading, tells the Corinthians that with Christ's resurrection, they have all died to sin, and thus must live lives that are "hidden in God".

Obviously, our lives are not hidden from God, but only hidden from worldly esteem. How much does worldly approval really mean to us? If we hold it "in no esteem", then we're on the road to joy.

Easter should "loosen up" our unwilling tongues to sing, and stir up our energy to live warm, joyful lives.

In the words of the Easter Sequence: "Christ indeed from death is arisen, our new life obtaining.

Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia"

OUR READERS WRITE

A great disservice to women

I feel that the recent action by the Susan Komen Foundation to reinstate its financial support for Planned Parenthood is a great disservice to women. To prevent or successfully treat breast cancer is life giving. In the '60s Planned Parenthood literature said of abortion. It "kills the life of a baby after it has begun. It is dangerous to your life and health. It may make you sterile. . . ." These facts haven't changed. It is only the semantic gymnastics they now use that is different.

A letter under the signature of Cecile Richards, their President, states, "Planned Parenthood thinks that you deserve medically sound information about your body, your health and your reproductive choices to make your own decisions."

However, I have a summary listing the legal cases they have taken to court involving abortion. On at least ten occasions they have fought to prevent informed consent. They challenge parental consent and parental notification for minors having abortions. They challenged requiring hospitalization for late term abortions and a law requiring that FDA protocol be followed in performing chemical abortions – the latter enacted to protect women's health and safety.

Planned Parenthood was ordered to pay \$672,610 to a woman in San Francisco who wanted to abort one of a set of twins. The second child was partially dismembered and left in the womb and when the women became severely ill, had to be aborted. Dr. Fred H. Pulver, a Planned Parenthood physician surrendered his medical license after he mis-diagnosed the age of an unborn child of 27 weeks duration, performed the procedure and the woman later gave birth to a three pound boy.

This organization is not unmindful that countless women have been maimed and several hundred have died from legal abortion. Many are unaware that they exist for population control and make

millions performing abortions. These represent conflict of interest in dealing with distressed pregnant women.

Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, breast cancer surgeon, has reviewed some 66 studies which mention a possible relationship between abortion and breast cancer. Among these are two case studies; one by pro-choice Janet Daling and one by Louise Brisson who previously denied the relationship. Despite this, Planned Parenthood is building mega facilities such as a three story 46,000 square foot building in Minnesota to expand abortion services. My sister died of breast cancer and I support the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute (www.bcpinstitute.org – 1-866-622-6237)

BETTE HARTZELL
SACKETS HARBOR

See 'October Baby'

On March 23, the film "October Baby" will hit theaters nationwide. The movie is a reminder of what truly matters. The film deals with a story of a college freshman who learns that she is the survivor of a failed abortion. Her physical ailments and psychological distress now seem to make sense to her. An early viewer of the film concluded, "the script is superb, the acting is first class and the presentation is flawless. No one who sees this film will ever think the same way again about the tragedy of abortion." Thirty-nine years after Roe v Wade the public at large is woefully uneducated about the reality of legal abortion. I hope many will take advantage of the opportunity to better inform themselves.

MILDRED M. SQUIER
WATERTOWN

Oral Contraceptives and Cancer

The White House failure to consider the US Bishops concerns re-

garding the federal mandate for employers to cover contraception and sterilization under the health care law which violated the religious freedom went unheeded. The controversy goes on. It is time to connect the disconnect. It has been a long time waiting.

A 200% increase in incidence of any cancer can occur if a family history exists. BRCA1 and BRCA2 are genes linked to only 5 % of breast cancer. Having these genes can raise the chances of a person developing cancer of the breast but the number is small.

On the other hand, 32% of breast cancer patients don't have a family history or genetic predisposition. However, it seems that breast cancer and hypothyroidism are on the rise, why?

The proto-oncogenes are normal genes that control cellular growth by telling breast cells when to replicate. The p53 tumor suppressor genes, another normal cellular genes, check for any DNA error in replicated cells and if present, will stop the replication, or repair the damage, or instruct the cells to self-destruct (apoptosis).

A normal time or latent period is needed to complete the task. Any DNA errors will be inherited following Darwins descent, if they escape the checkpoints along the cell wells.

Oral contraceptives mimic pregnancy on a monthly basis (a normal pregnancy takes 9 months to complete). The chemical promoting factor, Estrogen, in OCP instruct the breast cells to replicate at a fast rate. At this speed, the proto-oncogene will not be able to regulate the cellular growth and thus, undergo mutation into oncogene. This mutated gene will upregulate the growth factor cannot be turned off. The rapid replicated breast cells reduces the latent period, not giving time for the p53 suppressor gene to check for damaged DNA. Accumulation of mutations give the cell's DNA all it needs to become lethal. An immortal cell is born, "The Cancer Cell".

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

THE HUNGER GAMES

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Though presumably targeted - at least in part - at teens, the dystopian adventure "The Hunger Games" (Lionsgate) involves enough problematic content to give parents pause. Responsible oldsters will want to weigh the matter carefully before giving permission for clamoring kids to attend.

At first glance, the depressing futuristic premise of the piece - inherited from Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy of novels, on the first volume of which the film is based - makes it seem unlikely fare for a youthful audience.

In a post-apocalyptic North America, have-not youngsters from oppressed outlying districts are chosen at random to participate in the titular event, a televised survival tournament staged each year for the entertainment of the decadent elite who populate their society's luxurious capital city.

Since combatants are

forced to battle one another -- and the hostile wilderness environment in which the games are set -- until only one remains alive, the fearful ordeal also serves to keep the once-rebellious, now cowed underlings intimidated.

Director and co-writer Gary Ross' script, penned in collaboration with Collins and Billy Ray, tracks two teens caught up in this gladiatorial horror show.

As early scenes reveal, Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) was selected in the usual way. Heroine Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), by contrast, altruistically volunteered herself as a substitute after her vulnerable younger sister Primrose's (Willow Shields) name was drawn.

What follows, as this sympathetic duo confronts their doom, is an effective combination of epic spectacle and emotional drama during which humane values are pitted against Darwinian moral chaos.

Insatiable media coverage, led by smarmy TV host Caesar Flickerman (Stanley

Tucci), and the wildly off-kilter values of the foppish upper crust, embodied by Peeta and Katniss' nannylike escort Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks), satirically mirror some darker aspects of our own time. (Interestingly, depending on the individual viewer's politics, the basic allegory can be read either as a critique of overweening big government or of the trampling under of the 99 percent.)

But sensibilities are not spared as the grim contest unfolds: painful injuries brought about by swords, arrows, hatchets and even the creative use of a hornets' nest are all portrayed unblinkingly.

On the upside, foul language is entirely absent, as too is any sensual activity beyond kissing. So, despite the elements listed below, "The Hunger Games" may possibly prove acceptable for mature adolescents.

The film contains considerable, sometimes gory, hand-to-hand and weapons violence and graphic images of bloody wounds.

The Catholic News Service



CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE

Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth star in a scene from the movie "The Hunger Games."

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.

St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, forever and ever, Amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the homeless, pray for us. Say prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. EM



Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

It will take 10 years of uncontrolled growth by the malignant celled to reach the size of one inch to be detected by mammography (it took 7 years for survivors of Hiroshima/Nagasaki to develop leukemia). Early diagnosis implies presence of disease not prevention.

Breast tissues have receptors for thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), and can concentrate iodine similar to thyroid gland. The promoting factor, Estrogen also, increases the thyroid binding globulin. Breast Cancer have high thyroid antibodies a potential or auto-immune thyroid disorder.

Women who have a history of OCP/HRT usage and hypothyroidism must be vigilant.

Those who advocate oral contracep-

tive for birth control from the president down to the grassroots must accept responsibility, in conscience, for promoting a potentially risky regimen.

In the same token, nobody is going to promote cigarette smoking knowing it is the culprit in 30% of cancers (350 carcinogens) and 96% premature coronary and peripheral atherosclerosis (carbon monoxide). The silent killer is no longer hypertension, the silent killer is inflammation (atherosclerosis) and EPIGNOME!

(Discuss with your primary MD before stopping any medications including oral contraceptives (OCP_ and hormonal replacement therapy (HRT).

EULOGIO H. RETRA JR., MD
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DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION

Saranac Lake – St. Bernard's will celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy.

Date: April 15

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Features: Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image, Anointing with St. Faustina's Oil. Opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

CLINTON

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Date: April 15

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

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

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

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

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

CLOTHING SALE

Peru – St. Vincent de Paul Society will be holding a special sale of gently used spring/summer clothing and footwear.

Dates: April 12, 7 p.m. to 9 and April 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Vincent's Thrift Store

Features: Fill a large 33 gallon bag with clothing/footwear for \$5.

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

SPRING BRUNCH

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

Date: April 15

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

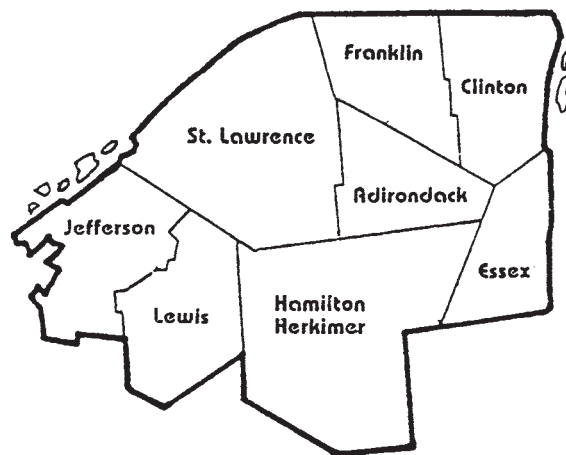
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$3

Features: Bake Sale & Craft Tables. Call 236-5848 to reserve craft table.

BLUE & GOLD SPRING FLING BALL

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

Date: April 21



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.

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Rainbow Banquet Hall Gold Room

Cost: \$35 per person

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's Adoration Chapel,

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

Theme: "Let us love God and adore him and offer him praises by day and by night." (St. Francis of Assisi).

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

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: Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$7.5

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

CHICKEN BARBECUE

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

Date: April 15

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$8; take-outs are available

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Date: April 15

Time: 3 p.m.

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

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

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third

Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

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

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

LEWIS

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated

Date: April 15

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: at St. Hedwig's Church.

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

Contact: Mary Ann at 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES

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

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: K of C Hall

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

FISH & SHRIMP FRY

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

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, free; Take-outs and delivery available, phone ahead for faster services at 287-01

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg – Notre Dame Church is holding a weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel

Date: Tuesday evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WOMEN OF GRACE RETREAT

Ogdensburg – A retreat for Women Will be held.

Date: April 20-22

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: Creator of the women's ministry Women of Grace Johnnette Benkovic of EWTN fame will be featured as a speaker. The Weekend Will feature four hour-long talks by Mrs. Benkovic as well as daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and time for quiet prayer.

Cost: Rates range between \$150 to \$245 and depend on room type. The deadline for registration is April 4. Meals are included.

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

METANOIA RETREAT

Ogdensburg – A Young Adult Metanoia Retreat will be held

Dates: April 13-14

Place: Wadhams Hall Retreat Center,

Features: Are you needing to take some time away from your busy schedule? Are you needing to hear what God is saying to you?

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

SINGING PILGRIMAGE

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

Date: Aug. 16-23

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

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

Contact: Becky Rose, at becky.a.rose@gmail.com



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

Singing 'Alleluia' on Easter Sunday

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

As I write this column, I'm thinking of the many faces recognized and not recognized in developing countries who can sing Alleluia on Easter Sunday 2012. Smiles can come to these faces in gratitude with the Alleluias to you people throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg for prayer and financial support.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! These words of faith and hope we hear joyfully prayed throughout the Easter Season. You our readers and supporters are the Alleluia hope for mission families, helping them to know the hope that comes only from the Lord Himself. Your prayers and gifts for our brothers and sisters in the third world countries support the day-to-day work of bringing the love of Christ to the poor. I believe that time has shown us that the survival power of the poor proves that God is present in the midst of their struggles.

Thanks to you, Easter Alleluias are sung by missionary catechists who are helping people to know the love of Christ through their service. People are being served in villages, schools, medical outposts, orphanages, refugee camps and crowded cities throughout Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and Latin America.

In gratitude for your love of the missions, I will be remembering you in prayer during the Easter Season. I ask the risen Christ to bless you, your loved ones and our friends in the missions.



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

OBITUARIES

Adams – Winona M. Snyder, 61; Funeral Services March 24, 2012 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery, Watertown.

Black Brook – Frederick W. "Ted" Nelson Sr., 81; Funeral Services March 23, 2012 at St. Matthew's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Sandra J. Franck, 67; Funeral Services March 23, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage – Jennifer Anne (Wilton) Runkles, 27; Funeral Services March 24, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Champlain – Francis L. "Frank" Carey, 65; Funeral Services March 31, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chazy – Hope (Irene) A. (Gonyo) Provost, 58; Funeral Services March 24, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church.

Dannemora – Douglas M. DuBrey, 54; Memorial Services March 22, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church.

Dannemora – Nancy A. (Davis) Mashtare, 57; Funeral Services March 31, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Saranac Independence Cemetery.

Glenfield – Katherine R. "Kitty" (karl) Mezey, 68; Funeral Services at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Robert "Duffy" Arquette, 69; Funeral Services March 25, 2012 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Larry E. Strack Sr., 63; Funeral Services March 31, 2012 at St. Agnes Church.

Louisville – Rita Fournier Carroll, 82; Fu-

neral Services March 23, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Lowville – Viktoria (Hopp) Cobb, 85; Funeral Services March 21, 2012 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Lowville – Sarah "Sally" Nortz Lynch, 83; Funeral Services March 26, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Terence B. Podolski, 56; Funeral Services March 28, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Donald A. Rockwood, 69; Funeral Services March 23, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery, Watertown.

Lyon Mountain – Robert "Bob" Eli Benware, 69; Funeral Services March 29, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Massena – Lottie E. (Truax) Cameron, 76; Funeral Services March 21, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena – Amanda T. Salazar, 87; Memorial Services March 24, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Ogdensburg – Carrie "Sis" H. (Ashley) Farand, 85; Funeral Services March 30, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Peru – Philip F. Martino, 86; Funeral Services March 29, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh – Albina Bechard Fisher, 95; Funeral Services April 2, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Patricia Ann (Monette) Pirorek, 70; Funeral Services March 30, 2012 at Pine Harbour; burial in New Hampshire State Veterans' Cemetery, Boscaawen, NH

Potsdam – Gilbert O. Dumas, 81; Funeral Services March 20, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Redford – Rosanna B. (Collins) Pelletier, 82; Funeral Services March 30, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Assumption Cemetery.

Redwood – Walter R. DeLano, 89; Funeral Services March 30, 2012 at St. Francis Xavier Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Watertown – Christine F. (Bisnett) Grant, 65; Funeral Services March 22, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Anna (Volonnino) Misericola, 98; Funeral Services March 21, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood cemetery.

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

West Chazy – Francis J. Young, 86; Funeral Services March 27, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.



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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

False freedoms

By Amanda Conklin
Contributing Writer

On March 11th my husband Seth and I, along with two of our diocesan seminarians, Thomas Higman and Scott Belina, had the privilege of having dinner with Archbishop Chaput of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

We were among about ten other young adults from a local parish near Philadelphia. Archbishop Chaput took this opportunity to discuss the Obama Administration's recent HHS mandate.

His Grace stressed the importance of our roles as young adults in the Church.

One thing that has stuck in my mind since our discussion is the importance of highlighting that this is NOT an issue of women's health, it is an issue of freedom of conscience and religious liberty as laid out by our Constitution.

The Archbishop affirmed us as young adults and warned us that we have very difficult times ahead. If we as young people do not



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Saranac Lake native Amanda Conklin, her husband, Seth, of King of Prussia, Penn., and two seminarians studying for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary near Philadelphia, Penn., accepted Archbishop Charles Chaput's recent invitation for dinner. The head of the Philadelphia archdiocese invited about 15 young adults to discuss the Obama administration's HHS mandate. From left are Scott Belina, Seth and Amanda Conklin, Archbishop Chaput and Deacon Thomas Higman.

take up the battle for our Church, it is possible that our children might not have the freedom to live their lives publicly as Catholics.

In His Homily at World Youth Day 2002, in Toronto, Canada, Pope John Paul II

said: "The "spirit of the world" offers many false illusions and parodies of happiness. There is perhaps no darkness deeper than the darkness that enters young people's souls when false prophets extinguish in them

the light of faith and hope and love. The greatest deception, and the deepest source of unhappiness, is the illusion of finding life by excluding God, of finding freedom by excluding moral truths and personal responsibility."

Unfortunately, a lot of Americans currently think that freedom means freedom from religion, not freedom of religion.

If we cannot unite as Catholics and Christians then God will continue to be slowly squeezed out of our schools, hospitals, organizations and maybe even wrung out of our personal

decisions.

I challenge you, young adults, this is the time to unite and bring to life the true meaning of our universal Catholic faith.

Our generation naturally wants to be passionate about something, why not get passionate about the most important thing in our lives?

Our generation is effective at uniting for a cause. We have seen it on various social networking tools over numerous issues.

Our generation is one that gets things done when uniting. Our generation naturally wants to be passionate about something, why not get passionate about the most important thing in our lives? It is not just our religion as a label or a hobby, but our faith as our identity is being challenged.

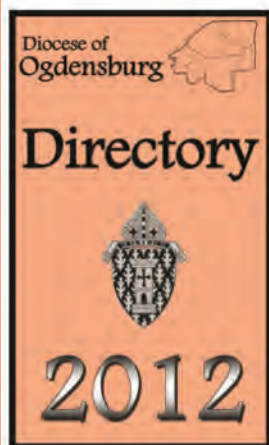
As a woman, I am using my voice to say that this has nothing to do with whether or not you approve or disapprove of contraception etc.

It has nothing to do with "old men in collars oppressing women." It has everything to do with silencing our consciences.

I for one will not let my government silence my conscience.

We are called to be Catholic first, Americans second. Will you join me? <https://www.stophhs.com/>

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