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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 2, 2012

## The source of vocations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Love of God nurtures love of neighbor, especially in people with vocations to the priesthood or religious life, said Pope Benedict XVI in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations Which Was observed April 29.

"The profound truth of our existence is thus contained in this surprising mystery: Every creature, and in particular every human person, is

the fruit of God's thought and an act of his love, a love that is boundless, faithful and everlasting," Pope Benedict wrote.

"It is in this soil of self-offering and openness to the love of God, and as the fruit of that love, that all vocations are born and grow. By drawing from this wellspring through prayer, constant recourse to God's word and to the sacraments, especially

the Eucharist, it becomes possible to live a life of love for our neighbors, in whom we come to perceive the face of Christ the Lord," the pope wrote.

Pope Benedict wrote that love of both God and other people "must be lived with a particular intensity and purity of heart by those who have decided to set out on the path of vocation discernment towards the ministerial

priesthood and the consecrated life."

Calling on the church to "create the conditions that will permit many young people to say 'yes' in generous response to God's loving call," the pope recommended "Scripture, prayer and the Eucharist" as the most valuable means "enabling us to grasp the beauty of a life spent fully in service of the kingdom."

### CALLED TO SERVE

#### NCC's annual Vocation Issue



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

The *North Country Catholic* presents its annual Vocation Issue less than a month before the ordination of Deacon Thomas Higman to the priesthood. Deacon Higman and Bishop LaValley are shown above after Deacon Higman's 2011 ordination as a transitional deacon. Bishop LaValley will preside at the priesthood ordination May 26 at St. Mary's Cathedral. He will also preside at a deacon ordination the night before. Seminarian Scott Belina will be ordained in his hometown of Watertown. This week's issue features reflections on vocations from Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, the diocesan vocation director; and Scott Belina, as well as interviews with a Crown Point woman preparing for final vows, a Newcomb man completing his first year of seminary and a Plattsburgh girl who hopes to enter a religious community after high school.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 3-13 & 20

## Bishop names new pastors

Bishop LaValley announced several personnel changes for priests of the diocese after an April 26 meeting of the Committee on Assignments.

The list of new pastors follows: Msgr. John R. Murphy, for Norfolk and Raymondville; Father Kevin J. O'Brien, Morristown, Hammond and Rossie; Father J. Michael Gaffney, Brownville and Dexter and Sackets Harbor; Father Scott D. Fobare, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena; and Father Albert J. Hauser, Moriah.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## It's camp clean-up time!

Volunteers are invited to gather at Camp Guggenheim May 11-13 to prepare the camp for the summer

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

## CASSOCK DAY



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Paul Poulin from St. Therese Parish in Newcomb, is completing his first year of study as a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He is shown above during Cassock Day held earlier this year at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Penn. Poulin reflects on the growth of his vocation on page 9.

**THE GOD OF SURPRISES:** Get to know our new transitional deacon... p. 20



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Introductions!

It's been a l-o-n-g time since we've been able to celebrate an upcoming priesthood ordination in our annual vocation issue.

This year – hooray – we can!

In less than a month, on May 26, Bishop LaValley will ordain Deacon Thomas Higman a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The last time our diocese gathered for such a day-of-days was in 2006 for Father Bernard Menard.

And, as Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, points out, this year's Memorial Day Weekend will be all the more memorable because there will be not one, but two ordinations taking place!

On Friday, May 25th, Bishop LaValley will travel to St. Patrick's Church in Watertown to ordain seminarian Scott Belina as a transitional deacon.

In this week's *North Country Catholic*, we are privileged to introduce Scott to the diocese as he shares reflections on his vocational journey.

We're also sharing the vocation story of a young North Country woman making final vows as a Carmelite Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles and a young North Country man completing his first year in the semi-

nary. It's especially gratifying to read that Sister Shawn Pauline, the Carmelite from Crown Point, credits her experience at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga and at Camp Guggenheim, as well as relationships with people like Gayle Frank, Michelle Watkins and Father Mark Reilly for the growth of her vocation.

And speaking of introductions, we're happy to welcome a new columnist to the pages of the *NCC* this week.

At the request of our publisher (that would be Bishop LaValley) we will be printing a monthly column by Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, who's the Director of Education of The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Father Tad will help us "make sense of bioethics" which becomes ever more important with every new scientific development we hear about.

As a college undergraduate Father Tad earned degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology, and chemistry, and did laboratory research on hormonal regulation of the immune response.

He later earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University.

This is one smart man!

I think he'll have plenty to teach the rest of us.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

## Bearing Fruit

5th Sunday of Easter - May 5-6

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Director of Evangelization

The way to bear fruit in continuing the mission of Jesus is to remain in Him and He in you.

The early Church, as related in the Acts of the Apostle in this week's readings, is growing because the people walked in the way of the Holy Spirit. It was the way of keeping the commandments and doing what pleases God.

The peace, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, spread throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

The Holy Spirit worked through St. Paul and St. Barnabas who were two zealous men, two dedicated preachers of the Gospel, and two servants of the early Church. They were different in their approaches in their contributions to the Church. And yet, it was through Barnabas, this "son of encouragement" that Paul was accepted by the Jerusalem community. Later, it is Barnabas who again rescued Saul from oblivion in Tarsus and was the first companion of him who was to become the apostle of the Gentiles.

St. Paul owed much to this discerning and magnanimous Christian. What would the Church be like today without the labors from both St. Paul and St. Barnabas?

We may not be a St. Paul or a St. Barnabas, but each of us is called to serve the needs of the Church. What are your gifts that you can offer to build up the Body of Christ?

In the Gospel of John, he tells us how we must live the Gospel, to bear fruit that will last forever. It is not simply enough to talk about it. Jesus talks about the deep connection that He has with us. He is the Vine; we are the Branches. Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

The Christian life is unthinkable except in terms of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ and the Christian abide one in the other because they share a common life. This intimate relationship that Jesus desires for us is deep and real. Our very being depends on being attached to the Vine.

The branches, however, while living by the sap of the vine, need to be tended. Being attached to Jesus calls forth our pruning which, in turn, will provide greater growth and more fruit.

Intimacy and growth in and with Jesus involves daily conversion, continual dying to self that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. This is the work of the Father, who, by trial and chastisement, guides and trains His children.

The Father tends the Vine, but its branches will bear fruit only if they are effectively attached to the Vine, only if His life flows in them: apart from Him they can do nothing, they count for nothing. "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build" (Ps. 127:1).

The Father expects the disciples, His children, to bear fruit. He is glorified in the Son, in His obedience and in the perfect accomplishment of His work. It is a short, inevitable, step to see the glorification of the Father also in the obedience and fruitfulness of those who are joined to the Son.

This calls for a trusting faith relationship with the Risen Lord if we are to bear fruit for the mission.

How will you show your willingness to take risks in working with God and others so that good fruit may result from your relationship?

When we do take the risk to proclaim the Good News, we give Jesus the chance to act within us. T

his is the only way we fully live the Christian life. As the Gospel says, whoever lives in Me . . . will produce abundant fruit.

Such abundance is one of the signs of being in Christ.

## Welcome Spring

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## FOLLOW ME

# Be still and listen for God's call

Recently, I was given a beautiful photograph of a sunset with exploding colors swirling about the sky, touching the surface of the water like a feather duster.

The photographer entitled the photo: "Be still and know that I am God." The scene displays a creativity and serenity that invites contemplation.

I thought of that caption as I was reflecting on Sunday's World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Today, it is so very difficult for most of us to sit still for just a minute in order to pay attention to what the Lord might be inviting us to do with our lives and, surely, God is inviting us!

At a meeting with the priests of the Diocese of

Rome on Holy Thursday, Pope Benedict XVI reminded the priests that every person receives a "call" from the Lord. The Holy Father quoted St. Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians: "Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called." (Eph. 4:1)

There is a call, a voice that has called each of us. The Lord always calls; it is listening that is lacking. The Holy Father's words to the priests should resonant within us: "I am not anonymous or meaningless in the world: there is a call, there is a voice that has called me, a voice that I follow. And my life must penetrate ever more deeply into the development of the call, following this voice." *L'Osservatore Romano*, 2/29/12)



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

The fruit of living the Lord's call is a life saturated with meaning, hope and joy. However, I must provide the time, space, and generous heart to hear and respond.

Each of us is gifted with certain "hearing aids" for our discernment of the Lord's call and each of us becomes a hearing aid for others when we assist them in listening to their own call.

The Holy Father remarked: "We must pay attention to the Lord's voice with others."

For instance, throughout our lives, our parents guide and encourage us in our quests for happiness. Teachers and coaches challenge us to develop our intellect and skills. Our consecrated religious, deacons and priests witness joy-filled models of such a call-response, as do devoted married couples and faithful single persons.

As we focus on vocations, let us be aware of our responsibility to tend faithfully to the call we have received from the Lord.

Let us also reflect on how well we are functioning as hearing aids for others.

How often do I offer words of support and encouragement to couples desiring to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony?

When was the last time that I told a young man that I thought he would make a good priest and should consider entering the seminary; share with a friend my thoughts that he should consider the diaconate; or when did I last remark to a young lady that she would bless the Church as a consecrated religious?

When did I last spend time with a single person and helped to lighten the unique struggles of his or her vocation?

It is no secret. We have been suffering the burden of a vocation crisis, rather—the burden of vocations crises.

First, and foremost, we must take the time to be still with our God and pay attention to the hearing aids that come our way.

Secondly, we must be convinced that our God never abandons us when we seek to do His will, therefore, we must not be afraid to take the step to follow.

Thirdly, we must find the occasions to be hearing aids for others in their vocational discernment.

I invite all to persevere in prayer for an increase in vocations to the consecrated life and the clergy. Pray for the strengthening of faith of those living out the married or single vocation.

The Lord will answer. We need only be still long enough to pay attention.

## New pastors among clergy personnel changes

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced the following priest personnel changes after an April 26 meeting of the Committee on Assignments.

• Msgr. John R. Murphy, Moderator of Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services, and administrator of Church of the Visitation in Norfolk and St. Raymond's Church in Raymondville, has been named pastor of Church of the Visitation and St. Raymond's Church.

• Father Kevin J. O'Brien, pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, has been named Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar of Pastoral Services, and pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond

and Rossie.

• Father J. Michael Gaffney, pastor of St. Mary's and St.



Fr. J. Michael  
Gaffney

Joseph's Church in Massena, has been named pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor.

• Father Scott D. Fobare, pastor of The Catholic Community of Moriah, has been named pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena.

• Father Albert J. Hauser, pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie, has been named pastor of The Catholic Community of Moriah.

The effective date for these changes will be June 27.

• Effective July 25, Father. William G. Muench will be named administrator of St.



Fr. Scott D.  
Fobare

Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake, St. John of the Wilderness Church in Lake Clear, St. Paul's Church in Bloomingdale, and Church of the Assumption Mission

in Gabriels.

This will be a one year assignment while the current pastor, Father Mark R. Reilly, fulfills a year of active duty in the military.

Profiles of Msgr. Murphy and Father O'Brien appeared in the April 5 issue of the *North Country Catholic* with the announcement of the changes in diocesan administration.

Profiles of the other new

pastors follow:

### Father Gaffney

Father Gaffney, new pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, has been pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Massena since 2006. Previously, he was pastor in Lake Placid from 1995 to 2006 and pastor in Chaumont from 1985 to 1995.

From 1980 to 1995, Father Gaffney served as a faculty member at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

A native of Watertown, Father Gaffney was born July 21, 1947.

He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and Christ the King Seminary in Olean before his ordination May 5, 1973 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.



Fr. Albert J.  
Hauser

The priest has also served as an assistant pastor at St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake, St. Peter's in Lowville, Notre Dame in Malone and St. Anthony's in Watertown.

### Father Fobare

Father Fobare, new pastor of St. Marys and St. Joseph in Massena, has been the pastor in Port Henry and Mineville, known as the Catholic Community of Moriah, since 2008.

Previously, he was pastor in Alexandria Bay and Redwood, St. Mary's of the Lake, Cumberland Head; John XXIII Campus Parish, Plattsburgh; and diocesan Director of Campus Ministry.

He was also pastor in Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette and served as pastor in Carthage, Deferiet and Natural Bridge from 1999 to 2002. While in Carthage he later was given added responsibilities as pastor in Copenhagen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



# Ordinationpalooza...finally!

By Father Bryan Stitt  
Diocesan Vocation Director

During my time in high school, it was popular to use the suffix “-palooza” to describe a great party or festival that lasted multiple days. So it wasn’t a surprise to me when I heard friends describing the last weekend in May as “Ordinationpalooza.”

If you have been keeping score at home, you know that Mr. Scott Belina will be ordained a deacon on Friday evening May 25 and that Rev. Mr. Thomas Higman will be ordained a priest the very next day.

Scott’s ordination will take place in his hometown of Watertown (at St. Patrick’s Church).

Deacon Tom will become Father Tom Higman at our beloved Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Tom and Scott have known each other for years. Tom Higman entered the seminary seven and a half years ago right after graduating from high school. Scott followed him there two years later after completing a degree at Clarkson in Biomolecular Science.

They have studied together (both have attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA), traveled together (they took



Deacon Tom Higman, left, and Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, are shown during last year’s *Ad Altare Dei* discernment retreat after a Mass in the Adirondacks. Deacon Higman will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg May 26, the day after his friend Scott Belina is to be ordained a transitional deacon. Father Stitt describes the weekend in May as “Ordinationpalooza.”

part in our diocesan pilgrimages to World Youth Day in 2005 and 2011), and worked together (both have been counselors at Camp Guggenheim).

So it is needless to say, their lives are very interconnected, and they both have many mutual friends.

Those friends are in for a very very *memorable* Memorial Day weekend.

On Thursday evening there will be the rehearsal

for Scott’s diaconate ordination. (Yes, just like for weddings, we need to have rehearsals for ordinations!) Then I’m sure that there will be a dinner with family and friends afterwards.

Then, of course, there will be the ordination itself on Friday evening. Follow that with a reception.

Then there will be a trip from Watertown to Ogdensburg Where we’ll have another rehearsal. (This one

for the priestly ordination.)

Then I will try to get some sleep, but not too much because we’ll be up bright and early on Saturday to make the final preparations for the ordination of Father Thomas Higman.

If you’ve never been to an ordination, I would encourage you to do so this year. You will see the Church’s liturgy in all its splendor.

The music and church will be beautiful.

Likewise the bishop will pull out all the stops for his homily.

And hopefully at this ordination, I won’t drop anything. (Ask someone who was at Bishop LaValley’s Episcopal ordination, if you don’t understand this reference.)

But most importantly we will witness the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit upon the ordinandi.

This brings us right back to the same faith and actions of the Apostles (cf. 2Tim 1:6; Acts 6:6; Acts 13:3). Absolutely beautiful.

On a sentimental note: one of the greatest parts of the celebration at the cathedral will be that Deacon Scott Belina will be assisting at the ordination of his good friend.

What a special moment that will be to witness.

After another reception there will be more driving. This time we’ll be heading from the cathedral to Father Higman’s home parish (St. James in Carthage).

There he will celebrate Mass with Deacon Belina assisting, and with all of his family, friends, and parishioners.

And after that, knowing the people at St. James, I expect that there will be yet another reception!

Now maybe you understand why Ordinationpalooza is a pretty fitting name.

It has been too long since our last priestly ordination here in Ogdensburg.


Please pray for these two men.

May they be faithful and strong deacons and priests.

May they lead long and inspiring lives close to the heart of the Church.

And may they inspire others to bravely respond to the call of the Lord to “Follow Me.”

We could use a few more ordinationpaloozas in our world.



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*Crown Point native is a Carmelite Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles*

# Final vows for Sr. Shawn Pauline

By Kristina Dean  
Staff Writer

In a matter of moments, one can hear the joy, sense of purpose and true happiness in Sister Shawn Pauline's voice.

As she speaks, discusses her life and decisions she's made that have led her to the Lord, one can see that here is a woman who has truly found her vocation as a Bride of Christ.

The 31-year-old woman who previously lived in Crown Point, lives in Duarte, California and in 2006 made her first vows to the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

On July 15, Sister Shawn Pauline, whose birth name is Janet Burke, will make her final vows to totally devote herself to God.

"I am really looking forward to it because I long to say I want to be His forever, to say it officially. I want the whole world to know that I am the spouse of Jesus Christ together forever for all of eternity," she said.

Through her amazing journey, many road signs have guided her to the right path, from Catholic elementary school, gifted priests, family members who have joined religious life, a special novel by a Carmelite nun, to a Catholic camp for youth.

## Heard God's call at early age

Sister Shawn Pauline's calling to the religious life was rooted in her from a young age – her initial inclinations began as a student at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga.

Sisters there, including St. Joseph Sister Sharon Dalton, taught the students that faith resides in intellect.

Watching the "beautiful" sisters teach about vocations, Sister Shawn Pauline said she was given the tools to comprehend and understand her faith.

As early as second grade she began to think God was calling her.

One place that strengthened her foundation in the Catholic faith was the time she spent at Camp Guggenheim, on Lower Saranac Lake. The Camp is sponsored and operated by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Ministry.

Sister Shawn Pauline spent her teen years attending camp during weekends that bookended the summer, during Memorial Day and Labor Day.

## Sustained by Guggenheim

The camp sustained her and helped her sift through the conflicting messages of the world. It's why she survived high school, she said.

"I was a normal teenage kid, going to dances and parties and watching MTV," she said. "Because of Guggenheim, I knew there was something more."

I am indebted to Gayle Frank and Michele Watkins," she said. "I know now what sacrifices they went through to make sure that the young adults had a place to go to be themselves. They drove the message home that God is greater."

Sister Shawn Pauline did struggle during her



Sister Shawn Pauline Burke, right, a native of Crown Point, will make her final vows as a Carmelite Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles July 15. She is shown above with Angela York, current postulante with the Carmelite Sisters.

high school years with the idea that she might be called to God.

She describes herself as fighting against it and trying to change God's will.

However, later in college, she told a roommate that she thought God was calling her to be a nun. She began to slowly open the door, she said.

While a junior at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, Sister Shawn Pauline received another "road sign" which she said stemmed from reading scripture and praying a holy hour each day.

## A divine and jealous suitor

During her college time, she'd begun dating a young man briefly. Sister Shawn Pauline said that this didn't sit well with her, and that she "wasn't comfortable within her heart."

One day she brought him to Mass, and after receiving Communion, she received a message.

"I heard this: 'I am jealous of you spending time with this man.' I heard this in my heart," she said.

Later during that same day as she prayed and read scripture, she opened to 2 Corinthians Chap 11 vs 2 which says, "I feel a divine jealousy for you for I have betrothed you to Christ to present you as a pure bride to her one husband."

"I was stupefied," Sister Shawn Pauline said. "At that moment, I realized I needed to never doubt His love for me and to go full steam ahead to pursue the religious life that I was seeking."

Another special experience she described was reading "Story of a Soul" by St. Terese of Lisieux.

Known as the Little Flower of Jesus, the saint

lived in the late 1800s and became a Carmelite nun.

## Inspired by the Little Flower of Jesus

Describing the saint as a special soul, Sister Shawn Pauline said reading the book gave her the first look into the beauty of community life.

"There was something so profound in that reading, such beauty in religious life," she said. "It struck a chord in my heart."

"She (St. Terese) was able to articulate things in the human heart that everyone has, that people desire. She spoke so beautifully of Carmel," Sister Shawn Pauline said.

The young woman joined a group at Steubenville called the "Little Flowers" after the saint and became devoted to her.

Eventually, this would springboard into her real vocation.

## Influential priests and sisters

Later during a semester spent abroad in Austria, Sister Shawn Pauline met a priest who was chaplain to the young adults.

Father Sam Tiesi's calming advice was to be at peace and not be afraid. He convinced her that thinking about the religious life was not threatening. Eventually, Father Tiesi became ill and returned to the college at Steubenville where he became her spiritual director.

Another person who greatly impacted her was a Sister Regina Marie who gave a talk one night at Sister Shawn Pauline's dorm.

"She was very joyful, radiating Christ," she said. "It drew me to her. After that night, of watching her speak, I found someone I could identify with."

"Sister Regina Marie spoke so beautifully about community life and prayer. It rocked me to the core. I couldn't run away anymore," she said.

The nun, who became Mother during Sister Shawn Pauline's junior year, showed a book of all the sisters who had passed away.

"She was turning pages, telling me about each sister, of how beautiful they were and how they affected community." Sister Shawn Pauline said. "She just was oozing spirituality. She is a very holy woman."

"I was captivated and petrified," she said.

## Local priests instrumental in discernment

Sister Shawn Pauline mentioned several other priests who were instrumental in her discernment, including Father Tim Cannon and her cousin, Father Bryan Stitt.

One priest shared his vocation story with her during a long bus ride down to Washington D.C. On a trip to the annual March for Life, she asked Father Mark Reilly, a former helicopter pilot and Marine, about his calling to religious life.

"Father Mark had a huge influence on my life," she said. "He introduced me to the mysteries of the Rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours. He inspired me."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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# Sister Shawn Pauline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"The conversation we had planted a tremendous seed in my heart," she said.

### Sacrifices and hardships

Her journey has not been without sacrifice and hardship.

Becoming a Carmelite sister requires obedience to the group's requirements. Sister Shawn Pauline calls home only once a month and flies back to Northern New York to Ticonderoga where her parents live for a visit every three years.

She says she knows this is difficult on her family, especially her mother.

"I have seen them be like Abraham and sacrifice me to God," she said. "It has not been easy for them. There is both pain and joy there.

"My parents have been very loving and supportive through this journey," she said.

### Advice for young people

Sister Shawn Pauline shared her worries about young people living in today's world as well as her advice. She said there are so many evils in today's world that are at their fingertips. She advised them to begin a prayer life and to read scripture, as well as not being afraid if they feel a calling.

"There is something beautiful that God may be calling you to do," she said. "And if you feel it in your heart, pursue it, find out more about it. You will not regret seeking that path. It might even be marriage. It's something that will help you develop

tremendously as a person.

There is no greater joy you can receive on this earth," she said. "It is His holy and perfect will for you that will make you the most happy."

### A journey begun in 2002

Sister Shawn Pauline began her journey with the Carmelites as a candidate in 2002, a process that can take between one to two years. During this time, she learned about the Carmelite "charism" and continued to discern her vocation.

In September of 2003, she became a postulant which typically takes about nine months and is devoted to prayer, doctrinal study and learning about communal living.

In July of 2004, she became a novitiate, deepening and centering her studies on poverty, chastity and obedience.

These three essentials became vows she professed in 2006 in front of family with her cousin Father Stitt, director of vocations for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, as the celebrant.

For the next five years, Sr. Shawn Pauline made temporary vows each year that reinforced her commitment.

According to the Carmelite Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Los Angeles website, these years are designed to strengthen a life of union with God, a sense of belonging to the Institute and gradually introduce the sisters to the works of the apostolate.

The sixth year, the final profession of vows is given, where she will give herself to God forever in the service of others.

# Priest changes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Father Fobare also served as pastor in Newcomb and Long Lake and parochial vicar at Notre Dame in Malone, St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, Notre Dame in Ogdensburg and at St. Anthony's in Watertown and served as a religious teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

Father Fobare was born March 25, 1961, in Massena and grew up in Lawrenceville.

He graduated from Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg, Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass.

He was ordained May 23, 1987, by Bishop Larocque from the Diocese of Alexandria, Cornwall.

In addition to his parish re-

sponsibilities, Father Fobare serves the diocese as Chairman of the Committee for the Continuing Education priests.

### Father Hauser

Father Hauser, new pastor in Moriah has been pastor in Morristown, Hammond and Rossie since 2010, a position he also held from 2002 to 2006.

Previously he was a member of the faculty of Wadhams Hall Seminary College from 1990 to 2002 and vice-president at the time of its closing.

He also served the diocese as director of the Department of Worship.

Father Hauser, a Rochester native, was born July 5, 1953. He graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse

and studied for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY.

He was ordained to the priesthood May 2, 1981 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Hauser has been a parochial vicar at St. Patrick's in Watertown and Notre Dame in Ogdensburg. He also served as associate chancellor and bishop's secretary from 1983 until 1988 when he went to Rome for advanced studies in biblical theology.

He served as associate pastor and pastor of St. Lawrence Church in Louisville from 1992 through 1995.

From 2002 to 2006, he was pastor of Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh and St. Mary's of the Lake in Cumberland Head.



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# Seton senior plans to enter religious life

By Kelly Donnelly  
Staff writer

PLATTSBURGH - "It's a personal journey to get even closer to God and to help others."

This is Kathryn (Kat) Tipton's description of her vocation and discernment process. She is currently a senior at Seton Catholic who has discerned a calling to the religious life.

Kat has had a variety of experiences, with New York being the third state she has lived in and Seton being her fifth high school.

She now resides in Plattsburgh with her mother, stepfather, and two younger brothers and visits her biological father, who lives in Alabama, during the summer and on holidays.

Kat points to the support of her family in her vocation and is grateful that "everyone close to me has been very

supportive and encouraging as I embark on my journey."

In discussing her vocation, Kat spoke of a congregation in Florida, St. Margaret Mary, which played an instrumental role in her vocation.

During her freshman and sophomore years, she helped out with middle school CCD classes at this parish. Additionally, she was involved with a group of high school students who went to Mass and socialized on Sunday evenings under the direction of the parish's youth pastor and one of the parish priests.

Kat describes St. Margaret Mary as an "encouraging community" where children were "encouraged to look at different options as we grew up." Several sisters maintained a strong presence at the parish, which gave Kat the opportunity to speak with them.

Another important person



Kathryn Tipton

in Kat's discernment was her great aunt, Sister Jane, a Sister of Saint Joseph.

Kat said that from a young age she "really admired the way she lived her life."

As she grew up speaking with her great aunt, Sister Jane "definitely helped me with my vocation and discernment" and "was always there for discussions," she said.

While Kat can't put a date as to when she started to discern, stating that "I think it's always been with me," she knows that she always felt called to "at least explore" a vocation to the religious life.

She shared that she recently found a letter that she had written to her great aunt in fifth grade.

In the letter, Kat stated that she hoped to become a sister when she was older, just like Sister Jane.

However, it was only in the last couple of years, that Kat "started to discern more strongly."

Through this discernment process, Kat spoke with sisters in different orders, visited various convents, and read about the lives of different sisters.

When asked if she had any concerns about taking this step, Kat said, "I think everyone who is about to do a life-changing decision is

nervous. It's a good kind of nervous - - more like anticipation and excitement."

She commented on the fact that most of her peers are making plans to go to college and that "everyone at this age makes a huge decision that will impact the rest of their lives, so I'm not too concerned about what I'm doing because I feel strongly that this is what I need to do at this time."

Kat offered advice to young people considering a religious vocation, which is to "pray and contemplate... go to Adoration if you can; it's a great way to quietly think about what's going on."

She also encourages young people to "find someone in your community who either has a religious vocation or a youth minister who you are comfortable talking with. It is a big journey and you need someone that is there for you and will help guide you."

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# It's camp clean-up time

**SARANAC LAKE** It is time again for spring cleaning! Camp Guggenheim is no exception even after a relatively mild winter, the facility with its many buildings and activity areas needs loving attention.

This is not a job that can be done by one person. Each year, volunteers across the diocese gather as a community for a common good: to make the diocesan camp a welcoming and clean environment for all who will be present during the summer camping season.

From the Summer Camp program to the Family Life program to the many diocesan organizations and families who also rent the lodge and dorm for retreats, workshops and

vacation time, all enjoy and benefit from the hard work and planning that go into the annual cleanup weekend.

This year May 11 at 5 p.m. to May 13 will be the "Camp Clean-Up weekend" coordinated by Dick Lynch, from St. Joseph's, Danemora.

"If you can't do a whole weekend but can offer to work a day—wonderful," Lynch said. "Your presence is welcome!"

If anyone is interested in helping prepare Camp Guggenheim during this time, please contact Dick Lynch at 518-492-7583 or e-mail yesgrp7@aol.com for more information and to sign up.

## Rites held April 23 for Sr. Marcelline Fournier, FCSCJ

**LITTLETON, N.H.** - A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Marcelline M. Fournier, FCSCJ (Sister Claire Marie), a Daughter of the Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, April 23 in the Mount Sacred Heart Chapel.

She died April 20 at the Mount Sacred Heart Provincial House Infirmary. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Newport, Vt.

Marcelline Fournier was born March 27, 1921, in

Garthby, Quebec, the daughter of Honorius Fournier and Annette (Lepage) Fournier.

Marcelline Fournier professed her vows with her Religious Congregation on Aug. 22, 1939. During her 73 years of religious profession, Sister Marcelline served in Newport and Burlington, Vt., Champlain and Plattsburgh, Seekonk, Mass., and Littleton, N.H.

Sister Marcelline was dedicated to education for all of

her active life, as a teacher, administrator or school secretary. In her later years, Sister Marcelline called Mount Sacred Heart her home and assisted in the community business office.

Sister Marcelline was predeceased by her parents; a sister, Anita; brothers, Roger, Denis, Roch, and Eugene.

She is survived by one sister, Claire and her husband, Ambrose Palardy; also in-laws; nieces and nephews.

### Bishop LaValley's Schedule

**May 3** - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

**May 4** - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

**May 5** - 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 5:30 p.m., Celebrate Marriage Mass at St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen.

**May 6** - 11 a.m., Confirmation for St. Paul's, Black River and St. Rita's, Deferiet at St. Paul's Church; 3 p.m., Confirmation for St. Mary's, Canton, St. Mary's, Potsdam, St. Patrick's, Colton, and St. Andrew's, Norwood and St. Mary's Church in Canton.

**May 8** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Peter's, Lowville, St. Mary's, Glenfield, St. Hedwig's, Houseville, and St. Stephen's, Croghan at St. Peter's Church.

**May 9** - 12 p.m., Day of Prayer for members of the diocesan staff at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

### CORRECTION

**In the April 25** article announcing the appointment as Father Kevin O'Brien as the new moderator of the curia, one of the churches to which he is currently assigned was omitted. Father O'Brien now serves as pastor of St. Andrew Church in Sackets Harbor as well as the Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter. The *North Country Catholic* apologizes for the error.

### Rest in Peace

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

**May 2** - Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

**May 3** - Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

**May 4** - Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

**May 6** - Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

**May 7** - Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996

**May 8** - Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

### 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](http://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 23** - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

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# Newcomb man takes first steps to priesthood

By Ryan Grant  
Staff writer

WYNNEWOOD, PENN. - For Paul Poulin, a native of Newcomb, entering college life for the first time at the age of 28 may have seemed like a daunting challenge.

But, with trust in God and faith that sufficient grace would be provided to him, Poulin is about to complete his first year at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Poulin and his nine brothers and sisters were home schooled for all 13 years of their education. They were anchored in their faith by attending daily Mass at their home parish of St. Therese in the central Adirondack community of Newcomb.

"There was never a dull moment in our home," Poulin said. "We made our parents saints."

Being involved in the life of the parish was important to the Poulin family.

After finishing school at the age of 17, Poulin held a variety of jobs ranging from work at an excavating company, to operating heavy equipment for Finch Paper Company, to his most recent work for New York State Electric and Gas.

In 2011, with a vast amount of work experience behind him, Poulin set out for perhaps his greatest challenge yet.

His first year as a seminarian for the diocese of Ogdensburg not only meant his first year in seminary, but his first year in college as well.

"Entering college for the first time at the age of 28 was a little daunting," he said, "but everyone at the seminary was willing to assist me in any way to ensure that I met the academic requirements. My classmates and the faculty members have been a huge support, which has greatly boosted my confidence."

The intellectual portion of seminary life is just one of the four pillars of formation developed by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhorta-

tion, *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (I Will Give You Shepherds). The other pillars are human, spiritual, and pastoral formation.

**Don't be afraid to make a sacrifice in order to enter the seminary or at least talk to the vocations director for the diocese, because God is never outdone in generosity**

"I feared that I wouldn't have the ability to meet the requirements in the four areas of formation," Poulin said, "but I quickly learned that a willingness to do my best is the only thing that is needed."

Poulin found the strong sense of community and friendships that he has formed at St. Charles to be a tremendous blessing in his journey to discern God's plan for his life.

"Seminary life has been a great experience," Poulin affirms. "I was surprised to find that the other seminarians were normal guys just like me who have many common interests and hobbies, and are all in the same boat, trying to figure out God's will for our lives."

He says that some of the best friendships are formed during seminary life because of the shared goals and the help given to one another in order to live wholesome, Christian lives.

When asked to give advice to those who may be considering a vocation, Poulin was quick to provide some suggestions.

"Don't be afraid to make a sacrifice in order to enter the seminary or at least talk to the vocations director for the diocese," he said. "because God is never outdone in generosity."

"Entering the seminary doesn't mean you are going to become a priest, instead it really is where the discernment begins," Poulin said. "Spend an hour everyday with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and His love will

fill you with unspeakable joy, transform your life, and answer all the questions you may have about your future."

Poulin suggests, "daily Mass, rosary, and frequent confession (I'm talking at least monthly) are all indispensable tools in discernment."

"This may seem like its all too much, but start slowly as if you were training for a marathon, and before you know it you will be in awesome spiritual shape," he said.

Poulin says that one of his most influential encounters, was with Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, well known from his regular appearances on EWTN.

"I asked him how I could know that I am called to the priesthood," Poulin said. "I'll never forget his answer which was that 'you don't, but you must push on.'"

Poulin said that if he hadn't accepted that challenge of Father Groeschel and made the courageous step to enter seminary, he would have



Paul Poulin who is completing his first year at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Penn., is shown in his home parish of St. Therese in Newcomb with his pastor Father Peter Berg.

never known the joy filled life of a seminarian.

With trust in God and the support of friends, family, and the priests of the diocese of Ogdensburg, Paul Poulin presses on in his discernment of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

"The scenic north country, with its many rural communities, is my home and the people here are my family," Poulin said.

"I can't think of a more beautiful place in which to bring Jesus to others and others to Jesus."

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*From Yardley, Pennsylvania to Port au Prince*

# Grey Nuns in Haiti

By Eileen Dickerson  
Contributing Writer

In their many years in ministry, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart have traveled to the mountain villages of Peru and the wind-swept harbors of Alaska as well as to the urban streets of Philadelphia and New York City. In places near and far, they have educated the young and devoted service to the most marginalized members of society.

Sister Mary Finnick, an intrepid 79 year old Grey Nun, carries on her community's legacy of going where need is great.

She ministers in Haiti, a tropical island scarred by politics and history as much as by earthquake. It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

As Director of Matthew 25 House in Port-au-Prince, Sister Mary oversees a safe haven for visitors who come to the island to help its beleaguered inhabitants. Under her auspices, volunteers can get a clean bed, a shower and access to the Internet as well as assistance with travel arrangements, language interpretation and currency.

From Matthew 25 House, volunteers travel to rural areas to provide medical care, bring supplies, build churches and schools and carry out many other charitable services.

Last month, Sister Patricia Kelly and Sister Pierrette Remillard, Grey Nuns who reside at the congregation's



Grey Nun Sister s Mary Finnick, Sister Pierrette Remillard, a native of Peru, NY; Msgr. Andre Pierre Andre, Sister Patricia Kelly and Nancy Hibbard, a Matthew 25 staff member (rear), are shown after an open air Mass in Port au Prince. Sister Mary is the director of Matthew 25, a haven for visitors who come to help the people in Haiti; Sister Pierrette and Sister Patricia were two recent visitors.

campus in Yardley, Pennsylvania traveled to Haiti to visit Sister Mary and spend time assisting her in her work.

Sister Pierrette is a native of Peru, New York. While there, they were struck by the beauty in the rubble, the spirit in adversity and the simple gratitude of the Haitian people amid stark poverty.

"We arrived in Haiti, greeted by Sister Mary and a blast of heat," Sister Pat remembers. "Our trip from the

airport to Matthew 25 House was a bumpy ride along dusty, rocky, dirt roads crowded with people and dogs, weaving in and out of traffic, surrounded by the sound of music and blowing car horns."

Along the ride, the sisters were saddened by the sight of the tent cities that still house the homeless two years after the earthquake but dazzled by the bright colors of the native flowers and the paintings that adorn

many Haitian walls.

Matthew 25 House is similar to a hostel. The accommodations are large, dormitory type rooms, some with as many as 8 beds.

As the sisters' visited, they traveled through streets where lush trees and vivid red and purple bougainvillea flourished in the midst of the devastation and rubble. They met men and women selling their wares in the road while children played and sang nearby.

They saw boys of all ages playing soccer and elderly men playing dominoes.

Deep faith and an indomitable spirit permeate Haitian life.

The Sunday Mass the sisters attended—celebrated outdoors in a tarp covered space—was two and a half hours long and filled with the beautiful sounds of hymns sung in French.

Their faith and spirit sus-

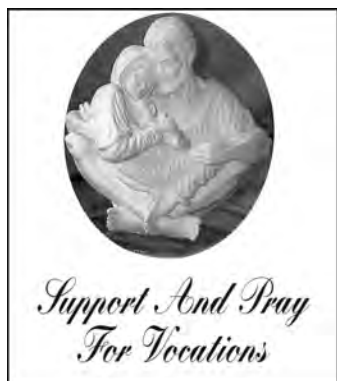
tain Haitians as they struggle every day to rise above their poverty. Clean water is difficult to obtain and people sometimes walk long distances to get it. Sister Pierrette often saw mothers washing the family's clothes in tubs, outside. "Yet, when the children go to school, they are clean, their hair is combed and they look immaculate in their uniforms."

Life can be hard for children in Haiti. Near Matthew 25 House, there is an orphanage called Melissa's Hope. There, a Haitian couple cares for disabled children. They also provide a free school, meals and uniforms for 72 children who live in the area. These children have been brought from the mountains to Port Au Prince to work as servants.

Sister Mary assists the orphanage by sharing the gifts when Matthew 25 house has extra food, clothing or household goods. She thinks her most meaningful assistance comes from bringing visitors to the orphanage and school. Over the years, Matthew 25 visitors have helped the orphanage with medical, dental and engineering services as well as medical supplies such as wheelchairs.

Sister Mary's friendship and advocacy for the children of Haiti is just one of the ways that she facilitates the positive energy of people who want to make a difference in the lives of others. While the sisters visited, they met doctors, nurses, engineers, environmentalists, women religious and parish volunteers from all over the United States and Canada who passed through Sister Mary's doorway.

Sister Pat and Sister Pierrette returned to their Yardley home but say that they are grateful and enriched for the experience of visiting Sister Mary and being of assistance to her, even for a short period of time.



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# Sisters of St. Joseph honored at IHC Founders Day

By Kevin Mastellon  
Staff writer

**WATERTOWN** – Beginning in the winter of 1831, Bishop Terry R. LaValley observed, the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Diocese of Ogdensburg wrote a “remarkable story of pioneers of faith in our beloved North Country that continues to be told and lived here in the 21st Century.”

Bishop LaValley was the keynote speaker for the April 21 Founder’s Day Dinner sponsored by the Immaculate Heart Central schools.

He drew from the example of the “perseverance and faith” of the first three Sisters of St. Joseph who ministered in Watertown to applaud the Sisters, the Immaculate Heart faculty, staff, alumni, priests, parents and parishioners of the local parishes for their dedication to education.

They “have worked so hard, sacrificing much,” Bishop LaValley said, “to provide our students the spiritual, intellectual and physical foundation they need in order to build up our human family here on earth so as to gain eternity.”

The religious sisters arrived in Watertown in January 1881 to live and teach in a small frame house in Our Lady of Sacred Heart parish. Eventually that ministry led to the founding of Immaculate Heart Academy.

When the enrollment and the age of the Academy building dictated a change, the current Immaculate Heart Central facility on Ives Street was constructed.

Today the Catholic School District in Watertown has primary, intermediate and Junior/Senior High School buildings with students from Pre-K to 12th grade.

School officials hope the Founder’s Day Dinner will be an annual event marking the progress of the Immaculate Heart Central Schools in Watertown and their affiliation for over 130 years with the St. Joseph community.

It is also an opportunity to recognize supporters and successful graduates of the schools and to support the IHC Endowment Fund.

At this first dinner three individuals received special recognition.

Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore was honored with the Foundation for Life Distinguished Alumni Award. Msgr. Whitmore is retired but remains active in ministry in the Watertown area. Monsignor Whitmore’s weekly reflection on the scripture is published in the North Country Catholic.

Mr. James P. Scordo, Executive Director of The Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addiction received the Community Services Award.

Dr. Noaman Sanni, an Ophthalmologist with the Watertown Eye Center, received the inaugural Friend of Immaculate Heart Central Schools award. Dr. Sanni donated \$90,000 to Immaculate Heart Central to fund ten full scholarships for students who would otherwise be unable, financially, to attend the school. His gift is the basis for the growth of the school’s endowment.

The dinner was held at Watertown’s Savory Downtown at the Best Western. Among the 150 guests were two dozen Sisters of St. Joseph from the Watertown Motherhouse.

Father Steven Murray, pastor of Holy Family Church and St. Joseph Sister Bernadette Collins, major superior for the Sisters of St. Joseph, served as hosts for the event.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley served as keynote speaker for first Immaculate Heart Central Founders’ Day celebration held April 21 in Watertown. Three individuals received special recognition at the dinner. Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore was honored with the Foundation for Life Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. James P. Scordo, Executive Director of The Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addiction received the Community Services Award and Dr. Noaman Sanni, an Ophthalmologist with the Watertown Eye Center, received the inaugural Friend of Immaculate Heart Central Schools award. Pictured, from left, are Bishop LaValley, Dr. Grace Burke-Mosley (associate of Dr. Sanni who accepted the “Friend” award in Sanni’s absence), Msgr. Whitmore and Mr. Scordo



In his keynote address, Bishop LaValley talked about the 130 years of “perseverance and faith” of the Sisters of St. Joseph who have ministered in Watertown. Those who attended the Founders’ Day dinner are shown above.



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# Pope wants US Catholics to lead worldwide church revival, nuncio to US says

By Tim Puet  
Catholic News Service

COLUMBUS, OHIO (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI wants the Catholic Church in America to be in the forefront of reviving Catholicism worldwide, the apostolic nuncio to the United States said in Columbus.

"The church in the United States should lead the entire church in the world" in a revitalization effort, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano said. "This is a great task, but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This I know is the vision of the Holy Father regarding the church in the United States."

The archbishop was speaking to an audience of seminarians and benefactors of the Pontifical College Josephinum at its annual rector's dinner April 23. He called on the American church to go beyond its mission of evangelizing the United States and "to be missionaries not only to the Third World, but especially to the countries of Europe."

"Christianity (in Europe) in some way has lost its strength and needs an example," he said, noting "very positive signs of growth" in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the United States.

Archbishop Vigano said he especially wanted to direct his message to young people, particularly those studying for the priesthood at the Josephinum.

The institution has experienced substantial growth in recent years and currently has an enrollment of more than 180 men, its highest in 25 years.

*This number includes three men from the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

They represent 29 dioceses from all over the United



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC  
Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, shown in this Jan. 22 CNS photo, was a recent speaker at the Pontifical College Josephinum where three seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg are studying.

States, including six that sent seminarians to the institution for the first time this year, and their ethnic and cultural backgrounds echo the diversity of the American church as a whole.

The nuncio, who serves as the Vatican's ambassador to the United States and is based in Washington, also serves as chancellor of the Josephinum.

"I've been taken by surprise since I arrived here ... because everywhere that I've been, everything has been much beyond all of the imaginations and the expectations I had," he said.

The archbishop spoke in general terms about the state of American Catholicism, but

did not specifically mention in his 10-minute remarks the current tension between bishops and the federal government in connection with a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that most health plans cover the cost of contraception, sterilization and some drugs that can induce abortion.

"This particular moment for the church in the United States is certainly a situation of great challenge," he said. "Where there are challenges, there also is a moment of grace. The challenge is that we are put in a situation where we have to overcome the difficulties, and we know that the grace is always overwhelming and amazing for us."

Archbishop Vigano noted that the church throughout its history has experienced moments of great success and other times when people have thought it was going to disappear. He said this was nothing new, noting that St. Ambrose in the fourth century had compared the church to the moon in the way it seems to become full, then almost slips from sight only to grow again.

"We are not to lose hope in a difficult moment, and at the same time, we have to be conscious that always we are challenged by the devil ... who wants to destroy the church," he said.

He referred to the passage read at the previous Sunday's Masses from the Gospel of Luke, in which Jesus appears to his disciples just before his ascension and reminds them of all they have witnessed.

"This is a moment in which we can form young people with a great enthusiasm to be witnesses to the Gospel ... to give witness of the fact our Lord has died, is risen and is alive," he said.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### 'The Muppets,' 'The Help,' 'The Way' are Christopher Award winners

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The feature films "The Muppets," "The Help," "The Way" and "War Horse" were among the winners of this year's Christopher Awards. Another winner: Mother Dolores Hart, who once starred alongside Elvis Presley, then became a cloistered Benedictine nun. She has been tapped as the winner of the 2012 Christopher Life Achievement Award. Her latest movie appearance was as the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary "God is the Bigger Elvis." This year's awards, the Christophers' 63rd, will be presented May 24 in New York. In addition to "The Muppets," "The Help," "The Way" and "War Horse," cinema winners of Christopher Awards included "Of Gods and Men," which dramatized the true story of French monks in Algeria torn between their desire for safety and their commitment to serving the medical and social needs of the local populace during the nation's civil war. The other film winner was the documentary "Buck," about real-life horse whisperer Buck Brannaman. The Emmy Award-winning "American Experience" documentary "Freedom Riders" was one of several TV and cable winners of Christophers. Another PBS entry, Father Robert Barron's 10-part miniseries "Catholicism," also was awarded a Christopher. Other TV and cable Christopher winners included the Oprah Winfrey Network's first original documentary, "Serving Life;" HBO's Oscar-winning documentary "Strangers No More;" and a Hallmark Hall of Fame made-for-TV movie, "Have a Little Faith," which aired on ABC.

### Charity, social justice must be coupled with prayer, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- All pastoral work, including promoting social justice and providing for the poor, must be nourished by prayer, Pope Benedict XVI said. Without contemplating and internalizing God's word daily, one risks being suffocated by too heavy a workload and one's heart risks hardening to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, he said. "Charity and justice are not just social action but are spiritual action realized in the light of the Holy Spirit," he said during the general audience in St. Peter's Square April 25. It was attended by more than 20,000 pilgrims from all over the world, including members of the U.S. Catholic Health Association and the Ascension Health Alliance. Continuing a series of talks on Christian prayer, the pope highlighted Chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles, which recounts how the early Christian community decided to call forth "seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom" to be dedicated to charitable action so the apostles could continue to dedicate themselves to prayer and proclaiming the word of God. "The proclamation of the Gospel -- the primacy of God -- and (providing) concrete charity and justice were creating difficulties," and the community had to find a solution so that both would have their place in the church, the pope said. The apostles created a new ministry dedicated to the needy because the church is called not just to proclaim the word but to fulfill it through concrete acts of love and truth, he said. At the same time, he said, the apostles underlined the importance of prayer so that those who carried out the church's charitable mission would do so "in the spirit of faith with the light of God." Charity workers must be filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and not just be "good organizers who know how to do things," the pope said.



## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

# Black & White, or Gray?

One widely-encountered idea today is that there is no black and white when it comes to morality, only a kind of "gray area." This is often taken to mean that we really can't know with certainty what is right and wrong, allowing us to "push into the gray" as we make certain moral decisions that at first glance appear to be immoral.

**Many people who recognize that an action may be black may still be tempted to think that because their intentions are white, the "gray" action may be done**

The behavior of the semi-legendary figure of Robin Hood is sometimes mentioned as an example of this "gray area" phenomenon, since he was a character who would steal money (morally bad) for the purposes of helping the poor (morally good). By focusing on the good intentions motivating our choices, and by arguing that morality is ambiguous and mostly "gray" anyway, a person can more easily justify and provide cover for morally problematic actions.

When we begin to scrutinize the claim that morality is "gray," however, we encounter significant problems and contradictions.

The romanticized exploits of Robin Hood, for example, end up providing little more than a "veil of gray" that quickly dissolves when we place ourselves in the first-person situation of being the victim of his thievery, having our own windows broken and our own goods plundered.

Those who have been robbed of their possessions will often describe afterwards, in vivid detail, the awful awareness of personal violation, the crushing of their feeling of security, etc. In these circumstances, we

see the moral problem with Robin Hood's depraved actions, and appreciate the direct, black and white character of the universal moral injunction against stealing.

Universal moral prohibitions are clearly at the heart of any discussion about the "grayness" of morality.

Many human actions, when freely chosen, will always be unacceptable. These actions, referred to as "intrinsic evils," are immoral regardless of circumstance.

Adultery would be an example of an intrinsic evil. Regardless of how much a married man may desire to be with a new romantic flame, and regardless of how terrible his current marriage and sex life may appear to be, the decision to have sexual relations with someone who is not his spouse will invariably constitute an act of moral depravity on his part.

Every wife who has suffered infidelity on the part of her husband, and every child who has seen the betrayal of their mother by their father can attest that there is no such thing as a "gray zone" for adultery.

Many people who recognize that an action may be black may still be tempted to think that because their intentions are white, the "gray" action may be done.

But good intentions cannot bleach the blackness of a deed. Acknowledging the existence of intrinsic evils and recognizing the binding character of absolute moral prohibitions is an important part of our own moral growth and awakening.

Indeed, morality itself, as an inner determinant of man's character, is not fundamentally "gray" at all, but is, by its very nature, a code of black and white.

In the final analysis, the cult of moral grayness is too easily a revolt against fixed and essential moral values.

Although fixed moral values must always guide our

decisions, correctly applying a general moral principle to a particular situation will often require specific knowledge of the circumstances and details of that situation.

**But good intentions cannot bleach the blackness of a deed**

For example, I might have to grapple with the question of whether I have a moral duty to get out of bed and go to work in the morning.

Whenever a particular set of circumstances prevail (I am healthy; today is a workday; my employer expects me to be present at the workplace; my vehicle is functioning normally), then I would reasonably conclude that I have a moral duty to go to work because of the objective moral commitments I have as a company employee — and, likely, the other employees who would "take up the slack" would resent my absence. Meanwhile, if I am very sick, I might reasonably conclude that I do not have a moral duty to go to work. Of course, deciding to stay in bed all day out of mere laziness would constitute an objective failure in terms of my moral duty.

The question of my moral duty to go to work, then, is not a "gray area" at all, nor a matter of relative morals, but rather a question of careful discernment, weighing of variables, seeking to do the good, and so on.

In sum, the objective lines of our moral obligation may sometimes be difficult to discern, and may even appear gray at first glance, but when we sort out the relevant details and seek to purify our own motives, and become willing to submit to the binding character of absolute moral prohibitions, that gray haze can dissipate, enabling us to see the real moral lines that were there all along.

## Meet our new columnist

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.** is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts. As an undergraduate he earned degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology, and chemistry, and did laboratory research on hormonal regulation of the immune response.

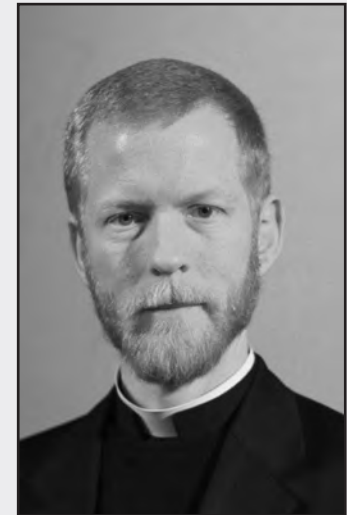
He later earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University, where he focused on cloning genes for neurotransmitter transporters which are expressed in the brain.

He worked for several years as a molecular biologist at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Fr. Tad studied for 5 years in Rome where he did advanced work in dogmatic theology and in bioethics, examining the question of delayed ensoulment of the human embryo.

Father Pacholczyk has testified before members of the Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Virginia and Oregon State Legislatures during deliberations over stem cell research and cloning. He has given presentations and participated in roundtables on contemporary bioethics throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

He has done numerous media commentaries, including appearances on CNN International, ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News and National Public Radio.

Father Pacholczyk is Director of Ed-



**Fr. Pacholczyk,**

ucation for The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia and directs the Center's National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics. Father Tad writes a monthly column on timely life issues.

From stem cell research to organ donation, abortion to euthanasia, he offers a clear and compelling analysis of modern bioethical questions, addressing issues we may confront at one time or another in our daily living.

His column is entitled, "Making Sense Out of Bioethics" and is nationally syndicated in the U.S. to numerous diocesan newspapers, and also carried by newspapers in England, Poland and Australia.



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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Keeping ourselves connected to Jesus

When I was a young person in Upstate New York, I never saw vineyards and "wineries". One had to travel to the Finger Lakes region.

Now, one can sample wine and see grapes growing much closer to home.

In today's gospel, Jesus calls Himself the true vine, while we are the branches.

What a wonderful way to explain how "connected" we are to the person of Jesus.

We think of God as the

great source of life and vitality, of strength and

power. To be connected makes us sharers in His life and vitality.

If we break a branch from a vine, it quickly withers and dies. So, too, if we fail to believe God's truth and disobey His Word (through mortal sin), we cut ourselves off the vine. We wither and die.

Only our repentance and God's forgiveness can re-connect us to Him.

We are once more full of His

vitality and life.

The first reading is a continuation from the Acts of the Apostles, and what a story!

Saul, a violent, fiery persecutor of this new teaching, feared by all the Christians, is suddenly forced off his horse, blinded, and soon connected to Christ in a most dramatic way.

The Holy Spirit, in a personal Pentecost, infuses the mind and heart of Saul (now Paul) with the glaring revelation of God's Truth and Mission in the world.

And Paul becomes an Apostle, a new branch on the One Vine.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

MAY 6

Fifth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

The second reading from St. John tells us that we are "connected" with Jesus through the Spirit of God.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

We who have "plugged into" Jesus, must ourselves be transformers, charging

the whole world in a new Evangelization.

This would all be impossible unless we are truly joined to Jesus, careful to pray each day for a true and strong connection with His love and longing for other hearts.

That means keeping ourselves pure to love Him, strong to obey Him, and eager to spread the message of His love.

"I am the vine, you are the branches...By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples" says the Lord.

It's all a matter of keeping ourselves connected.

## SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY

## Think big when honoring Mary in May

By Father John Catoir  
Catholic News Service

God wants us to honor Mary on earth as she is honored in heaven, not merely in our private devotions, but also by creating public gatherings in her honor. As we enter the month of May,

we may want to think of ways to show honor to Mary.

Remember: We worship God, but we honor Mary.

Why? Because Jesus honors her, and because everything she does is designed to call us back to him.

She is honored around in the world in various ways and many flock to pilgrimages at some of the shrines where she is venerated. Pilgrimages to her shrines, the sites of Marian apparitions, are ways some around the world show honor.

In Mexico, Mary receives the homage of Catholics as "Our Lady of Tepeyac," where she appeared to Juan Diego on a hill. The year was 1531 when Mary asked the indigenous Juan Diego to build a chapel on the site, just outside Mexico City, so she could show compassion and love to her devoted people.

The chapel grew to become a magnificent basilica visited annually by millions from around the world who venerate Our Lady of Guadalupe on that site.

Various shrines in France honor her in a variety of ways, also at spots where

she appeared.

In 1830, Sister Catherine Laboure, a postulant of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, awoke from her sleep to see a small child by her bedside who said, "Come to the chapel now because the Holy Virgin is waiting for you." Catherine went to the chapel and found it lit. A beautiful lady appeared and said to her, "My child, God wishes you to undertake a mission."

Our Lady wanted a medal made with the picture of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the front, and an oval frame on the back with the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Miracles of healing have been associated with that medal.

In the French village of La Salette, in 1846, Our Lady appeared to two children. She was crying as she spoke to the little girls Maximin and Melanie: "There are none who go to Mass on Sunday, and too many swear, using the name of Jesus."

Mary warned that there



CNS PHOTO/STEPHEN B WHATLEY  
Our Lady of Lourdes is depicted in a modern painting by Stephen B Whatley, an expressionist artist based in London.

would be disasters if the people did not convert. She encouraged the children to make her message known to all people and called for prayer and repentance.

On Feb. 11, 1858, Mary appeared in Lourdes to a poor, sickly girl named

Bernadette. Bernadette said the lady wanted a chapel built in her honor.

Disbelievers spoke out against her. Bernadette was directed to ask the lady her name. On the last of 19 appearances, Mary gave her name in these words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Our Lady continues to confound the skeptics of the world through millions of miracles down through the ages, miracles performed by her divine Son. Every year, millions of pilgrims visit her shrines.

Our private devotions are good. So, too, our liturgical prayers, but we can do more.

The laity, after obtaining permission from their respective bishop, can organize a Marian event anywhere they choose.

Hold it in her honor and open it to everyone for free. Think big and choose a site, a public stadium, perhaps, and publicize it widely, sing her praises, and, of course, honor Jesus with a Mass at the end.

Heavenly hosts will join you and the world will see your love shining forth.

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## AT THE MOVIES

# THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT

By Adam Shaw  
Catholic News Service

An impoverished presentation of marriage is the principal, but not the only, problematic aspect of director and co-writer Nicholas Stoller's "The Five-Year Engagement" (Universal). His romantic comedy tracks San Francisco sous chef Tom Solomon (Jason Segel) and his English fiancée Violet Barnes' (Emily Blunt) as they struggle to get themselves down the aisle.

After a bumpy proposal, the happy couple announces their engagement, only for Violet to be offered her dream job: a postdoctoral position in social psychology at the University of Michigan. Her caring hubby-to-be realizes that this is the opportunity of a lifetime. So the already cohabiting couple delays the nuptials and makes for Ann Arbor.

Career development is hardly the sole source of conflict for the duo. Jealousy, ambition, an errant crossbow and even the odd lecherous Welshman (Rhys Ifans) also get in the way of

their happily ever after.

Stoller's picture has its touching moments, and a genuinely uplifting conclusion that shows love trumping materialistic concerns. But a deficient understanding of matrimony - sadly characteristic of contemporary society - undermines his script, written in collaboration with Segel.

Along with their premature physical interaction, Tom and Violet's misguided desire to make sure their relationship is perfect before they take their vows is one symptom of the problem. Another is the near-total lack of any religious dimension to their splicing.

The screenplay never resolves a very basic question: How can what they view as a mere public commitment ceremony help Tom and Violet work out their relationship difficulties?

This blinkered attitude leads to a scene in which Violet presents Tom with a set of potential wedding celebrants. She describes them as Jewish, Christian, "Extreme Christian," Buddhist, and "Justice of the Peace." Tom gets 10 seconds in

which to choose among these possibilities so that he and Violet can then move onto their next (presumably more important) choice.

This "drive-thru" outlook on what is meant to be a lifelong union could only be made more obvious if a pimply teenager appeared to ask if they'd like fries with their minister.

In the absence of any moral compass that might guide it, the screenplay flounders around searching vainly for the point of it all. The consequence is a meandering plot that lasts at least 30 minutes too long, made all the worse by coarse, wince-inducing sexual gags.

The film contains skewed values, including a benign view of cohabitation; a couple of nongraphic non- and premarital sexual encounters; rear nudity; constant rough language and sexual humor; and frequent crude and crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Emily Blunt and Jason Segel star in a scene from the movie "The Five-Year Engagement."

## ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/RELATIVITY

Luke Evans stars in a scene from the movie "The Raven." The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



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## 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

## BREAKFAST SET

**Lyon Mountain** – The Catholic Daughters will be having a breakfast fundraiser to benefit the St. Bernard's Church.

**Date:** May 6

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

**Place:** American Legion, Take-outs available.

**Cost:** \$7; under 5, Free

**Features:** 50/50 raffle and a Mother's Day Raffle.

## \$1000 JACKPOT BINGO

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

**Date:** May 7

**Time:** 6:45 p.m.

**Features:** Pull Tabs and a Full Concession. Extra Bonus Jar \$600. \$1000 Jackpot is only with 110 or more Admissions.

## 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. Peters

**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

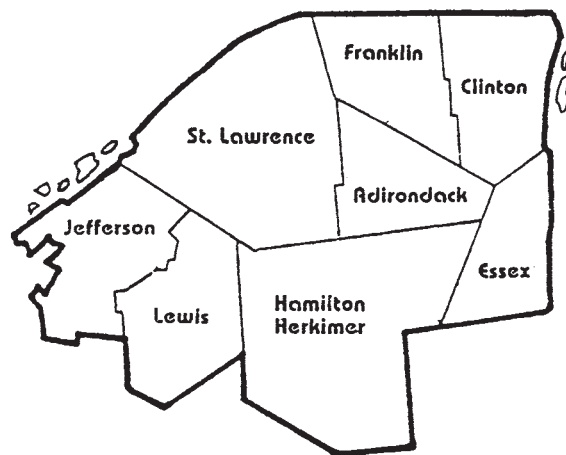
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**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

## SOAKING PRAYER

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

**Date:** Every 3rd Monday.



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:** 10 a.m. to 11

**Features:** be immersed in prayer with individual prayer time for specific needs.

## 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 olaprayerhouse@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 olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.

## FRANKLIN

## MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

**Brushton** – St. Mary's will have their Annual Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet.

**Date:** May 13

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free; Immediate Family of 5 or more (Mother, Father and children) \$20

**Features:** Take-outs available by calling 518-529-6580. This event sponsored by the St. Mary's Catholic Church events committee.

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

**Date:** May 31

**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 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

## MAY DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

**Houseville** - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of May will be held.

**Date:** May 6

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), and Benediction. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 348-6260.

## TURIN GARAGE SALE

**Houseville** - St. Hedwig's will be participating in the Annual Turin Garage Sales.

**Date:** May 5

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Church hall

**Features:** Non-chemical vegetable bedding plants, produce and annuals and perennials and white elephant items will be for sale. If you have items in good condition to donate, please contact JoAnne 348-8735 or Mary Ann 348-6260. Proceeds to benefit church repairs.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## 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 713-4457 or 393-7158

## 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. Mary's 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

A continuous praying of the Rosary throughout the world has been planned

**Date:** May 6

**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." 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  
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# Vocations and the Missions

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

From time to time, I am asked questions regarding the role of the Missions in Vocations today. From our National website of the Pontifical Mission Societies, here are a few of our FAQ's (frequently asked questions) and some good answers:

### I hear that vocations are growing in the Missions. How many seminarians does the Society of St. Peter Apostle support?

Currently, more than 30,000 major seminarians in some 400 seminaries receive help from St. Peter Apostle. In addition, close to 10,000 men and women Religious novices receive assistance.

### How can I help the Society of St. Peter Apostle?

You can offer your prayers and personal sacrifices for the growth of mission vocations. You can also help young men as they prepare for the priesthood through the Society of St. Peter Apostle with a donation of \$700 for a year of studies. A gift of \$300 will help toward the formation of men and women novices preparing for a life of service as Religious Brothers and Sisters. You may also want to remember the Society of St. Peter Apostle when writing your Will.

### Why does it cost more to educate a seminarian than a Religious novice?

Seminarians typically spend a greater length of time studying for the priesthood than a religious brother or sister would spend in a spiritual formation program. A greater length of study requires a seminary to provide additional textbooks, classroom supplies as well as room and board for that period of time.

### Once ordained, where do these priests serve?

Very often, priests ordained in the Missions will serve in the very dioceses where they were born and raised. Others are asked by the ordinary (bishop) of their dioceses to serve in other areas of their native countries or in other dioceses throughout the world — even in the United States.

### May I sponsor an individual seminarian or novice through the Society of St. Peter Apostle?

Contributions to the Society of St. Peter Apostle are allocated to seminaries and seminarians in mission dioceses throughout the world according to need, with certain help offered to each seminary by the number of students there. This system of allocating funds helps ensure that aid is distributed fairly and that those who are most desperately in need receive enough support.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** — Clara A. (Bulriss) Hemingway, 66; Funeral Services April 25, 2012 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

**AuSable Forks** — Jean Rose (Snow) Brister, 79; Funeral Services April 25, 2012 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Churubusco** — Robert Patrick Campbell, 89; Funeral Services April 23, 2012 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery.

**Clayton** — Dwain L. "Mike" Christensen, 71; Funeral Services April 23, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Clayton** — S. Gerald Ingerson, 88; Funeral Services April 26, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** — Belva B. (Sorrell) Collins, 91; Funeral Services April 23, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Massena** — Jane H. Barney, 77; Funeral Services April 25, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Lyle R. Marlowe, 88; Funeral Services April 23, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Raymond Martell, 80; Funeral

Services April 26, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Harry F. Wilson, 64; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** — Margaret C. (Ryan) Bond, 76; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

**Morristown** — Donald J. "Jim" Evans, 83; Funeral Services April 26, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery, Morristown.

**Norfolk** — Annie Murial Margaret Gordon Mattice LaBarge, 64; Funeral Services April 26, 2012 at Church of the Visitation.

**Norfolk** — Armond T. Moore, 83; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Foxwood Mausoleum, Ogdensburg.

**Peru** — David J. Souliere Jr., 83; Funeral Services April 23, 2012 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Mildred L. "Millie" (Duquette) Gallagher, 96; Funeral Services April 25, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Mitchell J. "Mitch" Kilkeary, 19; Funeral Services April 26, 2012 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** — Robert F. Montefusco Sr., 87; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Marjory McManus Pinsonnault, 82; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Redford** — Shirley M. (Nelson) Burdo, 82; Funeral Services April 24, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Andrew J. Fortune Sr., 96; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

**Star Lake** — Regina Marie (Boulerice) Evans, 102; Funeral Service April 27, 2012 at St. Hubert's Church.

**Star Lake** — James J. Whalen, 72; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Fine.

**Watertown** — Mary A. Escudero, 86; Funeral Services April 27, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.



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## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# Following a God of surprises

By Scott Belina

Seminarian, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

My vocational journey, thus far, has been a journey that I could not have planned in a million years.

I was recently in North Carolina for the Diaconate Ordination of three of my classmates from the Diocese of Raleigh. As another one of my classmates and I were driving to hear one of our newly ordained classmates preach for the first time, one of the things we talked about was just this: our vocational journey.

I said to my classmate, "When I decided to enter the seminary, I could never have predicted the places God has taken me since then." It is nothing short of amazing to think of all of the places I have gone and remember all of the wonderful people I have met, and continue to meet.

God is truly one who keeps His promises - and who likes to surprise us.

I come from a family of six: two older brothers, Daniel and Alex, a younger sister, Stefani, and my parents, Randy and Patricia Belina. My family and I have lived in the North Country for most of my life. I was born in Germany, and we moved around a bit before coming to Fort Drum. It was then that we became members of St. Anthony's Parish in Watertown, and have been ever since.

I also started attending Catholic school at that time, entering the second grade at St. Anthony's Elementary school. After St. Anthony's, I went to Immaculate Heart Central High School, and graduated in 2003. From there, I spent a couple of semesters at SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Jefferson, respectively, and finally entered Clarkson University in the fall of 2004.

In the spring of 2007, I graduated from Clarkson with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomolecular Science.

Some of my work experience includes working in the kitchen at the Motherhouse for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and during the summer before I went to Clarkson, I worked for Verizon as a Field Technician. I also spent one summer at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, as part of an undergraduate research experience, and other summers working on campus in a biochemistry lab at Clarkson.

My most memorable and perhaps most valued work experiences, however, are the four summers I spent on staff at Camp Guggenheim.

The idea of becoming a priest first entered my mind at the beginning of college. I considered it for a time, and then decided to proceed in my education.

I did spend time thinking and wondering about



Scott Belina is shown at right with his friend Deacon Tom Higman at World Youth Day this past summer when Pope Benedict arrived in Madrid. In this article, Belina reflects on the growth of his vocation. He is scheduled to be ordained a deacon May 25 at St. Patrick's Parish in Watertown. Deacon Higman will be ordained a priest May 26 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

it, but my goal was to graduate from college.

Admittedly, I attempted to push the idea out of my mind, but that was to no avail, as it always managed to make it back onto the 'radar.'

As I progressed through college, especially at Clarkson, the prospect of entering seminary became more prominent in my life, especially when I went to Mass and prayed.

During my junior year at Clarkson, I told the pastor of the local parish that I thought God might be calling me to the priesthood. From that point, my discernment became much deeper.

I considered over the next year and a half my various career options of research or further studies, but came to the decision that I needed to enter the seminary. I knew that I needed to give myself over to God in this radical way in order to see if this was His will for me.

The desire to know God's will for me was stronger than the desire for a successful career.

It was not an easy decision, nor do I think that it should have been. Other things that my life at that point had offered me did not bring with them the peace that the thought of entering the seminary did.

That was a little over five years ago. When I look back on all that has happened since, it

seems like it's been twice that long. At the beginning, I had no idea what God had in mind, but it has been quite an awesome journey, and one that I'm looking forward to continuing in a unique and much fuller way as a Transitional Deacon, and God willing, as a Priest.

Many priests that I have known in my life have influenced me in my decision to enter the seminary and to respond in this way to God's call. I think they know who they are, too. It was simply their love for God, their example of holiness and fidelity, and their gentle guidance that inspired and encouraged me to respond to God's voice.

Other times they were good at talking some sense into me!

As for ordained ministry - I can't wait to preach!

My friends will say I've been doing this for years, but I truly look forward to preaching. This goes without saying, but I also very much look forward celebrating the Sacraments.

Lastly, approaching ordination to the Diaconate does bring with it some nervousness and some wondering about what it will be like, and the question of whether or not I can do this. I am keenly aware of my own weak humanity in the midst of this joyous time of anticipation. At the same time, I am aware of the reality of God's love for me, and His fidelity.

God will use my weak humanity to accomplish His work. I must rely on faith in Him and His love for me and for His Church.

If anyone thinks that they might have a vocation to priesthood or the religious life, my advice is simple: *Do not be afraid!* These are four very simple words spoken often by Blessed John Paul II. The important thing to remember is that God loves you! He is madly in love with you, and desires your happiness more than you!

Pray. Speak with God often and tell Him everything. Finally, listen to God. He speaks to us, too. By listening, we become better able to hear His voice. Praying is just like getting to know a friend through conversation—it takes some getting used to. But this Friend is like no other. As I said before, He is a God who keeps His promises.

And when you least expect it, I guarantee you, He will surprise you!

My ordination to the Transitional Diaconate will be Friday, May 25 at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown at 5 p.m. Please pray for me as my ordination approaches, that I will be ready to respond to God's grace in Holy Orders, and remain faithful to Him and His Church throughout my life. Thank you in advance for all of your prayers, and please know that I will pray for all of you too!

