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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 23, 2012

Help for family life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Work obligations should not harm a person's family relationships but should provide support, giving couples the resources to have and raise children and spend time together, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At the end of his weekly general audience May 16, Pope Benedict noted how the

United Nations chose "family and work" as the focus of the 2012 International Day of Families, May 15.

Work should not be an obstacle to the family, the pope said, "but rather should support and unite it, help it to open itself to life" and interact with society and the church. Pope Benedict also

expressed his hope that Sundays would be respected by employers as "a day of rest and an occasion to reinforce family ties."

In his main audience talk, the pope looked at prayer in the biblical letters of St. Paul. The New Testament letters, he said, include prayers of thanksgiving, praise, petition

and intercession, demonstrating how prayer is appropriate for every occasion in life.

"Prayer should not be seen simply as a good work we do for God -- something we do - but as a gift, the fruit of the living spirit of the Father and of Jesus Christ within us," the pope said.

PENTECOST BEATIFICATION

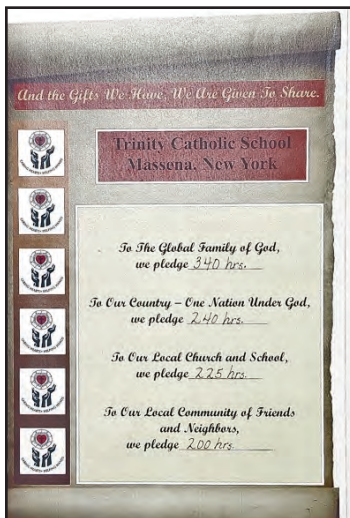
For SCSL foundress



The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, was founded in Vannes, France, on May 25, 1803, by the Countess Louise-Elizabeth Molé, known in religion as Sister Saint Louis. Mother St. Louis will be beatified May 27 in Vannes and become known as Blessed Louise Elisabeth. Sisters from the Congregation have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for more than 100 years. This week's NCC features a report on the work of the Sisters in the North Country as well as a biographical sketch of Blessed Louise Elisabeth.

FULL STORY, PAGES 5-6

Celebration of Service at schools



FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Divine Mercy celebration

Polish priest comes to St. Hedwig's in Houseville to lead celebration

of Divine Mercy Sunday
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

ST. PETERS HONORS DR. BOULE



The 2012 Senator Ronald Stafford Public Service Award at St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh was awarded posthumously to Dr. John R. Boule, DDS, during a May 13 ceremony. The award was established by St. Peter's in conjunction with the Stafford family to honor a parishioner who has given extraordinary service to the community. The recipients' names are inscribed on a plaque next to a large bronze sculpture of Jesus washing the feet of Peter. Dr. Boule, who died in December, was a great supporter of youth, especially Catholic schools and youth community sport programs. In addition he was strong in the pro-life movement, including as a founding member of the Champlain Right to Life Committee and a past president. In his professional life, he was generous to the poor, and assisted Rotary with many community projects. He and his wife, Joanna, worked in marriage preparation for more than 40 years and "probably prepared more young men and women for marriage than anyone in the history of Clinton County," said Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's. Pictured with Mrs. Boule and Msgr. Duprey are his six children, Mark, Christopher, Rita, John, Anne Marie and Michael.

COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS: New priest to be ordained on Saturday... p. 16

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Service with a smile

If the content of this week's *North Country Catholic* needed to be described with a single word, it would have to be "service."

On page three, we recognize the children in the 15 Catholic schools of the diocese who have spent the past year fulfilling pledges to serve the world, their parish, school and local community.

Representatives from each of the schools joined Bishop LaValley May 14 to present their "report cards" of service, showing the hundreds of hours they have given to an incredible variety of projects.

The children visited nursing homes, raised money for Ronald McDonald House, took part in Operation Rice Bowl and wrote letters to soldiers.

St. Mary's in Champlain collected 'pennies for patients' and Holy Family in Malone held a Snowflake Tea for shut-ins.

The inspiring list goes on and on.

Our theme of service extends to older members of our diocesan family as parishioners were honored in recent weeks for their generous contributions to the life

of the parish communities.

And in the "back pew" of this week's *NCC*, we feature a young man who's ready to pledge his life in service to the rest of us.

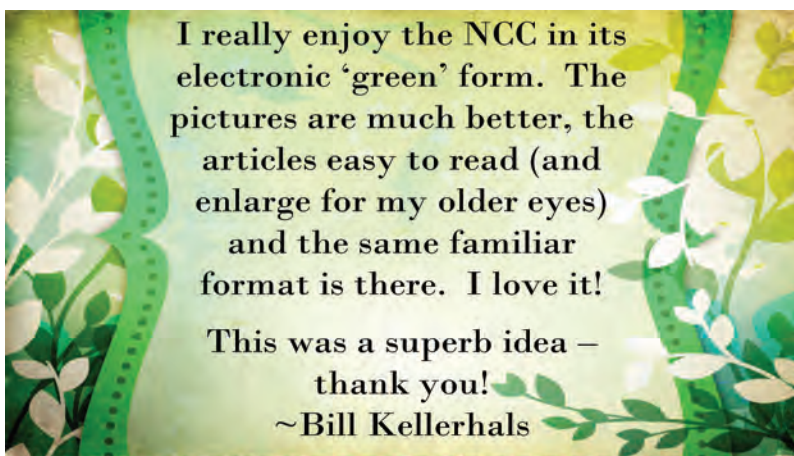
Deacon Tom Higman shared a reflection on his final days of seminary life before his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday.

"I pray that through the witness of my life, given over in service to each of you, that I can teach you many things, showing you the rich heritage of our faith," Deacon Higman writes, "while at the

same time looking forward with great hope to all that you will teach me; helping me grow each day into the Priest the Lord is calling me to be."

In the spirit of service, Bishop LaValley will ordain Deacon Higman to the priesthood less than 24 hours after he ordains Scott Belina to the diaconate.

Every Catholic in the diocese is welcome to come to St. Patrick's in Watertown at 5 p.m. on Friday and St. Mary's in Ogdensburg at 11 a.m. on Saturday to witness these great moments in the life of the church of Ogdensburg.

Mary Lou
Kilian

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

A Community Gift-The Holy Spirit
Pentecost Sunday - May 26-27

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI

Director of Evangelization

"The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, Alleluia" (Wisdom 1:7). The gift given to the disciples on the first Christian Pentecost was clearly under the direction of the Holy Spirit. So is the Church today.

The first public proclamation given by Peter was an exercise of the ministry of the word. Notice the words "speak," "proclaim," "hear" appear in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The Church today is a community of preaching, of speaking out the mighty acts of God in all the languages of the world. What the apostles had to say was addressed to people from all over the world. Right from the beginning, the Church was universal that is, one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. It is still universal—catholic, today.

The events of the first Pentecost took place in an exclusive context of Judaism. The people were from all over the world, but they were all Jews. That would soon change as the Apostles went out to preach the Gospel message beyond the Jewish world. The Church would become an all-embracing community of love in its proclamation of the Word and celebration of the Eucharist.

What unites us as a family of faith is the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The Mass is in many languages, the mother tongue of the people's native land. Whether we know all of these languages is not the point. What we celebrate is Christ in whatever language people speak.

Inclusiveness is a great sign of the kingdom of God and a wonderful invitation to come and feel at home. We form and build community that is united by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today and will continue to do so until the end of time.

We need to pray to the Holy Spirit every day to discern the voice and actions of the Holy Spirit, functioning in the Church on behalf of the world.

As a family of faith, we need to pay attention to the "signs of the times" in the light of the gospel message so that we can learn where the Spirit is guiding us, to speak and to proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

How do we follow the Spirit in practice?

Maintain a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who is "the community of love" par excellence. Allow God to become the very fabric of your being, not just in difficult times, but every moment of your day. We follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit by cultivating a sense of confidence in the Spirit's presence and guidance in our lives. Listen quietly to the stirrings of the Spirit's love and desire for you.

What leads you to do good or to avoid evil? Develop a deep understanding of the Church's teaching and a life of prayer attuned to the Scriptures that will aid you to discern the presence and action of the Spirit in our world. As you are formed and shaped by the power of the Holy Spirit, you are better able to witness, glorify, and praise God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

How do you attune yourself to the action and movement of the Holy Spirit in your world: for yourself, your family, your community, your work, and your Church? What spiritual books do you read?

Soon, the Church will be entering into the Year of Faith. There are many witnesses of faith in the North Country that we may emulate. Read the life of St. Brother Andre, the life of the soon-to-be saints Kateri Tekakawitha, or Maryanne Cope. Reading the lives of the saints can give us strength and encouragement in living fully our Catholic faith within the community of faith, the universal life of the Catholic Church.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GATHER AT THE CATHEDRAL

CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Each school pledged hundreds of hours of service for the global family of God, to the local church and school and to the communities



PHOTOS BY BETTY STEELE
Bishop LaValley addressed representative from each of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg during a Celebration of Service held May 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral. During the prayer service, the schools presented symbols of service projects completed during the past year.



Steven McHarg, an eighth grade student from Augustinian Academy in Carthage, read from the scriptures.



Jordan Kane, seventh grader at Holy Family School in Malone and president of the student council, presented a chart with the number of service hours Holy Family School had tabulated over the year to Bishop LaValley. Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry, is shown at left.



Rachel Racette from Seton Academy in Plattsburgh places a symbol of one her school's service projects next to the cathedral altar.



Teachers Karen Reynolds of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh, left, and Aimee Flynn of St. Marguerite D'Youville in Ogdensburg, right, led the students in singing during the prayer service.



The service projects completed by the students were illustrated in banners created by the schools, including this one from St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake.



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BEAGLE

Deacon Ron Pominville of Lowville, Father Josef Mucha of Pulaski and Deacon James Chaufy of Port Leyden



led a Divine Mercy celebration April 15 at St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville. Father Mucha is pictured at right during the Benediction which concluded the service.

Divine Mercy Sunday

By Michelle B. Beagle
Staff Writer

HOUSEVILLE-St. Hedwig's Parish celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday April 15 with guest celebrant Father Josef Mucha of Pulaski and Deacon Ronald Pominville, Lowville; and Deacon James Chaufy, Port Leyden.

Father Jozef Mucha, a native of Poland, is currently administrator of Christ Our Light Church in Pulaski, NY. He will return to ministry in the Diocese of Rzeszow,

Poland at the end of June

A movie about St. Faustina was shown in the church hall prior to the service, confessions heard, and the chaplet sung concluding with benediction.

During the service a feeling of calming peace seemed to flow through the church. Father Mucha spoke on the importance of not looking back on past transgressions but moving forward, confessing sins and trusting in God's Divine Mercy for all.

In his homily, Father Mucha said, "I would like to tell you that I am impressed

with the number here today and will leave here with great joy in my heart. The number of confessions I had was truly wonderful.

"As you know, Jesus promised us that whoever received Holy Communion this day and made confession, not necessarily today, but with the Easter season, will obtain forgiveness," he said. "It is a great grace for us.

Father Mucha continued by discussing the image of Divine Mercy and discussing the two rays in the image, red and white.

"The red one is the Eu-

charist and the white one represents two sacraments – Baptism and Reconciliation," he said. "Live in the order of these two sacraments. In Baptism we receive once, but we can again and again receive Reconciliation and nourish our souls by Holy Communion. Live in the shade of these two rays.

"Pray with the words of the Gospel we heard today for Divine Mercy Sunday," he said. "We heard three times – Peace be with you! Mankind will not find peace unless you completely trust in God's mercy. Divine Mercy. Jesus I

Trust In You!"

Regarding reconciliation he further said, "Do not go back to your past. Believe that Jesus forgives us. All sins can be forgiven.

"Huge mistakes in life can be forgiven," he said. "God's love and mercy is a huge ocean. We can put a small drop of water in this huge ocean and can be embraced with God's love.

Father Mucha concluded by saying, "So, I invite you all to make an act of faith. Say in your heart *Jesus I Trust in You*. Think about these words of St. Thomas – "My Lord and My God."

"Brothers and sisters, get in touch with merciful Jesus today and every day of your life," Father Mucha said. "Live in the shade of God's mercy."

ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR OPENING

The Advancement Director works to enhance the financial resources that serve the current and long-term needs of Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central School. The Director plays an integral role in articulating the mission of Seton by developing relationships with benefactors while assisting with student enrollment. A Bachelor's degree and experience in fundraising is preferred. Commitment to the mission of Catholic education is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are essential. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Seton Catholic Central School
206 New York Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12903
or email to crussell@setoncatholic.net.

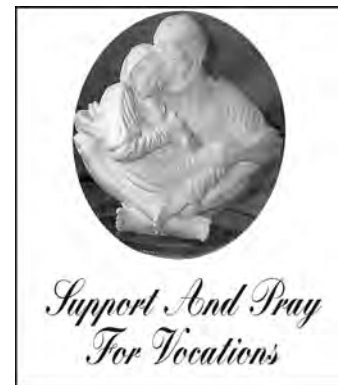
Applications are currently being reviewed.
A copy of the job description is available at
www.setoncatholic.net and www.seton-academy.net

JOB OPENING

Director of Advancement

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

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



The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis

Local Sisters prepare to celebrate the May 27 beatification of their foundress Mother St. Louis Mole

The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, of pontifical right, was founded in Vannes, (Brittany), France, on May 25, 1803, by the Countess Louise-Elizabeth Molé, in religion Sister Saint Louis.

She founded a Congregation dedicated to the education of neglected youth and the conversion of sinners. Retreat work also flourished under the sisters' guidance.

Mother St. Louis will be beatified May 27 in Vannes and become known as Blessed Louise Elisabeth.

Coming to North America

When the anticlerical wave swept through France in 1902, the life of the Congregation was at stake. In order to prevent the dissolution of the order, Mother Marie-Fidèle, General Superior, encouraged some sisters to immigrate to Canada.

By this providential course of events, the sisters landed and established themselves in the province of Quebec.

The history of the presence of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis in the North Country began a century ago in the area then known as Fox Hill in South Plattsburgh.

112 years in the diocese

The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 1910. Here, Sister Bernadette Ducharme, who currently ministers at Our Lady of Victory and Seton Catholic, writes about the history of the religious order in the North Country.

Father Desjardins, pastor of the newly formed parish of Our Lady of Victory, started his search for religious women who would take over the education of its children.

In Plattsburgh in 1910

Following his persistent requests, five sisters arrived from Canada on August 10, 1910 to open and take charge of a building which in its early years served as church, school and parish hall. This school was called Académie Notre Dame des Victoires / Our Lady of Victory Academy.

In 1915, when the church was completed, renovations were done in the convent to receive boarders in addition to day students. Today this

building has become "Victory Place", an independent living facility.

Over the years, with the untiring work of the sisters, the school progressed and as the number of pupils increased. Eventually, it became necessary to add to the first building.

Our Lady of Victory Academy

In 1949, the new Our Lady of Victory Academy opened as a co-educational high school, a boarding school for girls, and a convalescent home for thirty ladies.

Sister Mary Genevieve, a well-known OLV parishioner, was appointed principal, a position which she held for 33 years. She was the initiator of many projects for the enhancement of the school.

In 1961, Notre Dame Elementary School was built on the church property to receive the large number of students, some of them from the Air Base nearby. It was staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis, among them was Sister Veronica Perrotte, a former graduate and parishioner, and a few lay teachers all dedicated to catholic education. The school was renamed Our



Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined the Sisters of St. Louis Aug. 16, 2010 to celebrate their 100 years in Plattsburgh. In front are Sisters Louella Pelletier and Bernadette Ducharme; back, Sisters Joan Marie Lashway and Claire Michel Fortier, Bishop LaValley and Sister Agnes Racette (formerly Sister Ursula.)

Lady of Victory Academy in 1993. It is now used as a Parish Center.

In Keeseville, Redford

The sisters also staffed St. John the Baptist School, which later became Our Lady of Grace from 1914 to 1980, in Keeseville, New York.

Sallaz Academy in Redford, New York, was a high school from 1915 to 1964, and then an elementary school until 1970, when the students were transferred to the newly built Assumption of Mary School, where the sisters continued to teach until 1973.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The life of soon-to-be 'Blessed' Mother St. Louis



The soon to be "Blessed" Mother Saint Louis was born Louise Elisabeth de Lamignon in Paris, France, in 1763. Through marriage at age 15, she became the Countess Molé de Champlâtreux, also known as Madame Molé.

After her husband's death on the scaffold in 1794 during the revolution's Reign of Terror, the widow Molé at once dedicated her life to God. Of the couple's five children, two survived into adulthood and their settlement in life allowed Madame Molé to leave Paris in 1803, to answer the invitation of

her spiritual director, Bishop of Vannes, Brittany.

She made it her mission to seek out and care for the troubled and destitute young girls left to roam the streets of Vannes after the revolution had torn apart family structures.

For their care and education, she arrived with a small group of other dedicated lay women and founded a community that eventually became the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis, named after the patron saint of France. For her own name in religion, she chose Mother Saint Louis.

Her work was inaugurated in Vannes on May 25, 1803, in a former monastery of cloistered nuns called Père Éternel; and for many years afterwards the women would be known as "Ladies of Père Éternel" for religious life had not yet been re-established by an anti-clerical government.

Mother Saint Louis founded several more houses of charity like that of Vannes in other parts of Brittany, where the sisters taught and gave vocational training to young girls. She had the joy of seeing her community add the work of retreats to

their ministry and gain the Church's official approbation.

Aged 61, she died in Vannes, Brittany, on March 4, 1825.

Today her congregation, now enjoying the right to invoke her as "Blessed Louise Elisabeth" but more likely to keep on calling her Mother Saint Louis, can be found in France, England, Canada, USA, Haiti, Mexico, Madagascar, Mali and Senegal.

All these will be represented in Vannes on May 27, 2012, when the beatification ceremony takes place at St. Pierre's Cathedral in Vannes.

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

May 21-24 – Retreat and Presbyteral Assembly at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay.

May 25 – 5 p.m., Diaconate Ordination for Scott Belina at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

May 26 – 11 a.m., Priesthood Ordination for Deacon Thomas Higman at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

May 27 – 3:00 p.m., Confirmation for St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg, St. Raphael's, Heuvelton, Saints Philip and James, Lisbon, Church of Visitation, Norfolk, St. Raymond's, Raymondville, St. John the Evangelist, Morristown, St. Peter's, Hammond, and St. Patrick's, Rossie at St. Mary's Cathedral.

May 29 – 8:00 a.m., Mass at the Precious Blood Monastery, Watertown.

May 30 – 11:00 a.m., Priests Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence

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 24 – Rev. Francois X. Therien, O.M.I., 1902; Rev. Antoine A. Amyot, 1927; Rev. Julien Racette, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph O. Levesque, 1938; Msgr. George L. Murray, 1942

May 25 – Rev. Hector Migneron, 1958
May 26 – Rev. Thomas J. Kelleher, 1889

May 27 – Rev. J. Rosario Jalbert, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Wilfred A. Nugent, 1991

May 29 – Rev. Arthur C. Kenny, 1945; Rev. Hervé Racette, O.M.I., 1948

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 440. Upcoming programs:
May 23 - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

Sisters of Charity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The OLV convalescent home became inadequate to meet the needs of the area. Msgr. Robert Lawler, director of Catholic Charities successfully applied for a federal grant to build a nursing home in Plattsburgh.

Sacred Heart Home

Funds for the complex were provided by three sources: Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis, Hill Burton Act, and the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The new facility, named Sacred Heart Home, with a 64 bed capacity, opened in May 1965, with Mother St. Henry as administrator. She was replaced by Sister Angela in August 1966. Sr. Angela soon realized that Sacred Heart Home lacked the necessary space for the services required by the State Department of Health.

In 1974, following many interventions, it was decided to expand the Home to an 89 bed capacity. The sisters retired in 1986 and the Home was purchased by Hassett-Belfer Senior Housing in 1994 and renamed Evergreen Valley Nursing Home.

Sister Mary of Good Counsel taught music to the elementary students and later in her life was a Eucharistic Minister to the home bounds in Our Lady of Victory Parish and also to the residents of Clinton County Nursing Home until such time as her health would not allow.

OLV Secretarial School

The Loretta Business Institute, conducted by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, was transferred to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis in 1958 and became Our Lady of Victory Secretarial School. It was accredited both on the state and the national levels. The school attracted a unique cross-section of students, not only from New York State and Vermont but also from Canada and many other foreign countries. Sister Theresa Martel was the executive director until its closure in 1993. The building

was sold and has been converted into apartments.

In Christian Formation

From 1984 to 1995, the sisters served as coordinators of the Christian Formation Program in Saint Patrick's Parish, Rouses Point. The sisters that served there were Sister Bernadette Ducharme for two years and then was followed by Sister Mary Edmund and Sister Angela.

Sister Bernadette Ducharme ministered at John XXIII Newman Center/Seton Catholic and at St. John's Parish in Plattsburgh until such time as community service demanded more of her time.

The sisters today

Today, because of ill health Sister Agnes Racette and Sister Louella Pelletier reside in nursing homes. Sister Claire Michel Fortier and Sister Joan Marie Lashway minister in Our Lady of Victory Parish Clothing Store, while Sister Bernadette Ducharme ministers in Seton Catholic Central and in the parish.

In other regions

Besides being in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis also ministered in Willimantic, Oakville, Brookfield Center, and Cheshire, Connecticut. Clifton Park, New York also benefited from the presence of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis.

Today, faithful to the charism received from the Spirit and passed on by Mother Saint Louis, some 600 Sisters work in ten countries: (France, England, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Haiti, Martinique, Senegal, Mali, and Madagascar) and continue their work of education and charity.

Participating in the educative mission of the Church, their apostolic mission is exercised by forms of education adapted to the different cultures, with a special attention given to the young, the women and the persons who live in difficult situations.

They work at varied levels of education from nursery school to the twelfth grade. After school help to do homework and help to raise the level of literacy is also provided.

They operate homes for young adults who are working or studying and also a home for unwed mothers. The sisters also teach faith education to the young and adults and are involved in pastoral activities and giving spiritual sessions.

Whatever their mission, each one has the care of working at the integral and harmonious development of the person.

In the spirit of their Foundress, the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis have remained a teaching order throughout these years, providing education which encompasses the human, social, and spiritual development of the young and adults in schools and parishes.

Mother St. Louis

On January 16, 1986, the Church, through Pope John Paul II, declared Mother Saint Louis Venerable.

On December 19, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI promulgated the decree of Beatification of Mother Saint Louis. The celebration of the beatification will be held on May 27, 2012 in Vannes France where Mother Saint Louis will be beatified as Blessed Louise Elizabeth.

The ceremony will be presided by Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, delegate of Pope Benedict XVI.

The feast of Blessed Mother Saint Louis will be March 4 for the diocese of Vannes (memorial) and feast throughout the Congregation. It commemorates the day of her death or "birth in heaven" as it is sometimes said.

We, her spiritual daughters are proud and honored to say: Blessed Mother Saint Louis, pray for us. Blessed Louise Elisabeth, pray for us.

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Parish honors

At St. Augustine's in Peru



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

Father Alan Shnob, pastor of St. Augustine's Parish in Peru, presented the Golden Rose Award to Donald Chauvin and Christa Reyell, for significant contributions to the parish. From left are Christa Reyell, Father Shnob and Dorothy Chauvin who accepted the award on behalf of her husband Donald Chauvin who was unable to attend.

Golden Rose

PERU - Father Alan Shnob, Pastor of St. Augustine's Church, presented the Golden Rose Award to parishioners Donald Chauvin and Christa Reyell March 18.

The award recognized Chauvin and Reyell for their roles in bringing the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas to the parish.

In 1979 Donald Chauvin was the Charter Grand Knight of St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273.

In 2008 Christa Reyell was the Charter Regent of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 2598 in Peru.

Both organizations have become vibrant, vital members of St. Augustine's Parish and the Peru community.

The Golden Rose Certificate presented to Donald

Chauvin and Christa Reyell read: "On this Fourth Sunday during the Holy Season of Lent, the Pastor, the Pastoral Council and the People of the Parish present the Golden Rose Award for service given to God's People and for God's Honor and Glory. (Well done good and faithful servants! Matthew 25:21.)"

Father Shnob explained that popes presented the Golden Rose Award in past centuries as a sign of respect and appreciation. Recipients have included churches, royalty, military figures and governments.

Father Shnob grew up as a member of St. Ann's Parish in Mooers Forks where his pastor, Msgr. George Philips, presented the award during each Lenten Season.

Father Shnob thought it was a wonderful tradition and has followed Msgr. Philip's example.

A St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, pastoral associate at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, left; and Father Joseph Morgan, rector; are shown with three of the 2012 recipients of Volunteer Service Awards given during the Celebration of Women event which was held recently at the cathedral. Above are Gail Bouchard, St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng and Donna Axtell. Also honored was Yvonne Lesperance.

Celebration of Women

OGDENSBURG - Donna Axtell, Yvonne Lesperance, St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, and Gail Bouchard were 2012 recipients of the Volunteer Service Awards presented at the Celebration of Women event, held May 1 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

"These women have given, and continue to give, countless hours of service to the Cathedral parish," said Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, pastoral associate. "They are all women of deep faith portraying true Christian living by lovingly devoting her life to her family, parish, parishioners, and all who know them."

Mrs. Axtell has been involved in parish work as: an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in the parish and for Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center, a member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, a volunteer in the Ladies of St. Vincent DePaul Society, a Collection Counter, an Office Helper, a member of the Socialization Committee and the Altar Society, and Coordinator of the Art and Environment Committee.

Mrs. Lesperance has been a tremendous support to Mrs. Axtell on the Art and Environment Committee. She and Donna have been working as a team in decorating the Cathedral for Liturgical events.

Mrs. Lesperance's other involvements in the parish include: the Respect Life Committee, Nocturnal Adoration Society, Hospitality Committee, and the Altar Society. She was actively involved with the Wadhams Singers when the Seminary was in operation.

Sister Mary Eamon has also been dedicated to the Cathedral Parish, balancing her responsibilities as Director for Evangelization in the Diocese of Ogdensburg with her service in the parish. She has been involved as a greeter, lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, the Nocturnal Adoration Society, and a member of the parish Evangelization Committee. Sister Eamon has also been giving time to students in St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy each week.

Mrs. Bouchard, a parish-

ioner of Notre Dame Church, recently retired after spending many years as office manager for the cathedral.

Sister Mary Teresa called Mrs. Bouchard "an extremely dedicated individual. She is a terrific mother, grandmother, and co-worker. Her middle name could be "multi-task."

"Gail was always right there with a helping hand no matter what activity was going on within the parish. Her organizational skills enabled her to perform all her daily tasks and keep the office operating smoothly," Sister Mary Teresa said. "Gail's famous special event has been the Priests' Dinner after the Chrism Mass. She planned the menu, cooked, and supervised the team. Her giftedness created a joyous place for all who worked daily with her."

"It was natural for Gail to assist here at the Cathedral as well as at Notre Dame, her own parish," Sister Teresa said. "She continues to do some volunteer work even though she has retired from her Office position".

VATICAN LETTER

We are family

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI will meet with the world's families at a time when the institution of the family is under threat and many are still struggling with a worldwide economic crisis and a lack of cultural and societal support.

Pope to give Catholic families hope in troubled times

As a sign of his deep concern for bolstering the family based on the lifelong union between a man and a woman, the pope will travel to Milan to meet with those attending the May 30-June 3 World Meeting of Families.

The pope will arrive June 1 and will close the event with an outdoor Mass. His three-day visit is an extraordinary sign of how much the pope wants to reaffirm the importance of families built on Christian values, Bishop Jean Laffitte, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family, told Catholic News Service.

"It's as if the pope wants to say 'I am giving the maximum importance to what you families live out and I want to be near you; I believe in what you are experiencing and want to renew this hope,'" the bishop said.

The Milan gathering will be the second world family meeting that Pope Benedict has attended in his pontificate. The meetings, held every three years, are hosted by different dioceses around the world and are sponsored by the Vatican's council for the family as a way for families to meet, discuss critical issues and grow in the faith.

Even though the pope missed the sixth world meeting in Mexico City in 2009, he has always been a vocal advocate of families.

Almost all of his speeches to visiting diplomats, heads of state and the world's bishops address the need for governments and the church to support this fundamental building block of society. It's the family where future generations are formed to be members of a constructive, generous, hopeful and peaceful world, the pope has said.

The pope's message "will certainly be a message of hope, that, yes, it is worthwhile to live the fullness of the meaning of the family" as God designed and intended, as an indissoluble union between a man and a woman, Bishop Laffitte said.

The pope will meet with young people at San Siro Stadium, attend an evening celebration where he will hear people's testimonies of faith, lead a Sunday morning outdoor Mass and have lunch with event organizers and families. He will



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI blesses children participating in the offertory procession during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. As a sign of his deep concern for bolstering the family, the pope will travel to Milan to meet with those attending the May 30-June 3 World Meeting of Families.

pray with priests and religious at Milan's Duomo cathedral and venerate the relics of St. Charles Borromeo, patron saint of catechists, seminarians, learning and the arts, and co-patron saint of Milan.

The pope will also attend a concert held in his honor at the La Scala opera house, featuring Beethoven's 9th Symphony conducted by Daniel Barenboim.

The pope will have a chance to get his message out to the wider world when he meets with the people of Milan and civilian authorities. It may be an opportunity for him to weigh in on a major issue facing states in different parts of the world: the ongoing push to legalize or recognize same-sex unions and marriage.

The pope has repeatedly called on governments to respect and defend the traditional definition of marriage and urged the church to promote the natural order in the institution of the family.

Marriage between a man and a woman "is not a simple social convention," the pope told the world's ambassadors to the Vatican this year. The family is the basic unit of society and "policies which undermine the family threaten human dignity and the future of humanity itself," he said.

The pope's approach has been to win over people's hearts and minds, in part by having Catholics themselves serve as credible witnesses to the joy and love that come from living in ac-

cordance with natural law.

The church needs to help people discover that its teaching not only makes sense, but also protects human dignity and creates a stable society, he has said.

In fact, on his way to his first World Meeting of Families in Valencia, Spain, the pope told reporters he was more interested in highlighting what works and makes families thrive than in lambasting opponents.

He said that stressing what is positive about Christian living can help people see "why the church cannot accept certain things, but at the same time wants to respect people and help them."

Bishop Laffitte agreed that the church always tries its best to explain its position and to reach out with pastoral concern to people of good will, even if they cannot or do not want to live a life founded on natural law.

However, he said, when it comes to people who are openly hostile to the church's contribution and propose changing laws in regard to the traditional definition of marriage, then the church must "be very precise, firm and strong in reiterating the principles" of natural law.

The church must "also denounce the relativistic principles" that give rise to a near-infinite array of subjective preferences about what human love and marriage are, he said.

This year's theme for the gathering, "Work and Celebration," comes at a critical time for many families struggling with the challenges of unemployment, low wages, long work hours for one or both parents, building a nest egg for a home or the children's education and many other problems connected with working to support a family.

Pope Benedict is expected to address these real problems, as he did recently when he said work should not hurt the family, "but rather should support and unite it, help it to open itself to life" and take part more fully in the church and community.

Marking the U.N.'s International Day of Families May 15, the pope said employers should also respect Sundays as a day of rest and a time families can strengthen their relationships with each other and with God.

This year's World Meeting of Families' lecture series will feature Catholic economists, entrepreneurs, church leaders and other experts sharing best practices for families seeking to sustain themselves both financially and spiritually.

Bishop Laffitte said that with so much attention being paid to resolving economic difficulties, people often forget about cultivating social and spiritual needs.

It's important to also spend quality time with loved ones and "rediscover the source, inspiration, grace and spiritual strength in the Sunday Eucharist," he said.

Cardinal Dolan delivers commencement address at Catholic University

Urges graduates to reflect Christ's love

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan praised the class of 2012 at The Catholic University of America, saying in his May 12 commencement address that the 1,500 students receiving degrees that day had all majored in "the Law of the Gift" - learning to pattern their lives after the self-giving love of Jesus.

Cardinal Dolan noted how Blessed John Paul II described the "Law of the Gift" this way: "For we are at our best, we are most fully alive and human, when we give away freely and sacrificially our very selves in love for another."

The cardinal noted how Jesus spoke about the "Law of the Gift" when the Lord said, "Greater love than this no one has, than to give one's life for one's friends."

New York's archbishop, who also is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, encouraged the graduates to draw on their faith to help in the effort to stand up for religious freedom in the United States and to oppose efforts to redefine marriage.

"Religion, faith, the church promote a culture built on the 'Law of the Gift,'" the cardinal said. "Thus, wise people from Alexis de Tocqueville to John Courtney Murray ... have observed that an essential ingredient in American wisdom and the



CNS PHOTO/ED PFUELLER, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan acknowledges the applause as he gives the May 12 commencement address at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

genius of the American republic is the freedom it allows for religion to flourish."

He predicted that a challenge the class of 2012 "will inevitably face is the defense of religious freedom as part of both our American and creedal legacy."

Cardinal Dolan has played a leading role in the U.S. bishops' defense of religious freedom in the face of recent threats, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that would force Catholic institutions including hospitals, universities and social

service agencies to provide health insurance coverage to employees for procedures the Catholic Church opposes, including abortion-inducing drugs, artificial contraceptives and sterilizations.

Cardinal Dolan said the "Law of the Gift" also provides special insights into the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage.

The law "is most poetically exemplified in the lifelong, life-giving, faithful, intimate union of a man and woman in marriage, which then leads to the procreation of new life in babies, so that husband and wife, now father and mother, spend their lives sacrificially loving and giving to those children," the cardinal said.

"That union -- that sacred rhythm of man/woman/husband/wife/baby/mother/father -- is so essential to the order of the common good that its very definition is ingrained into our interior dictionary, that its protection and flourishing is the aim of

enlightened culture."

The cardinal said the Catholic University graduates had first learned those lessons from "the most significant of all professors, your mom and dad," at home, and he led the graduates in applauding their parents.

"The 'Law of the Gift' is part of the DNA of any Catholic school, this sterling one included," he said.

"That we are at our best when we give ourselves away in love to another -- the 'Law of the Gift,'" Cardinal Dolan continued, "is, I'm afraid, 'countercultural' today, in an era that prefers getting to giving, and entitlement to responsibility; in a society that considers every drive, desire or urge as a right, and where convenience and privacy can trump even the right to life itself;

"And," he said, "in a mindset where freedom is reduced to the liberty to do whatever we want, wherever we want, whenever, however, with whomever we want,

rather than the duty to do what we ought. ... Well, the 'Law of the Gift' can be as ignored as a yellow traffic light in New York City."

New York's cardinal also noted how Pope Benedict XVI has emphasized the importance of Catholic universities being faithful to their Catholic identity as they carry out the church's mission in service to the Gospel.

He noted that each classroom at The Catholic University of America features the most effective audiovisual aid of them all -- the crucifix.

A big part of the joy at that morning's graduation, the cardinal said, was rooted in gratitude of the university's solidarity and communion with the church's pastoral leadership, knowing "that this university is both Catholic and American, flowing from the most noble ideals of truth and respect for human dignity that are at the heart of our church and our country."

Earlier, Cardinal Dolan received Catholic University's President's Medal, the school's highest honor. Cardinal Dolan has a doctorate in American church history from Catholic University.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, chancellor, offered the invocation at Catholic University's 123rd annual commencement, asking God to bless the university's work, and he prayed that at the university, the light of Catholic faith would continue to shine so that those seeking truth will come to know God, who is truth.

Addressing the graduates, John Garvey, president of Catholic University, noted that many commencement speakers encourage graduates "to follow your dreams and wear sunscreen."

He urged them instead to draw upon the virtue of patience. "Patience is the disposition to await God's grace. ... Get up every morning with the disposition to await God's grace," he said.



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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Archbishop Lori installed as 16th head of Baltimore Archdiocese

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- In a jubilant liturgy that highlighted the historic roots of the Baltimore Archdiocese while also looking to the future, Archbishop William E. Lori was installed as the 16th archbishop of Baltimore May 16 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. A smiling Archbishop Lori wore the same pectoral cross that belonged to Archbishop John Carroll -- the first archbishop of Baltimore -- as he was led to the bishop's chair by Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien and Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. In front of more than 2,000 people, Archbishop Lori grasped his crosier and began a new era in the 223-year history of the Baltimore archdiocese as he symbolically took possession of his cathedral. Archbishop Vigano, representing Pope Benedict XVI, extended papal greetings and read an English translation of the apostolic mandate naming the former bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., to his Baltimore post. "We express our confidence that through your faithful ministry of teaching, governing and sanctifying, you will win hearts to Jesus Christ and shape minds in the knowledge, understanding and love of his church," Archbishop Vigano said. In his homily, Archbishop Lori emphasized the importance of defending religious liberty -- highlighting the contributions of men like Archbishop Carroll and another predecessor, Cardinal James Gibbons. "We do not seek to defend religious liberty for partisan purposes," he said, "as some have suggested. No. We do this because we are lovers of a human dignity that was fashioned and imparted not by the government, but by the Creator." Archbishop Lori challenged the congregation to be loyal Americans "by being bold and courageous Catholics."

Georgetown criticized for having Sebelius speak at ceremony

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Archdiocese of Washington issued a statement May 15 strongly criticizing Georgetown University for selecting Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius as a featured speaker at an awards ceremony during its commencement week ceremonies. Sebelius has been invited to speak at Georgetown's Public Policy Institute awards ceremony May 18 during the university's commencement weekend. The nation's Catholic bishops have repeatedly criticized the HHS contraceptive mandate, saying it threatens the religious freedom of Catholic institutions such as universities, hospitals and social service agencies because it would force them to provide employees with health insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization procedures in violation of church teaching. The statement from the Washington Archdiocese noted that because of the "dramatic impact this mandate will have on Georgetown and all Catholic institutions, it is understandable that Catholics across the country would find shocking the choice of Secretary Sebelius, the architect of the mandate, to receive such special recognition at a Catholic university. It is also understandable that Catholics would view this as a challenge to the bishops." As of May 16, more than 27,000 people had signed a petition on the website of the Cardinal Newman Society urging Georgetown University's president, John DeGioia, to "withdraw the invitation to Secretary Sebelius immediately." DeGioia acknowledged in a May 14 statement that "concerns have been expressed by some" on the campus and in the larger American Catholic community objecting to Sebelius participating in an awards ceremony on campus.

Obama 'accommodation' offers no fundamental change, USCCB attorneys say

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Although the Obama administration's proposed "accommodation" for religious employers to the mandate that contraceptives and sterilization be included in most health plans "may create an appearance of moderation and compromise," it does not change the administration's fundamental position, attorneys for the U.S. bishops said in comments filed May 15.

"We are convinced that no public good is served by this unprecedented nationwide mandate, and that forcing individual and institutional stakeholders to sponsor and subsidize an otherwise widely available product over their religious and moral objections serves no legitimate, let alone compelling, government interest," said the comments filed with the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Signed by Anthony R. Picarello and Michael F. Moses, general counsel and associate general counsel, respectively, for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the 21-page comments were in response to the administration's "advance notice of proposed rulemaking" published March 16 in the Federal Register, which proposed new ways for religious organizations that have moral objections to providing free contraceptives to their employees to comply with the requirement.

Among the administration's suggestions are having the costs covered by a "third-party administrator" of a health plan or "independent agency" that receive funds from other sources, such as rebates from drug makers.

The USCCB comments said the proposed changes would

still require "conscientiously objecting nonexempt religious organizations ... to provide plans that serve as a conduit for contraceptives and sterilization procedures to their own employees, and their premiums will help pay for those items."

"As a practical or moral matter, none of (the approaches proposed by the administration) will solve the problem that the mandate creates for nonexempt religious organizations with a conscientious objection to contraceptive coverage," the attorneys added.

The USCCB comments repeated several times that the best solution to their objections to the mandate would be its complete rescission.

"We believe that this mandate is unjust and unlawful - it is bad health policy, and because it entails an element of government coercion against conscience, it creates a religious freedom problem," the USCCB attorneys said.

"These moral and legal problems are compounded by an extremely narrow exemption that intrusively and unlawfully carves up the religious community into those that are deemed 'religious enough' for an exemption, and those that are not," they added.

The USCCB submission noted that HHS had not asked for comments on whether contraceptives and sterilization should be among the mandated preventive services for women under the health reform law or on the four-pronged definition of religious organizations that could be exempt from the requirement.

To be exempt from the requirement, a religious organization "has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; primarily serves per-

sons who share its religious tenets; and is a nonprofit organization" under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

We believe that this mandate is unjust and unlawful -- it is bad health policy, and because it entails an element of government coercion against conscience, it creates a religious freedom problem

Both the mandate and the exemption are now final rules, "entirely unchanged from August 2011," the USCCB said.

It warned that "many religious and other stakeholders with a conscientious objection to some or all of the mandate coverage are ineligible" for the exemption or the one-year "temporary enforcement safe harbor" established by the Obama administration. That safe harbor period is to begin Aug. 1, 2012.

"Absent a change of course by the administration or a court order granting relief, individuals, insurers, for-profit employers and many other stakeholders with a moral or religious objection to contraceptive coverage will be required in the next few months either to drop out of the health insurance marketplace, potentially triggering crippling penalties, or to provide coverage that violates their deeply held convictions," the USCCB attorneys said.

Before it makes a final decision on its rules for ways religious employers could pay for the mandated contraceptive coverage, the Obama administration is seeking public comment until June 19.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Pentecost: Happy Birthday to our church!

Today, Pentecost Sunday, is truly the birthday of Church.

Just as every birthday celebrates the beginning of life, so too it is an occasion for asking ourselves, "Where do we go from here?"

What was begun with fire that changed forever the lives of the Apostles, can remind us that our Baptism and Confirmation "branded" and empowered us to be followers of Jesus.

Whether or not we are always conscious of being

marked for life with the fire of the Spirit, those sacraments changed us forever. The question we ask today is "How serious am I about my role as a Catholic Christian, and how determined am I to let the Holy Spirit change me in the years of life that are left to me?"

For 2000 years, the Holy Spirit has entered in fullness into men, women, and children through priestly and diaconal ordination, solemn and simple vows to religious life, and

the conferring of the sacrament of Confirmation on those baptized into Christ. Today we live again the experience of that first Pentecost when the Upper Room in Jerusalem shook with hurricane force as the wind of God's Spirit and the fire of His love descended on twelve apostles, changing them forever.

They rushed out into the streets and boldly proclaimed the truth of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. As thousands were baptized that day, the Church was born in the presence of Christ's own mother and countless of other witnesses.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAY 27

Pentecost Sunday

READINGS

Acts 2:1-11

Galatians 5:16-25

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

Today, through the Eucharist we celebrate, the Holy Spirit's coming again to give a "booster shot" to all of us. Again, we are consecrated in the Truth that God is love and lives in us as in a fleshly Temple, that in the renewal of our life-time commitment, our faith is rekindled so that our light will more effectively destroy the indifference and violence

and immorality that threatens to engulf our nation and the world.

As the fire of the Spirit burned out sin and weakness in the first apostles, so too it can burn out any sin that stubbornly prevents the light and truth of Christ from changing us.

Today, the Church is reborn in the power of the Spirit's gifts. He comes to make all of us free through the daily practice of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Pentecost is a renewal of the life of the Church, and a renewal of discipleship in us!

RESPECT LIFE

'Ultimate Fighting' erodes respect for life

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

One of the issues that continues to be debated at the State Capitol is the potential legalization of mixed martial arts (MMA). MMA is a full contact combat sport that proponents say is a combination of karate, judo, jujitsu, tae kwon do, boxing and wrestling. I don't have anything against the traditional martial arts. They seem to be useful for things like self-defense, physical fitness and discipline building.

But MMA is different. MMA involves two near-naked contestants, without armor or weapons, who get into a ring and go at it like two roosters in a cockfight. They use techniques like "sprawl and brawl," where fighters stand up and repeatedly strike each other, and "ground and pound," where one contestant takes the other to the floor and keeps pummeling until the opponent either submits or is knocked out.

MMA is bloody, brutal and

barbaric. It's obscenely violent. It's dangerous. There have been at least two deaths in the United States from brain injuries sustained in so-called "ultimate fighting." And worst of all, it's considered entertainment.

Those who champion legalization of MMA in New York, like the general managers of large arenas such as Madison Square Garden, point to the increased revenue that MMA will bring into the state. Just one big event, they say, will generate more than 11.5 million dollars in economic benefits: ticket sales, hotel accommodations, restaurants and other non-lodging visitor sales. Why should New Yorkers have to travel all the way to New Jersey to watch human beings bash, beat and body slam each other to a pulp inside a cage?

Has our society become so desensitized to violence that we now have no moral qualms about selling it?

New York State should not sanction violence – in any form – just to make a buck. The state is supposed to set the example by protecting

the health and welfare of the citizenry and enacting policies that teach us what is morally appropriate. Just look at what New York has done in recent years to stop harassment and bullying of students. The anti-bullying sentiment has caught on... schools are putting curricula and codes of conduct into place, local governments are cracking down on cyber-bullying, and the legislature is now focused on reducing workplace bullying. The message is clear: bullying is unacceptable and it will not be tolerated.

Our state's approval of MMA would send precisely the contrary message, particularly to children: it's OK for human beings to beat each other up, and it's OK for the rest of us to cheer them on.

I know that other sports, legal as they are, can be violent: players get concussions in football games, boxing results in serious injuries, fans watch hockey tournaments just to see the

fights. I know that MMA events can already be viewed on cable television, and live in person at the Foxwoods Casino. I know that movies and video games glorify carnage and violence day in and day out.

But do we really need to add to that? Shouldn't our state be condemning violence, in all its ugly forms, and discouraging violent behavior? In so many areas, the government works hard to do so: getting illegal guns off the streets, preventing domestic abuse, decreasing sexual and bias-related violence, shielding children from other obscenities. All fifty states ban dog fighting. Aren't people more precious than pit bulls?

Earlier this month, Vermont became the 46th state to legalize mixed martial arts. New York, then, is considered behind the curve. Many say it's inevitable. I hope not.

Although the New York State Senate has passed the

bill to legalize MMA, some of the most liberal Senators joined with some of the most conservative Senators to vote against it.

A recent Siena College public opinion poll found a majority of New Yorkers (52 to 38%) opposing it as well. And last week the State Assembly announced they would not be voting on the issue any time soon because there was so much division among elected Assembly representatives. That gives me hope. And it gives us time.

The Catholic tradition has a great deal to offer in this and many other policy debates, starting with our biblical values of respect for human life, peace and justice. We are called to be peacemakers. Being a peacemaker means restoring civility in our conversations, eliminating anger in our hearts, ending hostility in our daily interactions, and building a culture of harmony and non-violence.

There is no place for ultimate fighting in this calling. Let's encourage our elected officials to be peacemakers, too.



Kathleen
Gallagher

AT THE MOVIES

THE DICTATOR

By Adam Shaw
Catholic News Service

Given the graphically scatological and sexually degrading humor comedian Sacha Baron Cohen showcased in his two previous feature films - 2006's "Borat! Cultural Learning of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan" and 2009's more manageably titled "Bruno" - it would seem a tad unrealistic to hope that his latest picture, "The Dictator" (Paramount), might avoid an unwhole-some hat trick.

As it turns out, such reckless optimism would indeed be misplaced. A shift from the hidden-camera, ambush-style satire that characterized Cohen's earlier efforts to a more traditional scripted offering does nothing to prevent his signature antics feeling tedious and recycled.

Nor, for that matter, does

the change in format involve any corralling of their waywardness.

This time around, Cohen plays Adm. Gen. Aladeen, a composite, but Moammar Gadhafi-like tyrant from the fictional North African nation of Wadiya. After his scheming uncle (Ben Kingsley) uses Aladeen's state visit to the United Nations as the opportunity to stage a coup, replacing the outrageously bearded goof with a more pliable imposter, the true leader finds himself wandering the streets of Manhattan, whiskerless and penniless.

Taking an alternate identity, he befriends hippy-dippy vegan collective grocer Zoey (Anna Faris), muddles his way into a job at her food store, and plots to retake his title.

Although the premise is workable, and the relationship between the tyrant and the free spirit provides some touching and gen-

uinely funny moments, the rest of director Larry Charles' comedic portrait amounts to little more than a mix of foul language and gross-out sludge, a combination that produces more wincing than laughs.

So, what witty and whimsical jibes await lucky moviegoers? Besides the blatantly sexist and racist jokes, there are gags playing on such ripe-for-comedy subjects as rape, pedophilia, prostitution, AIDS, abortion, necrophilia, suicide and homosexuality. And that's not to mention the scene devoted to masturbation in which the kidding around pauses long enough for the practice to be explicitly -- and straight facedly -- promoted as "healthy."

Curiously, the proceedings culminate with a finger-wagging lecture about the shortcomings of American democracy. This last-gasp aspiration to satiric seriousness, however, falls just as



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Sacha Baron Cohen and Ben Kingsley star in a scene from the movie "The Dictator."

flat as all the puerile cavorting that preceded it.

The film contains occasional violence, strong sexual content including pervasive sexual humor, fleeting full nudity, a same-sex kiss and an explicit endorsement of aberrant acts

as well as frequent rough and crude language. 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.

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CLINTON

ST. MARY'S BAZAAR
Champlain – St. Mary's to hold Bazaar.
Schedule: May 26, time 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and May 27, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Features: Saturday – 8 a.m. to 11 Breakfast; Noon Auction by Bridge Street Auction; 4 p.m. to 8 Bracelet Say "All You Can Ride" for \$15; 6 p.m. to 10 Entertainment by "Slab City" (Live music) on the grounds. Sunday – 8 a.m. to 11 Breakfast; 11 a.m. Chicken BBQ; Noon Parade. Features: There will Games, food and prizes. Raffle Grand Prize, 2012 Ford Focus from Riley Ford, Chazy (14 tickets must be sold or reverts to a 50/50) 2nd prize \$1000 and 3rd prize \$500.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

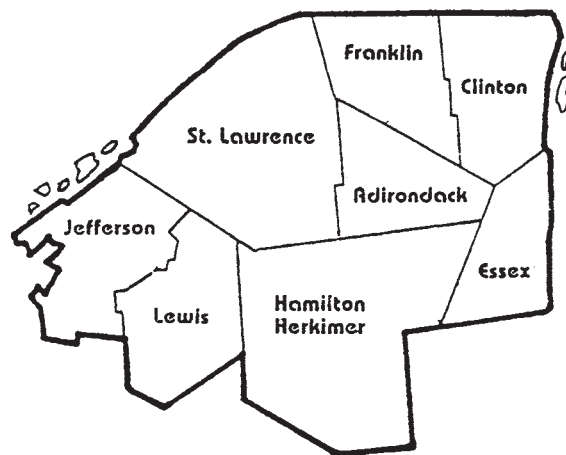
Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host its 26th annual golf tournament.
Date: June 15
Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.
Place: Adirondack Golf & Country Club.
Features: The four-person scramble will feature a "New Car Hole in One" prize sponsored by Bill McBride Chevrolet and other prizes. Awards dinner following the event in the clubhouse. The entry fee is \$260 per team until June 1st and \$280 per team thereafter. Spouses are invited to attend the dinner at \$15 each.
Contact: Obtain entry forms and information by contacting Bill McBride Jr. at 643-6678 or by emailing Scar6064@charter.net

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, allows participants to be immersed/soaked in God's love

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Place: St. John's Holy Family Adoration Chapel, downstairs



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: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: 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.
Time: 10 a.m. to 11
Features: be immersed in prayer with individual prayer time for specific needs.

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.
Cost: Nominal fee for materials.
Contact: Register by June 1 by email to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having a monthly prayer meeting.
Date: May 26 (every last Sunday)
Features: Please bring a dish to pass and RSVP to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

PRAYER MEETING

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church, St. Brother Andre' Chapel.
Features: Prayers and songs of praise followed by devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet/Novena, as well as prayers for individual, community, state, national and global concerns. Facilitated by Living Waters Healing Ministry. Open to all

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

FRANKLIN

RELIC OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA

St. Regis Falls – Saint Ann's Parish received a First Class Relic of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta for a shrine. The public is invited to visit the church to pray at the shrine to view the reliquary that contains the relic.
Schedule: The church is opened Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 8:45am with Mass at 8am, Saturday's from 3:30pm to 5:15pm with Mass at 4:30pm, and Sunday's from 9am to 10:15am with Mass at 9:30am.

JEFFERSON

CAR WASH
Watertown – The Watertown Special Religious Education Program will be having a Car Wash.
Date: June 9
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: St. Anthony's Church Parking Lot
Cost: Donation

HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's Church will be celebrating its Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.
Date: June 9
Time: 11 a.m.

Features: This will be the 20th anniversary of St. Mary's Healing Mass. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered during Mass. The Celebrants will be Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Thomas Kornmeyer. Immediately following Mass there will be prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A Social time to meet the Tetrault family and share testimonies of healing will be held in the Parish Center along with refreshments.
Contact: Parish Office at 686-3398.

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An ecumenical bereavement meeting is to be held.
Date: May 28
Time: 7 p.m.
 Place: Hearthside Hospitality Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse
Speaker: Maria Roche, former school counselor and Athena Recipient on "Humor Can Ease Our Pain of Loss".

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

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: 312 Sherman St.
Features: Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June to be held.
Date: June 3
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Features: The program includes, Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Homily, The Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung) and Benediction. All are most welcomed to attend.
Contact: 348-6260.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Harrisville – St. Francis Solanus Church will be having a Pancake Breakfast.
Date: May 27
Time: 8 a.m. to 10:30
Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 12-5, \$5.50; under 5, Free

ST. LAWRENCE

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's holds Adoration every Friday.
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Church.
Features: First Friday of each month is preceded by Benediction.

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel
Date: Tuesday evenings
Time: 6:30 p.m.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's Cathedral is holding a monthly Holy Hour to pray for Vocations.
Date: Thursday before the First Friday
Time: 8 p.m. to 9
Place: Deacon Winter Chapel
Features: Nocturnal Adoration continues through the night

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

2012 TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

Albany – The annual Tekakwitha Conference has been planned
Date: July 18-22
Place: Airport Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205
Theme: "Walking in her footsteps in Kateri Country"
Contact: For more information or to register for the conference, go to website www.tekconf.org



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

A special thanks from Quito

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

I recently received a thank you note and photo from Sister Cindy Sullivan, a native of Massena who lives in Quito, Ecuador at the El Centro Del Muchacho, or the Working Boys Center.

Earlier this Spring, the Working Boys Center was gifted with a grant from the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to help with their programming for Holy Week. Below is an excerpt of the note I received last week,

"Thank you so much for the recent gift for our work here in Quito. Saturday begins all the Festivities of Holy Week. We have our palms ready....mixed with a little Rosemary. Both Centers will be together for "Palm Saturday" since we are not open on Sundays. Word has it that the famous bunny rabbit will be visiting the daycare centers next week. The little ones make their own rabbit ears to receive the big bunny. Holy Thursday we will have the re-enactment of the Last Supper and then a sit down special candlelight meal with all the families. There will be grapes and special bread to break and share with each other. Good Friday we will have a procession of the "way of the Cross" and then Saturday a combination of Holy Saturday and Easter. A Holy Week with our family of families thanks to generous benefactors. Happy Easter from all of us here in Quito."

The Working Boys Center in Quito assists those Quiteño families with the most need and sufficient will in the struggle to gain financial independence and security, while simultaneously investing in the moral, hygienic, dietary, medical and basic educational needs of those members.

Sister Cindy Sullivan will be back again this summer speaking during the Missionary Cooperative Appeal campaign to be conducted on the East side Deaneries of the Diocese. We wish her and all the Missionaries coming our way safe travels. God Bless!



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

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Wilfred "Bill" J. Sorrell, Jr., 83; Funeral Services May 17, 2012 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Brasher Falls – Thomas W. Bradish, 76; Funeral Services May 14, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Churubusco – Odile M. Leclair, 95; Funeral Services May 18, 2012 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Keeseville – Kathryn L. (Mussen) LaFountain, 78; Funeral Services May 12, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in the Port Douglas Cemetery.

Massena – Virginia I. (D'Arienza) Wilkins, 84; Funeral Services May 15, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Ogdensburg – Beulah J. (Rose) Lyman, 88; Funeral Services May 16, 2012 at the Allen-Nichols Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Jesus Tanglao, 58; Funeral Services May 14, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Edmond K. "Kyle" Dube, 25; Funeral Services May 17, 2012 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Port Henry – Salvatore "Sal" Denora, 79; Funeral Services May 15, 2012 at Harlands Funeral Home; burial in Union Cemetery, Moriah.

Rouses Point – Roger Joseph Nolette, 84; Funeral Services May 17, 2012 at M.B. Clark Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor – Gail M. (Huttemann) Giddings, 73; Funeral Services May 19, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church.

Ticonderoga – Gerald J. Lawson, 85; Funeral Services May 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Antony "Tony" Rovito, 87; Funeral Services May 18, 2012 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown – Mary E. "Betty" (Van Buren) Boomhower, 89; Funeral Services May 14, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Watertown – Jeanette M. (Paris) Feisthamel, 68; Funeral Services May 15, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

Looking back... and ahead

By Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Higman
Contributing Writer

In keeping with a fond custom of seminarians at Saint Charles Seminary, as I left the seminary "officially" on Monday, May 14, I stopped at the end of the seminary driveway before turning on to East Wynnewood Road, as I had so many times before, and I snapped a picture of my side-view mirror, which captured the image of the seminary behind me, as I headed back to our beloved North Country.

Well, my time at home was only brief at best, as Thursday of that same week I got back in the car and headed to Philadelphia, to begin celebrating with six classmates from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, as they prepared for their Ordination to the Priesthood that Saturday.

Over the past eight years, I've learned that the five and half-hour trip to Philadelphia affords one a significant amount of time to think and reflect—and this trip was no different.

As I drove, heading back once again to the place I had just "officially" left on Monday, I looked over as I shifted back to the right lane and read that little line at the bottom of the right side view mirror, "Objects in mirror are closer than they appear."

It hit me then, that while I'll be far away from the routine and structure of seminary life, far away from writing papers and taking tests - the seminary will still be closer than it appears.

In the end, the seminary is about formation of men for the Priesthood of Jesus Christ - and for the last eight years of my life that's what Saint Charles Seminary has done for me and the ten other men from my class about to be ordained for their respective dioceses.



Deacon Tom Higman shares the view from his side-view mirror as he left St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania May 14 after eight years of study and headed back to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Deacon Higman will be ordained a priest for the diocese May 26 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

As I prepare for my Ordination to the Priesthood, just days away now, I can be confident in my studies and formation I received while attending Saint Charles Seminary.

Some can be critical, saying seminary formation in general today doesn't prepare men for the challenges at hand facing priests of the 21st century: such as administrative tasks for the small parish without the assistance of a staff or the challenges of living alone while administering a large parish. They miss the larger picture.

The task of the seminary is *not* to teach about absolutely every situation a man could face in ministry. If that were the case we wouldn't have a Priestly Ordination this year as I'd still

be in school!

Instead, the seminary has been for me an opportunity to step away from the consistent busyness of everyday parish life, and given me the opportunity to engage in prayerful discernment of the vocation God has given to me.

Both in community, and privately, times for prayer anchor the daily life of the seminary - demonstrating for men the need for this in everyday life.

No matter how busy my life will be as a priest—and my new pastor has assured me, it will be busy—my life must be grounded in prayer, "with and for the people of God," as I promised on the day of my Ordination to the Diaconate.

Benefiting from this prayer, along with the for-

mal study of theology, Sacred Scripture and philosophy, as well as the pastoral experiences I've been given throughout my time in the seminary, I have been able to hear the Lord's call and respond to it confidently - and I find myself now just days away from Ordination to the Priesthood!

For those things I have yet to learn and experience as a parish priest, I entrust myself to each and every one of you; priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful alike. This now is your task.

In my interactions with each of you in the coming months and years ahead, you will show me what it's like to be a Priest in the North Country!

I promise to be faithful in celebrating the sacraments, and leading you in worship,

and being present to you in all situations of life - but you will show me how to balance a parish budget, you will show me how to fix a broken boiler or furnace or put a new roof on a Church, you will show me what its like to experience winter in the North Country again with all the tricks and tips that only we have up here - and in this I am confident!

**As I prepare for my
Ordination to the Priesthood,
just days away now,
I can be confident in my
studies and formation I
received while attending
Saint Charles Seminary**

I pray that through the witness of my life, given over in service to each of you, that I can teach you many things, showing you the rich heritage of our faith, while at the same time looking forward with great hope to all that you will teach me; helping me grow each day into the Priest the Lord is calling me to be.

While I will miss the everyday interactions with my classmates, the scheduled times for prayer amidst a busy day, and the overall fraternal spirit felt at the seminary, I look with great expectation toward arriving "officially" in the North Country next week, to be with our Priests on retreat in Alexandria Bay and then on Saturday, beginning my life sharing in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

I look back now, confidently, and realize that while the seminary may be miles away, it is actually closer than it appears, as now I begin to work from the strong foundations laid there, and begin anew journeying with each of you toward the Kingdom of Heaven!