

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pope ordains nine on World Day of Prayer for Vocations | PAGE 10

NYS bishops seek hike in minimum wage | PAGE 10

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 9, 2012

Closeness to God....

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The church's first martyr found the strength to face his accusers because of his close relationship with God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

St. Stephen, who was accused of blasphemy and stoned to death, upheld the faith and gave witness to Christ as the righteous one proclaimed by the prophets,

the pope said during the general audience May 2.

Continuing his catechesis on Christian prayer, the pope focused on St. Stephen, who was "accused of saying that Jesus would destroy the temple and the customs handed down by Moses." The saint told his accusers the body of Jesus is the new temple of God; it is in Jesus that God

and humanity are in true contact, which makes real communion with God and transformation possible, the pope said.

The saint explained how God does not dwell in places made by human hands; the "new true temple where God dwells is in his son," who gathers and unites all people in the sacrament of his body

and blood, the pope said.

Today's Christians can draw inspiration from St. Stephen, who found strength during his martyrdom in his relationship with God and by meditating on the history of salvation. "Our prayer, too, must be nourished by listening to the word of God in communion with Jesus and his church," he said.

WOMEN OF GRACE

Retreat brings 100 women to Wadhams Hall



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER
Johnnette Benkovic, Women of Grace founder, author, and host of EWTN's "Abundant Life" program, led a Woman of Grace retreat at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg April 20-22. More than 100 women took part in the retreat which was structured around daily Mass, Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, the Rosary, opportunities for Confession and presentations by Mrs. Benkovic.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4-6

Catholic Charities on Mothers Day

The annual Catholic Charities Appeal for 2012 has been set for Mother's Day, May 13.

Bishop LaValley writes, "As followers of Christ, we are impelled by God's spirit to respond to the needs of our neighbors, our family members and our co-workers. Next week, we have the opportunity to do so.

"Catholic Charities needs your help to maintain and to enhance its vital services and programs throughout our North Country," the bishop said. "Thank you for being as generous as possible."

FULL STORY, PAGE 8-9

Catholic Scouting

Scout emblems help boys and girls learn more and engage

more in their faith

FULL STORY, PAGE 6 and 7

AT THE YOUTH RALLY



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER
Chris Padgett, keynote speaker at the 2012 Youth Rally held April 28 at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, got some musical assistance from Zack Leader of Gouverneur, left, and Michael Jadlos of Potsdam, right. IHC senior Michael Hough writes about his experiences at the youth rally on page 3.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Looking back on two extraordinary weekends... p. 16

NORTH
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Times of grace

April was a month filled with weekends of grace in the North Country church as Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday were followed by powerful diocesan experiences.

More than 100 women gathered at Wadhams Hall for a unique retreat April 22-20 and more than 300 teenagers traveled to IHC in Watertown a week later for the diocesan youth rally.

This week's *NCC* features first-hand reports about each.

My first-hand experience only lasted an hour at the women's retreat and three at the youth rally but I could tell that something special was going on. In some cases, the events were life-changing.

A common theme for both the women and the teenagers was that they are called to *listen to* and *follow* the word of God.

Bishop LaValley reiterates this message as he urges our grace-filled generosity for a weekend in May.

We all know that Jesus offered a

clear teaching to his followers to "feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless."

We certainly can't claim to follow Jesus if we don't follow this imperative.

Next weekend – Mother's Day weekend – we have the opportunity to respond to the needs of those who don't have enough with a donation to the annual Catholic Charities appeal in our parishes.

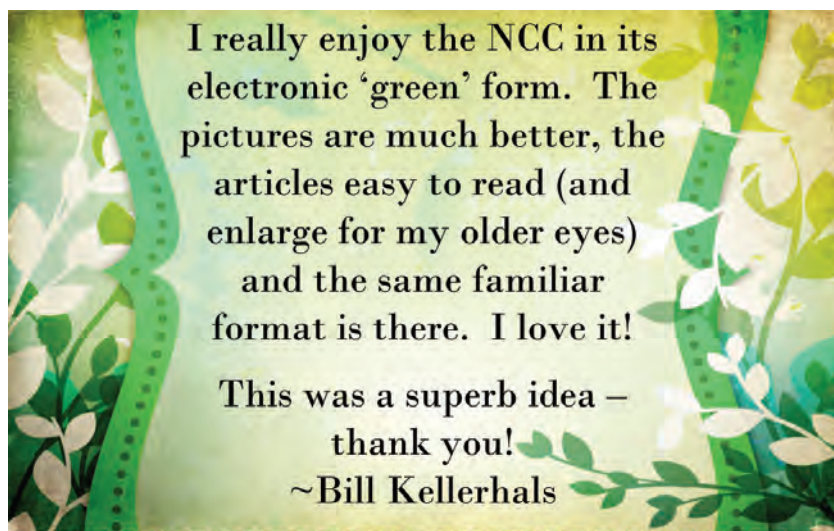
Our generosity should offer life-changing hope for mothers who worry about feeding their children, families frightened about losing their home or victims of domestic violence or mental illness.

After reading the uplifting accounts of the retreat and the youth rally, spend some time with the critical message from Catholic Charities in the centerfold.

Personal holiness isn't holy at all if it doesn't impel us to do everything in our power to relieve the hunger and pain of our brothers and sisters in need.



Mary Lou
Kilian



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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

A Mission and Ministry of Love 6th Sunday of Easter - May 12-13

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Director of Evangelization

As a community of believers, we are a family of faith sent forth to continue the mission of Jesus to preach the Good News.

We evangelize where we are, at home, in the community, in the workplace by the way we witness loving God and in the way we love God and one another.

God's love is for everyone. He shows no partiality. He longs and desires that all people be saved. The Easter message of Jesus' resurrection is proof of what God has done for us.

Pope Benedict XVI's call for New Evangelization efforts in the Church means reaching out to those who have already been catechized, those away from the Church, or to those to be invited into the Church.

How do we do this?

The heart of evangelization consists in reaching out in love and concern to all, giving of ourselves even to the point of death. "No one has greater love than this" (John 15:13) is the very foundation of ministry. This can only be done in intimacy with Jesus who said, "I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father" (John 15:15).

To be the friend of Jesus is to express our love for God, our service to God, and our obedience to Him because He has loved us first. It is God who has taken the initiative in sending His Son to be our Redeemer. The most generous gift we can give in return for the magnanimous love is our whole-hearted response of a faithful "Yes" and not looking back.

Our response is graced with Jesus' promise to "remain" in us and with us. There is no greater gift in our lives than the friendship of Jesus. This friendship enables us to approach and enter into that knowledge of what God desires, and what we, in turn, are called to do.

The wisdom and insights that are gained from this friendship is the heartbeat of our ministry. There is no greater gift than this kind of relationship with Jesus Christ.

As a Family of Faith, parents, children, the parish family, we are called to "remain" in God's love as expressed in the Person of Jesus. We are fed on this intimacy through the sacramental life of the Church, especially in the Eucharist. We are then sent forth with the same mission, that is, the same call to intimacy with our brothers and sisters.

This mission is not an easy one. It sometimes brings rejection and misunderstanding. It will call us to a greater sacrifice, complete and unwavering to the truth of the Gospel.

Let us listen to the Spirit of God speak to us in continuing His mission and ministry of love to one another. The intimacy of love compels us to share the mission with others. Peter was able to see the grace of God working when he baptized the Gentiles.

We cannot place obstacles in the way of God's grace to act. The Spirit of God acts in ways that we do not see or understand. Our call is to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is working and is drawing all of us toward Jesus. Our role is to help that person or persons to a deeper faith.

In what ways is God calling you to witness His love in your ministry? What are the challenges you experience? How do you "remain" in Christ's friendship to continue your work of love? How do you overcome the obstacles that challenge your engagement in ministry to give all, even to the point of death?



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Among more than 300 teenagers who gathered at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown for the 2012 youth rally were Lisa Pignone of Sacred Heart Parish, Watertown; Fisher Tieman and Joshua Jackson, St.



Mary's; Canton and Timothy Beese, St. Cecilia's., Adams, who presented the Offertory gifts during the closing liturgy. The youth rally featured Chris Padgett, center as keynote speaker. It was organized by the diocesan youth ministry office, headed by Deacon Brian Dwyer, shown at right.



Youth Rally 2012... Hear His Voice

By Michael Hough

Senior, Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown

WATERTOWN - As I walked into Immaculate Heart Central with my little brother on Saturday, April 28th, I wasn't sure what to expect. My brother, James, and I attend Immaculate Heart, and our parents convinced us both to sign up for the Youth Rally that took place last weekend.

The first thing I immediately noticed was the overwhelming number of people in the building, both young people and adults, most of whom I had never seen before. It was inspiring to see so many people there for a day dedicated to the Lord.

The day began in the auditorium, with an impressive prayer by several teenagers from Adams.



Madeline Yousey and Lydia Fillhart from St. Cecilia's in Adams work on a spaghetti bridge at the Family Life Office interactive park activity.

They discussed the necessity for every person today to "tune into God's station," despite all the distractions that are going on in our lives.

After opening prayer, there was a roll call for each group and the place they were from. I was amazed that the list consisted of places all over northern New York, some as far away as Saranac Lake and others as close as Fort Drum.

At this point, the keynote speaker, Chris Padgett, was introduced. Chris is a musician, a father of nine, and a convert to the Catholic Church. He got up on the stage and immediately started making jokes; the laughter never subsided for the two hours he spoke. He had a way to make people listen to what he was saying, and his humor was just enough that he could keep everyone's attention.

Personally, I was impacted by Chris. Through his own personal experiences, he helped me gain a greater perspective that God has chosen me and will always be there for me. I enjoyed how easily Chris could look back on his experiences as a child and laugh about them.

Every time he described himself as a "pear shaped boy" who waddled around the playground with his two best friends, he was laughing right along with everyone. I also enjoyed his ability to become quite serious and reflective.

When Chris remembered the time in his life when his father left his family, and the pain he felt, the auditorium fell silent. He said that today, with patience and the help of God, he forgave his father.

Chris really made the Youth Rally come alive for me. After he talked, I was really looking forward to the rest of the day.

Following lunch, everyone divided up to go to the workshops that they chose. I was asked by Terry Burgess to help out with the Sports Workshop.

Mr. Burgess has been involved in the Immaculate Heart Central schools for many years. Currently he is the director of the IHC Mystery Play that reenacts the Passion of Christ at different parishes. I was lucky enough to be a part of this group, so Mr.



Bishop LaValley took time to answer questions from the youth rally participants before presiding at the Mass.

Burgess did not hesitate to ask for my help.

I, myself, did not play any sports my senior year, but Mr. Burgess' workshop was applicable to more than just sports. His central focus was "Who do you say that I am?"

He asked the kids to write down various words that their coaches, teammates, and opponents would use to describe them. He told us who he was and told everyone to be true to who they are.

He said that it's not about hating the other team, but about playing the game and allowing our Christian values to guide us.

The day ended with Adoration and Mass said by Bishop LaValley: the perfect end to a day of prayer. I feel that the Youth Rally and what I learned that day will remain with me for many years to come.

As a senior heading off to college in the fall, I am glad I will have this memory to look back on for security in my faith.

More the 100 women gather at Wadhams Hall for retreat Women of Grace

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

Grace, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1997) reminds us, is a participation in the life of God.

It was grace that drew 106 women, from all parts of the diocese and beyond, to the Women of Grace retreat at Wadhams Hall April 20-22.

There, in word and sacrament, grace reached deeply into the hearts of those gathered for this unique encounter with the truth of what it means to be a daughter of God.

Led by Johnnette Benkovic, Women of Grace founder, author, and host of EWTN's "Abundant Life" program, the retreat was structured around daily Mass, Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, the Rosary, and opportunities for Confession.

Complementing these were Mrs. Benkovic's presentations, which were largely framed by Ephesians 1,3-4: "Praised be the God and Fa-

ther of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us every spiritual blessing in the heavens. God chose us in him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in his sight, to be full of love."

These verses, she proposed, reveal to us our identity in Christ - as well as our destiny.

No human is an accident

"No human being is an accident," Mrs. Benkovic said. "Rather each has been chosen by God 'before the world began,' called into existence by his will, and endowed with every blessing in the heavens."

"That fact leads us to know, too, the purpose for which we have been created: 'to be holy and blameless in his sight, to be full of love.'"

This fundamental truth of our existence can be compromised by sin and obscured by false ideologies, Mrs. Benkovic pointed out, with women being particularly vulnerable to the lie that they ought to be just like men.

"Every woman, by virtue of her femininity is called to be

mother, to be one who bears physical and spiritual life in the world - and Satan hates her for it," she explained.

"The physiology of woman is itself a sign of the sacred: in her womb - deep, hidden, interior - is that place where God puts an immortal soul, a new person who will live for all eternity," she said. "It is holy because it belongs to God."

The power of women

"Her interiority and sacredness give woman power over man, because he longs for her and is lost without her," Mrs. Benkovic said. "Men take their cues from us."

"Archbishop Sheen said that 'A civilization rises to the stature of the woman' because she signifies the sacred. When woman lives with her sign, she rises and the men follow," she said.

"The devil, though, wants to dis-integrate woman, separating her from her own interiority, Mrs. Benkovic said. 'It's all up to you, the devil whispers. Sleep with whomever you want, do whatever you want. If you



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Johnnette Benkovic, left, Women of Grace founder, author, and host of EWTN's "Abundant Life" program, is shown with Mary Dillenback of Fishers Landing, regional coordinator of Women of Grace and organizer of the local retreat.

get pregnant, get an abortion.

"But," Mrs. Benkovic explained, "a woman can't do this and be well on any level. Acting against the feminine nature contributes to depression, alcoholism, serial marriages.

On the other hand, when we live as a sign of the sacred, we begin to re-integrate and to have happiness, fulfillment, and joy—like our Blessed Mother Mary, she said. "God wants you to know exactly who you are: his daughter, the image of the woman of grace foretold in Genesis 3, 15. You are to be mini-Mary's."

God wants to heal us

Acknowledging the brokenness that haunts us all, Mrs. Benkovic assured retreatants that "Nothing you have done is greater than his love for you. There is nothing greater than God's mercy.

"Know who you are! God wants to heal you, vivify you, integrate you," she said. "He wants you to help him bring salvation to the world.

"There is no turmoil greater than the love of God," she said. "He is present; walk with him! No matter what God entrusts to us, we need faith, not fear." (See box)

Mrs. Benkovic noted that God heals in many ways,

even by the passive purification that comes through suffering.

Christians are not immune to suffering, she explained, because we are baptized into the Paschal mystery—the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ.

"We also live in a broken and fallen world," she said. "Yet in the plan of God, even suffering can bring grace.

Burying a son

Relating the 2004 loss of her only son in a vehicular accident, Mrs. Benkovic moved her listeners to tears as she described the horror she experienced when she learned of Simon's death:

"I threw myself on the floor and wailed, like a dying animal. In my mind's eye I could see those scenes from 'The Passion of the Christ,' I could see our Blessed Lady. She had lost her own perfect Son, and I knew she was with me.

In utter agony, I cried out for "every spiritual blessing in the heavens." I told God that I wanted the grace that held Our Lady under that cross for three hours as she watched her Son die.

I felt no consolation; no angels came. I knew that faith is a theological virtue we receive at Baptism, but it is also an intellectual virtue when

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Living with faith, not fear

Johnnette Benkovic reinforced the idea that women need "faith not fear" by sharing the four-fold advice developed by her late husband, Anthony, who died of brain cancer in 2007.

- Number one: keep your eyes on Jesus; remember what happened to Peter when he looked away.

- Second, stay the course: the sea will get rocky in life and ministry, in marriage and parenting. It's just part of our brokenness.

- Third, secure the perimeter: protect God's life within us. Avoid the occasion of sin. Make use of the sacraments, especially Eucharist and Reconciliation. Use sacramentals—holy water, blessed oil, the scapular.

- And fourth, finish strong. Make the decision to do whatever Jesus tells you to do. Practice the beatitudes. The Ten Commandments must be obeyed. Obey the teachings of Holy Mother Church. Even though revolution is in the American soil,

obey God. He is not asking you what you think, or asking you to agree, but he is asking you to obey. "

Though obedience is difficult, it is essential: Jesus obeyed the Father and so must we. Further, "When we begin to obey," said Mrs. Benkovic, "something spiritual happens inside us. Rebellion begins to dissipate and gives way to joy. Then we begin to see the wisdom in the commandments and the teachings of the Church. This is how God works in us. Following God's law is the way we experience absolute freedom. Working against God puts us in bondage.

"Sin makes us blind to the things of God: we lose peace, happiness, joy, ourselves—and our way," Mrs. Benkovic said. "The wages of sin is death. Even though we go through the motions of our days, we can be spiritually dead. God wants to restore us to life in him, to bring us healing and set us free to radiate his presence and love in the world."

SCENES FROM WOMEN OF GRACE RETREAT

PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Top left, Bishop LaValley welcomes the participants of the Women of Grace retreat during the opening Mass April 21. Top right, Christina Carlson of Lake Placid holds her baby Elijah, the youngest retreatant; below, the view from the balcony in the chapel.



Grace.. me?

By Colleen Miner
Staff Writer

For years my dance instructor told me to be graceful. I would try my best to perform with grace. It wasn't until I ventured from ballet to jazz that I found my niche.

Grace was not my gift - energy was. I applied my energy to a faster step thus excelling at jazz.

Years later, struggling with an issue, I stopped into church to pray. I was told by my parish priest not to worry that I have grace. I replied with a chuckle, "oh, you don't know me. I do not have grace!"

Grace is reserved for Mary, after all, we pray "Hail Mary, Full of Grace" - surely I do not possess that which Mary does!

But he insisted that I have grace and even went so far as to say I had a lot of grace.

This puzzled me. Until I attended the Women of Grace retreat April 20-23 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Catholic Dictionary defines grace as 'the supernatural gift that God, of his free benevolence, bestows on rational creatures for their eternal salvation.'

As the weekend guest speaker, Johnnette Benkovic, stated "Woman has life and creates it and gives chance of salvation to her offspring." A woman's procreative abilities is a gift - a grace - a reflection of the divine.

Women of Grace, a Catholic lay apostolate for women features a foundational study series which includes bible study, learning about women saints, reading church encyclicals, understanding the role of women in the church, building a relationship with the Lord through prayer and learning about Mary and her "yes" to God.

Women of Grace also offers conferences such as the one held in Ogdensburg.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Women of Grace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

we assent to something and agree that God can do all things. We experience faith through an act of the will; our feelings do not dictate reality to us.

"Through faith I was able to get up off that floor; through faith, Anthony and I went about the business of burying our son."

The loss of her son and husband within three short years left a great wound, Mrs. Benkovic admitted. "But when we embrace the cross in and through Christ, we eventually experience healing, liberation, and new hope."

Message from Vatican 11

Drawing on the powerful words addressed "To Women" in the closing mes-

sages of the Second Vatican Council, Mrs. Benkovic noted that "this is the age of the woman, who is called to reconcile men to life, to aid mankind in not falling."

The speaker contrasted woman's high calling in the plan of God with "Satan's counterfeit - the female rebellion of the 1960's onward, in which women masculinized themselves with the birth control pill, sterilization, and abortion, and threw away their sacredness.

The world hungers and longs for the truth, but is so bewitched by lies it does not know it is hungry for truth, she said.

"In 1976, then-Cardinal Woltyja visited the U.S. and told the American bishops, 'We are now standing in the greatest historical confronta-

tion that humanity has yet gone through,'" Mrs. Benkovic said. "The battle is being waged for souls, for the human race, between the Church and the anti-Church of secularism, relativism, hedonism, narcissism, and paganism.

"This struggle lies within the plans of Divine Providence, and the victory has been won by Christ on Calvary," she said. "Still, as we watch religious liberty being usurped, we must engage in battle."

Women have a special role to play, Mrs. Benkovic pointed out, in leading all to God.

"If the hearts and minds of women are saved, then men will follow and children will be formed according to the Word of God," she said. "Like

the Blessed Virgin Mary, and through her merits, we too must become Christ-bearers, shaped and formed by her beautiful example and by the grace of God."

Mrs. Benkovic recommended that all women could profit from reading and heeding St. Louis de Montfort's classic *True Devotion to Mary*, which culminates in an act of consecration to the Mother of God.

Concluding her final talk, Mrs. Benkovic encouraged participants to "Remember that you are a daughter of God, rich in his grace. You did not come to this retreat just to get away, but because God wants you to know the power you have to help move the world towards him."

Bishop Terry LaValley celebrated the opening Mass for the Women of Grace retreat, assisted by Father Mark Reilly and Deacon Gary Frank. Bishop LaValley welcomed retreatants and expressed his gratitude to retreat organizers, especially Mary Dillenback, and to Johnette Benkovic for journeying to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Father Mark Reilly, pastor of St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake and retreat chaplain, offered Mass each day and presided at the other liturgical prayers.

The retreat was further blessed by the musical talents of cantor Kristina Dean from St. Mary's in Evans Mills and organist Michele Tucker of St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake.

Earning emblems and growing in faith

About Catholic scouting

By Fr. Bryan Stitt
Diocesan Chaplain of Catholic Scouting

We all want our young people to have good experiences of the Church. But besides preparation for the sacraments, many are at a loss as to where to begin.

That's where the religious emblems for Boy and Girl Scouts come in. Scouting is Youth Ministry.

Each year the Diocesan Committee on Catholic

Scouting encourages our young Catholic Scouts to work on one of the nine religious emblems. (The options are pictured on the next page of the NCC.)

Catholic scout emblems are shown on page 7

The programs serve as a way to learn more about and engage more in their faith.

Besides the emblems, this year Catholic Scouting will

also be offering a Mountain Climb Mass at Mt. Arab in Piercesfield Aug. 5 as well as the Catholic Scout Retreat in Fort Covington Oct. 21.

The religious emblems will be awarded at the retreat.

Further information on Catholic Scouting, these events and emblems, may be found online at www.dioogdensburg.org/scouting or from the diocesan religious emblems coordinator, Thomas Lawrence of Ogdensburg at 315-393-3503.

Grace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Since its beginnings in 2003, the mission of Women of Grace has been to "transform the world, one woman at a time, by affirming women in their dignity and vocation as daughters of God and in their gift of authentic femininity."

Each woman discovers who she truly is in the eyes of God the Father. This is freeing as our society tries to mold us into something so small. Women are transformed into who God wants them to be instead of who our secular world tells them they are.

Mary Dillenback, coordinator of the April retreat, had not heard of Women of Grace when she decided to retire. The mother of two, worked outside the home as a 4th and 5th grade teacher in Clayton and had been contemplating retirement for a few years.

In 2008, school was cancelled due to a snowstorm so Mrs. Dillenback went to daily Mass. While praying, she felt called to retire.

She met with a couple of priest friends and three weeks later, she handed in her resignation. She wasn't sure what she was going to do but she knew she was being called to something God wanted.

"I was online one day and came upon Johnnette's website," Mrs. Dillenback said. "I had seen her show once." (Living the Abundant Life on EWTN). I called my friend Meg (Ringer) and shared that there was a Women of Grace retreat in Pennsylvania with Johnnette. Meg encouraged me to go."

The two attended the conference in July 2008. After discernment, Mrs. Dillenback knew this is what God wanted and purchased a starter kit.

She and Mrs. Ringer returned to begin a Women of Grace scripture study and sharing group at St. Mary's in Clayton. They started other groups as well, traveling to different locations each day.

Today, Women of Grace groups meet in

the main chapel at Fort Drum, at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Watertown and St. Mary's in Evans Mills.

A new group has been formed at St. Teresa of Avila church in Theresa. Kim Nowak, one of the Evans Mills Women of Grace, will be the facilitator for the group in Theresa. Rose Perkins, another Woman of Grace from Evans Mills will help.

Last summer, Johnnette Benkovic asked Mrs. Dillenback to serve as the North Country Regional Coordinator. In September 2011, she joined eight other Women of Grace Regional Coordinators at an installation ceremony in Florida.

After returning, Mrs. Dillenback learned about another Women of Grace group in the diocese. Denise McKane had been conducting the scripture study at St. Agnes in Lake Placid for over a year!

"I am amazed how it has started to blossom in our diocese," Mrs. Dillenback said. "The bishop's blessing has made it fruitful. It's in Mary's hands - she directs it. It's just beautiful."

Following the Women of Grace diocesan retreat, three more groups are being organized - at St. Anthony's in Watertown, in Plattsburgh, and with women in Ogdensburg and Morristown. The eight chapters have five lessons each. The program can take from nine months to over a year, depending on how long it takes to cover the material. It requires prayerful time together and individually.

I find myself referring to those with whom I shared the retreat as women of grace, a reminder of who we are and the gift we have been given.

For more information visit www.womenofgrace.com or contact Mary Dillenback, regional coordinator and facilitator at marydillenback@twcny.rr.com 315-771-1377 or 315-686-4107.

Rites held for Sr. Christine Denesha, OSU

NEW ROCHELLE—A Mass of Christian Burial for Ursuline Sister Christine Denesha, 89, a native of Constable, was held April 9 at the chapel of the Ursuline Provincialate in New Rochelle.

She died April 5 at the Ursuline Community at Andrus on Hudson in Hastings-on-Hudson.

Burial was at the parish cemetery of St. Francis Church in Constable.

She is survived by her brother, Father Everett Denesha, a retired priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Sister Christine entered the Ursuline Sisters in Beacon in 1942 and professed her final vows in 1947.

She taught at Blessed Sacrament School, New Rochelle, in 1943; Ursuline Academy, the Bronx, 1945-1947; St. Joseph's School, Middletown, 1947-1955; and Our Lady of Mercy School, the Bronx 1956-1958.

She also spent a year of tertianship, or religious development, in Rome, 1956-1957.

Sister Christine then taught at Notre Dame School, 1958-1986, and served as an assistant teacher at Holy Family School, 1988-1994, both in Malone. She was also a catechist at St. Patrick's parish in Chateaugay, and served for many years as a Eucharistic minister.

Bishop LaValley' Schedule

May 10 — 7:00 p.m., Confirmation for St. James, Carthage and St. Mary's, Copenhagen at St. James Church.

May 11 — 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 11:30 a.m., Blessing for the Diocesan Prayer Area at the Brzana Building in Ogdensburg.

May 12 — 1:00 p.m., Mass for the Special Religious Education Program at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown.

May 13 — 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

May 14 — 10 a.m., Celebration of Service of Catholic School Students at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a Picnic at the Knights of Columbus; 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

May 15 — 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg; 6 p.m., Confirmation for St. Cecilia's, Adams and Queen of Heaven, Henderson at St. Cecilia's Church.

May 16 — 11 a.m., Society for the Propagation of the Faith Board Meeting at the Brzana Conference Center in Ogdensburg

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

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 9 — Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 11 — Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

May 13 — Rev. Ladislaus J. Stasz, 1971

May 14 — Deacon Vincent E. Irvin, 2003

May 15 — Rev. William Rossiter, 1908; Msgr. James R. McClure, 1960

Catholic Scouting Emblems

BOY SCOUTS



Light of Christ
Tiger Cub and
Wolf Scouts
Grades 1-2



Parvuli Dei
Bear and
Webelos Scouts
Grades 3-5



Ad Altare Dei
Boy Scouts
Grades 7-8



Pius XII
Boy Scouts/
Venture Scouts
Grades 9-12

GIRL SCOUTS



Family of God
Girl Scouts
Grades 1-3



I Live My Faith
Girl Scouts
Grades 4-6



Marian Medal
Girl Scouts
Grades 7-9



**Kateri Tekakwitha
Medal**
Girl Scouts
Grade 5

*This is a special medal
offered only here in the
Diocese of Ogdensburg*



Spirit Alive
Girl Scouts
Grades 10-12

SCOUT UNITS



Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Lord, when did we see you...?" (cf. Mt. 25) What a profound question. Jesus' followers were seeking clarification from their leader. Christ never missed an opportunity to teach and, in this case, He defined for His people the basic reality of true Christian community. His answer reflects His concern for those in need. "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat. When I was thirsty you gave me a drink. Truly...as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."



Jesus illustrated for His followers what it means to be a member of His Body. Through His response, He left us a legacy and a challenge. We have been given the gift of knowing that when we gaze on the face of another, especially someone in need, we are gazing at Christ. How privileged we are to have been given such a gift.

Catholic Charities is the formal agency within our Diocese with the mandate to assure access to supportive services for our sisters and brothers in need. Through direct service and advocacy, Catholic Charities helps our neighbors improve their quality of life and live with dignity.

We are living in a time when more and more individuals and families are being relegated to the margins of our society. As followers of Christ, we are impelled by God's Spirit to respond to the needs of our neighbor, our family members, and our co-workers.

Next week, we have the opportunity to do so. The 2012 Annual Mother's Day Appeal for the works of Catholic Charities will be taken up in all of the parishes of the Diocese. Catholic Charities needs your help to maintain and to enhance its vital services and programs throughout our North Country.

Thank you for being as generous as possible. May our compassionate God continue to bless you and your loved ones as we all seek to follow Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

TELLING OUR STORY

The following stories are true. The names have been changed for privacy reasons. These stories are from people who received services.

BETH'S STORY

Being involved in a domestic violence situation had taken its toll on Beth. Emotionally, financially, physically and socially, Beth's life was a mess. Deciding to leave her abusive husband was frightening. But Beth knew that she had to do this for herself and her two children. Catholic Charities was able to provide counseling, financial assistance and a referral to the local victim's services agency. Beth and her children are now safe and working to rebuild their lives.

Catholic Charities was there because you care.

CORY'S STORY

Born prematurely, Corey needed extensive medical treatment during his first few months of life. His parents needed to be with him in Syracuse for several months. Catholic Charities was able to provide assistance to the family for travel and lodging costs. Catholic Charities was able to present them with a gift of clothing and diapers. Corey is a success story. He is growing and meeting his developmental milestones. Corey is a beautiful, happy little boy.

Your Mother's Day Appeal donation made a difference for Corey.

GARY'S STORY

Working for 29 years in the same industrial plant, provided Gary and his family with an adequate income, benefits and a middle class lifestyle. When the plant closed, Gary was left unemployed for the first time in his life. Worry, economic stress and facing the reality of struggling to pay the mortgage and other basic bills, Gary began to experience depression. Catholic Charities was able to provide counseling and a mortgage payment for Gary and his family. Gary and his family were able to remain in their home. Gary is employed again. This family did not fall into debilitating poverty.

Your gift during last year's Annual Appeal made a difference in this family's life.



Lord, When did I see You?



Homeless...Hungry...In need

Catholic Charities Annual Mother's Day Appeal May 13, 2012

Your gift counts! Goal: \$175,000

www.cathcharities.org



For more information about Catholic Charities and programs in your area visit our website: www.cathcharities.org or call (315) 393-2255



Please help us reach our GOAL - \$175,000

Dear Friend of Catholic Charities,

When we look into the face of another, we are looking into the face of Christ. Each person is precious and worthy of our respect. That is what Catholic Charities is all about. Catholic Charities' mission is to assure that people have access to the support services they need to rebuild their hope. Hope is the foundation on which a person or family can build a life with the dignity they deserve.

It is becoming more obvious that to be in need is unpopular. More of our people are being marginalized, falling into poverty or are just one crisis away from homelessness or hunger. Depression and anxiety are increasing issues for many people. Economic difficulties cause a domino effect of problems for individuals and families. As a Church, we are called to be people who care. We are invited to be people who can see Christ in our brother or sister who is in need.

Catholic Charities serves over 18,000 people every year in all of our services and programs. In the North Country, our staff and volunteers believe in the dignity and the worth of human life at all stages. They are always ready to go the extra mile for a person in need.

In order to maintain our programs and services, we need your help. The goal of the 2012 Mother's Day Appeal is \$175,000. Catholic Charities is committed to keeping administrative expenses as low as possible. This assures you that your gift will make a difference in the lives of the people who come to us for help. This past year, we helped Beth when she was leaving an abusive relationship. She needed counseling and financial assistance to help her and her children secure safe housing. Catholic Charities was able to be there for Beth and her children because of the funds raised during the Mother's Day Appeal.

Thank you for your support in the past. Remember, in considering your gift...you are being a light in the darkness for every man, woman and child who will receive services. You will be able to confidently answer the question, "Lord, when did I see You?"

All benefactors of Catholic Charities are remembered in a Mass celebrated one time each month, for your intentions.

Gratefully,

Sr. Donna M. Franklin, DC
Diocesan Director

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Parish: _____

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 (I understand that my credit card will be charged ONE time for the amount indicated above. If I have made a pledge, Catholic Charities will contact me regarding future payments.)

Pledge: Total Pledge \$ _____
 Gift: \$1,000 \$500 \$300 \$200 Other \$ _____
 4 Pledge Payments: \$250 \$125 \$75 \$50
 Mail to: Catholic Charities, Appeal 2012, 6866 State Hwy 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

May 13, 2012

Don't let fear, search for the superficial deafen God's call, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- God is always calling people to dedicate themselves fully to serving him, but they often don't hear because they are either too distracted or afraid they would no longer be free if they answered the call, Pope Benedict XVI said.

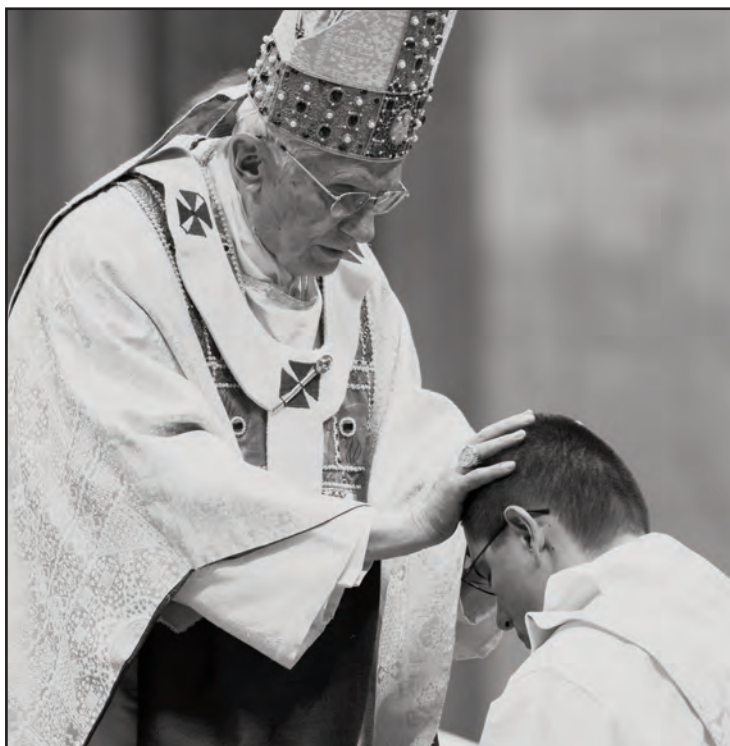
"Let us pray that all young people pay attention to the voice of God, who speaks to their hearts and calls them to detach themselves from everything in order to serve him," he said April 29 - the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Before praying the "Regina Coeli" with the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope said, "The Lord is always calling us, but very often we don't listen."

"We are distracted by many things, by other voices that are more superficial and because we are afraid to listen to the Lord's voice because we think that it can take away our freedom."

But everyone on the earth is deeply loved by God, and as soon as people become aware of that love, their lives change by becoming a response to God's love, which in turn means human freedom is fully realized, the pope said.

The pope asked that the universal church and every



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI ordains one of eight priests for the Diocese of Rome in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 29, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

local parish or community become a lush garden "in which the seeds of vocations that God spreads in abundance can germinate and ripen."

He asked that everyone help cultivate this garden so that those who do hear God's call can follow through with joy and generosity.

Earlier in the day, Pope Benedict ordained nine new priests in St. Peter's Basilica; one of the priests will serve the diocese Bui Chu in Viet-

nam, while the others - who come from Italy, the Ivory Coast and Colombia - will serve in the Diocese of Rome.

One of the newly ordained men, Father Piero Gallo, 42, worked as a lawyer and magistrate for the Italian government for eight years. Another, Father Marco Santarelli, 29, used to pilot private aircraft with the dream of someday flying a Boeing 747.

Before reciting the "Regina Coeli" prayer, the pope said these men "are not any different from other young people."

The only thing that sets them apart is that "they have been profoundly touched by the beauty of God's love and could not do anything but respond to it with their whole lives," he said. They encountered that love in Jesus through the Gospel, the Eucharist and people in their church community, Pope Benedict added.

NYS bishops call for hike in state minimum wage

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) - New York's Catholic bishops have called for state lawmakers to approve a "modest" increase in the state's minimum wage.

New York's current minimum wage is \$7.25. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have higher minimum wages.

A bill sponsored by Sheldon Silver, a Democrat who is speaker of the state Assembly, the legislature's lower chamber, has sponsored a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$8.50.

The Republican-controlled state Senate has stated its opposition to a hike in the minimum wage.

"What we can tell you from firsthand experience is that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the working poor of our state to make ends meet," the New York bishops said in a May 3 statement. "A full-time minimum-wage earner will bring in \$15,080 per year, which is \$4,010 below the 2012 federal poverty guidelines for a family of three."

The bishops added, "Our sustained recession and painfully slow recovery have left many of these workers - often people of color and frequently the newest immigrants to our shores who therefore have the fewest support systems - on the brink of homelessness, with not enough in their paychecks to pay for the most basic of necessities, like food, medicine or clothing for their children."

The national unemployment rate dipped to 8.1 percent during April, but only 114,000 new jobs were added during the month, about two-thirds of what was expected, according to statistics issued May 4 by the federal government. New York's unemployment rate is 8.5 percent, and it is closer to 10 percent in New

York City.

"Workers who previously never would have considered such low-paying jobs are now taking them out of desperation," the bishops said.

We believe an increase in the minimum wage is a matter of fairness and justice, and we hope it can be addressed soon

"We believe an increase in the minimum wage is a matter of fairness and justice, and we hope it can be addressed soon," they added.

The bishops took note of the disagreement between the two political parties over the issue.

"We are aware that there are many in the legislature who firmly believe such action would have a negative impact on the very people it seeks to help. Perhaps just as many believe the opposite is true," they said.

"By no means do we question the intentions or motivations of our good friends in the legislature who oppose an increase in the minimum wage. But it is our hope and our prayer that the two sides could come together for some sort of action to address the grave problems facing the lowest wage earners in our state."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not declared support or opposition to Silver's bill. But on a May 2 radio show, the governor said, "I think that, especially at a time like now, a minimum-wage increase would be in order. You can have discussion about how much, over what period of time, etc., but we are more at a philosophical debate right now between the Senate and the Assembly."



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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Federal budget debate brings attention to church's social teaching

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The emerging debate on the federal budget -- and the distinct options being presented that will chart the country's future -- has brought renewed attention to the Catholic Church's social teaching. Prominent in the debate are the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and the common good. Wisconsin Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, a Catholic, has repeatedly cited the principles in recent weeks as justification for the fiscal year 2013 budget plan he drafted, which was approved by the House of Representatives March 29 in a largely party-line vote. Ryan maintains that his faith and his understanding of church teaching led him to prepare a budget that delineates a decade-long plan to reduce spending on nonmilitary programs as a step toward reducing the country's \$15 trillion deficit. The GOP budget also calls for remaking Medicare, establishing Medicaid as a block grant program for states to administer and simplifying the tax code by closing loopholes and lowering individual and corporate tax rates. Catholic critics, primarily from academia and community organizations tackling social justice issues, have challenged Ryan on his claims, charging that he is misusing Catholic teaching to support a blatantly political agenda that makes scapegoats of the poor and endangers vulnerable people. Taking a more measured approach, the chairmen of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committees have voiced their concerns about cuts in several domestic and international programs. Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, have called for "shared sacrifice" and a "circle of protection" around the poor and vulnerable in budget negotiations.

Helen Alvarez receives Notre Dame's Evangelium Vitae Medal

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) -- Pro-life champion Helen Alvarez was honored April 25 as winner of the 2012 Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal. Inaugurated in 2011, the medal is given annually by the University of Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life to an individual who "steadfastly" affirms and defends the sanctity of human life. "From the television studio, to the radio airwaves, congressional hearing rooms, university campuses and forums beyond, you have spoken and acted with 'courage on behalf of those who have no voice,'" read the citation for the award. The medal citation praised Alvarez for more than 20 years of service defending and promoting human life. With quotes from Blessed John Paul II's 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), for which the medal was named, the citation stated: "In an age when the sanctity of life from its earliest to its final days is assaulted, you have boldly and unremittently worked to build and sustain the 'unconditional respect for the right to life of every innocent person,' 'one of the pillars on which every civil society stands.'" In her remarks after the medal was conferred, Alvarez thanked all the people who had kept the pro-life movement alive and cited the large number of young people who are pro-life as a sign of tremendous success. She described the pro-life movement not as a cause or an issue, but a way of life, God's way of trying to transform the activists personally as they do good for the world. The Catholic Church is the best at pursuing the truth about the human person and thus does pro-life better than anyone, she added.

Nuns who experienced John Paul II miracle bring message of hope, victory

By Tanya Connor
Catholic News Service

WORCESTER, MASS. (CNS) - Nuns who experienced the miracle that led to Blessed John Paul II's beatification brought a message of hope and victory through surrender to the Catholics of Worcester.

Sister Marie Simon-Pierre Normand, healed of Parkinson's disease in 2005, and Sister Marie Thomas Fabre, then her superior and now mother general of the Little Sisters of Catholic Maternity in France, were visiting the United States for the first time.

They came at the invitation of Father Kazimierz Chwalek, provincial for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception in the U.S. and Argentina, and Marie Romagnano, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, to speak at a May 1-2 conference on medicine, bioethics and spirituality at the College of the Holy Cross.

The sisters, who speak only in French, also gave talks at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, St. Paul Cathedral in Worcester, St. Joseph School in Webster and St. Stephen Elementary School in Worcester.

Among children crowding around them at St. Stephen's was first-grader Caroline Villa, named for Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II), who showed off her statue of the pontiff.

"I think that it was an amazing experience because I don't know how many people get to meet or listen to somebody that's received a miracle," said enthusiastic eighth-grader Michaela Lavoie.

"I found it interesting to be in the same room with someone who has experienced a miraculous cure, and the one who lived through it with

her," said Pauline Ludwig after the sisters spoke at the health care conference. She is pastoral associate at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Webster and a nurse in Catholic Charities' home care program.

"I underlined this," Ludwig said of something Sister Thomas said of Sister Simon-Pierre:

She embraced "her sickness and did not run away from it. ... The disease may evolve and advance, but the person has the capability to recover interiorly. The periods of desolation can mysteriously become the beginning of inner joy."

Sister Thomas said she believed this healing grace was Sister Simon-Pierre's first victory, before her physical healing.

Sister Simon-Pierre was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in June 2001, when she was 40. It was hard for her to watch Pope John Paul on television, because his Parkinson's revealed her future.

After the pope's death on April 2, 2005, Sister Simon-Pierre's symptoms worsened. When Pope Benedict XVI opened the way, on May 13, 2005, for his predecessor's beatification, the superior general asked the congregation to seek his intercession, so their sick sister could continue her nursing work.

"On June 1st, I had reached the end," Sister Simon-Pierre said. "The pain was unbearable, and the tremors were growing much worse." On June 2, she told Sister Thomas she needed to be replaced in the maternity ward and that she accepted eventual wheelchair confinement.

Sister Simon-Pierre said she could no longer write, and Sister Thomas, without reflecting on it, asked her to write John Paul II's name.

"Unconsciously, I wanted

to verify that she could still write, it was not the end, and that she should not give up," she said. "I remember praying and thinking at this moment that we had tried everything and that we had reached the end. 'Lord, the only thing left is a miracle!' That's how I expressed my thoughts before she left: 'John Paul II has not said his last word.'"

That night, Sister Simon-Pierre said, she felt compelled to write, and wrote legibly. The next morning she was not stiff. She went to the chapel to thank God. She told Sister Thomas that afternoon that she was healed through Pope John Paul II's intercession and showed her handwriting.

"It was really hers, but I had not seen it in years," Sister Thomas said. Later she surprised the sisters by spontaneously invoking "St. John Paul II" as they prayed the rosary.

After the neurologist was shocked to find no more signs of Parkinson's June 7, the congregation began a novena of thanksgiving to Pope John Paul II. A letter was sent to the postulator for his cause and the investigation began. On Jan. 14, 2011, Pope Benedict recognized her healing as a miracle.

"I am aware that this unexplained healing... is a pure merciful grace and that miracles are not daily occurrences," Sister Thomas told the medical professionals. But, she said, "I sincerely believe that accompanying a patient with mercy in your heart, as you are doing, is already within itself, in our dehumanized society, a miracle of faith, hope, and charity."

Sister Simon-Pierre said she happily continues nursing. "Nothing is the same anymore," she said. "A friend has gone far away from this earth while remaining so close to my heart."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

We honor mothers as 'shepherds' of little ones

Last Sunday was Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus with a lamb in his arms is the most popular image we have of Jesus' caring love.

Now on this Sixth Sunday of Easter we honor all mothers as "shepherds" of their little ones.

Today's Gospel fits right in, since it's all about Jesus' command that we love one another as He loves us.

The parallel between God's love and our mothers' love seems to fit so perfectly.

But first, the shocking events told us this week in the Acts of the Apostles.

Just when the Jewish community was settling in to the idea of Jesus as the

long-awaited Messiah sent to redeem Israel, the mysterious Holy Spirit of God hits them with a thunderbolt of new teaching.

Peter has a noon-day trance that disturbs him.

A heavenly agent forbids him to call any food unclean that God has made clean!

Cornelius, a pagan, is likewise visited by an angel who commands him to summon Peter.

Through the resulting encounter, Peter is convinced that the message of salvation he though applied only to Jews, is meant also for non-Jews.

This does not go over well with many Jews back in Jerusalem.

Salvation was no longer

an exclusive prerogative for the Chosen People.

Now, all are chosen! The community peace is shattered!

What saves the new Church?

That other "shocker" - the command that Jesus gave in his Farewell address to his apostles that they are to love one another "as I have loved you".

Love is the power unleashed by the Spirit after Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Two thousand years of trial and error has not made any easier this fundamental teaching of our faith.

Love!

Just think what a dynamic transformation there would be in our world society if all Christians really loved one another!

Think of how much more

MAY 13

Sixth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 10:25-26; 34-35; 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

peaceful the transition would have been after the changes of Vatican II hit the Church in the '60's and '70's.

We could have avoided so much hurt and bitterness, if we had just listened a little more to the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit asks us if we like the idea of love, we respond enthusiastically.

But even though the Lord has actually commanded us to love, we balk, make all kinds of excuses and compromises.

Yet, the meaning is clear.

Love one another and listen to one another!

God listens to us a lot! We get in trouble when we fail to listen to God.

God loves us unconditionally, and we will never measure up to Jesus' command until we are able to love in the same manner.

Today we salute all mothers.

Their love is a sacrificing love, an unconditional love, a love that protects their children from danger and death, that encourages them to grow and become all they can become.

Mothers are the living examples of how much God loves us.

May their presence in our world help all of us to love others more tenderly, more unselfishly. May God bless them all, living and deceased, this day.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Resurrecting our best kept Catholic secret!

By Tony Magliano
NCC columnist

The Catholic Church has a very big secret. It is so powerful, challenging and relevant, that if every bishop, priest, deacon, religious and layperson was committed to communicating and implementing this secret, it would turn society upside-down and literally transform the world!

However, revealing its contents, and tirelessly urging the full application of its message, would surely cause great controversy. The church would come under fierce attack from both conservatives and liberals for being naïve and acting outside acceptable

ecclesial boundaries.

Therefore, most Catholics have opted to tread lightly, sadly guaranteeing that "Catholic social teaching" will remain our best kept secret.

From time to time a passing reference is made to Catholic social teaching, but these token efforts are too weak and too infrequent to make much difference for the unborn, poor and war-torn of our world.

What is it about Catholic social teaching that is so threatening to the status quo?

The short answer is that its foundational tenets of justice and love demand that wealth and power not to be selfishly hoarded by rich and powerful individuals, corporations and nations, but instead, be placed at the service of all people and all nations.

But because the strong and rich most often insist on remaining in dominant

and privileged positions, they perceive such teachings as dangerous.

Our best kept secret is that the Catholic Church is deeply blessed with over 100 years worth of outstanding social justice and peace documents authored by popes, Vatican Council II, world synods of bishops, and national conferences of bishops.

But sadly, these documents attract more dust than readers.

Out of these Catholic social teaching documents, the church has developed a set of principles designed to help guide us in applying the liberating message of the Gospel to the social, economic and political problems facing modern humanity.

These principles are:

- The protection of all

human life and the promotion of human dignity

- The call to participate in family and community life
- The promotion of human rights and responsibilities
- The preferential option for the poor and vulnerable
- The safeguarding of workers' dignity and rights
- The building of global solidarity and the common good

- The care for God's creation
- The universal destination of goods
- The call to be peacemakers

The official compilation of Catholic social teaching can be found in the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace's book titled "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church." And the Center of Concern's "Catholic Social Teaching:



Tony
Magliano

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AT THE MOVIES

MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS

By Adam Shaw
Catholic News Service

Seemingly destined to haul in wads of cash at the box office, the ensemble adventure "Marvel's The Avengers" (Disney) will not disappoint fans of the comic books on which it's based. But it may prove problematic for the parents of some excited youngsters anxious to ride the juggernaut.

The film has a long pedigree that can ultimately be traced back to Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's original comics series from 1963 (Lee serves the screen version as an executive producer).

More recently, it has been foreshadowed with subtle references and clues scattered among the four previously separate superhero franchises that are united here. 2011's "Captain America: The First Avenger," for instance, hinted at a future Avengers movie not only in its title but in a post-credits add-on scene as well.

Writer-director Joss Whedon's script juggles no fewer than six superheroes: Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Captain America (Chris Evans), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson).

Led by the eye-patched and grizzled Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), this dream team confronts the mischievous exiled Norse god Loki (Tom Hiddleston). Loki believes freedom is overrated, and has hatched a scheme involving some glowing square that triggers ... Well, who really cares what it triggers? Just sit there and eat your popcorn!

Not to be flippant, but the plot is unashamedly perfunctory, and serves only to place our oddly dressed friends in a situation where they can flex their magic muscles.

And flex they do: "The Avengers" shuns attempts at allegory or subtlety, replacing them with special effects, loud noises and a surprisingly witty sense of humor.

Which is not to say Whedon's plot is entirely shallow. Christian themes concerning the dignity of the person and the value of freedom underlie the hectic proceedings.

Captain America, moreover, is given a bit of dialogue showing him to be a firm believer, not only in Christ but in Jesus' incarnate nature as both God and man.

A firm defense of the uniqueness of Christ's nature and role is a welcome

surprise in a contemporary Hollywood movie, and, however brief, should be enthusiastically applauded.

But there are also more questionable elements on display amid all the mindless action.

Though relatively mild, these troublesome ingredients - listed below - will nonetheless raise concerns for some parents, putting them in the uncomfortable position of having to tell the young 'uns under their care that this otherwise thoroughly enjoyable romp is off-limits.

The film contains intense but largely bloodless violence, a few mature references, including to suicide and drug use, and a handful of crass terms.

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



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans star in a scene from the movie "Marvel's The Avengers."

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JOB OPENING

Director of Advancement

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

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



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CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mooers Forks – A Pancake breakfast is to be held.

Date: May 13

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Ann's Center

Cost: Adults (15 and up) \$8; Sr. Citizens (over 65) \$7; Kids (6-14) \$5; children under 5, free

SOAKING PRAYER

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

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Upper room at St. Peter's

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

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

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.

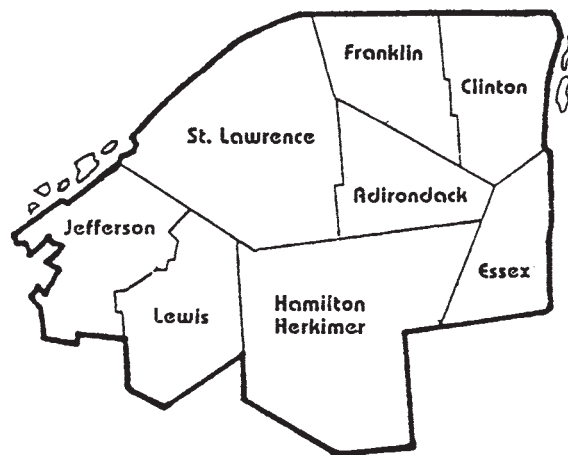
HEALING MINISTRIES SCHOOL

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. Nominal fee for materials.

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



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.

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.

JEFFERSON

MAY CROWNING

Brownville – The Altar and Rosary Society will be sponsoring the May Crowning in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Date: May 15

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

Features: All are welcome. There will be a children's procession, crowing and rosary followed by a covered dish dinner (rolls, meat, drinks and table service will be provided).

FAMILY ROSARY CRUSADE

Carthage – Please join us for the 10th Annual Family Rosary Crusade.

Date: May 18

Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass, followed by 7 hours of praying the rosary.

Place: St. James Church

Features: Pray for one or all 7 hours (in honor of Our Lady's 7 Sorrows). If you stay to pray for 3 hours, receive a free print of this year's painting by artist, Bob Renaud. Can't join us, remember to join

us in spirit that same evening. For more information and to see all past paintings: <http://catholicsofcarthageopenhagen.org>.

Contact: Bob Renaud at RRenaud@carthagecsd.org

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, eu-

thanasia and chastity.

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

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: 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

CHICKEN BBQ

Port Leyden – Cub Scout pack 92 will be having a Chicken BBQ.

Date: May 19

Time: 11 a.m. until sold out

Place: Port Leyden Community Hall

Cost: ½ Chicken \$5; Dinner \$7.50

Contact: Pre-sale tickets are available from any Pack 92 Cub Scout or by calling Cub Master Connie Jordan at 348-6231.

K OF C BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – The South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having a Brunch.

Date: May 20

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

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

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

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Heuvelton – The Knights of Columbus will be having a Mother's Day Breakfast.

Date: May 13

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Raphael's Parish Center

Donation: \$5 (Mother are free)

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 further information

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

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.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

MYSTERIES OF REVELATION

Amsterdam – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church will be hosting a one day seminar "Unpack the Mysteries of Revelation" presented by Jeff Cavins.

Date: June 9

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

Cost: Adults, \$42; Religious, \$37; Youth under 18, \$35 if ordered after June 1st or at the door add \$3

Features: Jeff Cavins will explore Revelation to demonstrate how the Kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven, especially through the celebration of the Mass. You will learn what all the mysterious figures and images of Revelation represent, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has already happened, and what is happening now

Contact: Cindy Kuzia at 518-725-3532 or e-mail ckuzia@nycap.rr.com for a brochure and more information.



The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Mothers!

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

Mothering is defined by most dictionaries as to watch over, nourish, and protect maternally. Mothers give us life. We are blessed to have or have had them. For some, becoming a mother is often referred to as life's defining moment. The role of a mother can often be thankless work yet filled with joy but sometimes sorrow. These are features of the role of two amazing women in our lives as Catholics: Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Mary, the Blessed Virgin, Mother of Jesus.

In 1950, Mother Teresa founded the Mission of Charity in India and for over 45 years, she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying, while guiding the Missionaries of Charity's expansion, first throughout India and then in other countries.

Mother Teresa, who died September 5, 1997 at the age of 87, was hardly a political figure in the normal sense. Yet she had a politician's sense of issues and timing: she knew that in modern-day India, a nation of over a billion overwhelmingly poor people, the biggest issue of all was poverty. She drew larger crowds and invited greater affection than any politician ever could. This was a testimony to her integrity, humility, and most of all, her grace.

Mother Teresa helped to bring people in touch with the reason for all our hope, the Person of Jesus Christ who is the heart of the Church's mission. The Catholic Church in mission countries is indeed often the only source of hope and help for the poorest and most vulnerable of souls. Her hope and spirituality brought Good News in a world of need.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is our model of Love and Mercy, who through her Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, became a Mother to all children on earth. Even today, Mary serves as the perfect example of motherhood for our modern world. Just as a good mother does not abandon her children, Mary too did not abandon, even in the midst of her own darkness and personal sufferings. Just like Mary, we cannot abandon our mission family, often the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters around the world.

This Mother's Day, take the opportunity to remember those in the Missions who continue to be nourished and loved through our prayers and sacrifice at home. Many of the children there are orphans and the only mother they know are the missionaries who care for them.

As the definition of mothering states "to nourish and protect", may they know always the love of Mary, Blessed Virgin and Mother Teresa.

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

OBITUARIES

Black Brook — Martha (Clodgo) Frenia, 88; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at St. Matthew's Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

Cadyville — Clifford J. Duquette, 88; Funeral Services April 30, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in Independence Cemetery, Saranac.

Canton — Francis J. Hall, 71; Funeral Services May 5, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage — Beulah "B" (Burke) Baker, 63; Funeral Services April 30, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Felt Mills.

Carthage — Margaret Pound, 96; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage — Norbert J. Schneider, 79; Funeral Services May 2, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Carlton Francis McDonald, 82; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Clayton — Teresa J. (Bogenschutz) Bearup, 83; Funeral Services May 1, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

Clayton — Norma M. (McKeever) Wetterhahn, 85; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Colton — Robert Ricalton, 80; Funeral Services May 5, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Constableville — Victoria J. (O'Brien) Barrows, 41; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Edwards — Cynthia M. (Barker) McFerran, 76; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Elizabethtown — Lorinda (Lee) Bergeron, 61; Funeral Services April 30, 2012 at St. Elizabeth's Church.



Gouverneur — Gregory Lawrence Martin, 52; Funeral Services May 2, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Heuvelton — Cynthia E. (Bates) Fobare, 62; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Ogdensburg.

Heuvelton — Paul E. Fobare, 68; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Ogdensburg.

Lowville — Hugo Stuhler, 92; Funeral Services May 5, 2012 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Malone — Jackalyn M. Boyer, 16; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone — Troy A. McDonough, 19; Funeral Services May 7, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Marguerite F. Mere, 85; Funeral Services May 8, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Florence A. Yaddow, 86; Funeral Services April 30, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Mineville — Mary (Wilkins) Gadway, 76; Funeral Services May 2, 2012 at Church of All Saints; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

Mooers Forks — Lawrence E. "Jr" Sample Jr., 82; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Mooers Forks Union Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Philip Z. Dukette, 101; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk — Barbara J. (Finch) Myers, 89; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood — James S. "Jay" Smith, 42; Funeral Services May 3, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Janet S. (Doucette) Bouyea, 83; Funeral Services May 4, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — John S. Nelson, 67; Funeral Services May 2, 2012 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh — Eleanor McGivney Rossell, 87; Funeral Services April 30, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Potsdam — Viola F. (Caskenette) Weaver, 84; Funeral Services April 30, 2012 at Garner Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Norwood.

Rouses Point — Joseph "Roger" Bombardier, 84; Funeral Services April 28, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Sciota — Ezriel J. Reome, 88; Funeral Services May 8, 2012 at St. Louis of France Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown — Grovone M. (Champion) Dunaway, 87; Funeral Services May 4, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Jeanette (Shannon) Melara, 70; Funeral Services May 4, 2012 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Walter Maliniak, 92; Funeral Services May 5, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

‘I Will Follow You’

By Tracy Leonard
Contributing writer

“Do Whatever He Tells You” and “Listen to His Voice”- these themes of my past two weekends (Women of Grace Retreat at Wadhams Hall and the Youth Rally at IHC) continue to resound in my heart and mind as I try to live out God’s plan for my life.

What is this plan, though, and what is my mission... what’s your mission?

Are we hearing His voice, are we listening and are we doing what He tells us?

Some, if not many of us, may feel we don’t have a mission or a purpose. Perhaps we don’t know where we are going.

Occasionally I have those thoughts and feelings too but, as I’ve learned these past two weekends, we need to trust in the Lord.

If we desire to fulfill the plan of God for us then we must seek after holiness, be like Jesus and be refreshed by the Holy Spirit.



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Tracy Leonard took an active role in the liturgies at both the Youth Rally, left, and Women of Grace retreat, right.

At Women of Grace

Johnnette Benkovic expressed to me and about 100 other women at Wadhams Hall that we must be *receptive* to the action and will of God, we must *trust* in His never failing providence in spite of circumstances and we must *surrender* to His holy will in all things.

She reassured us that God’s love would radiate into the depths of our hearts if we made a conscious choice to be open to the Lord. This is an intentional act of our will to be open to His, for it is in His love that He shows us who

we are, why we are and what our purpose is.

“Our love must be set upon higher things” she said, upon holiness and truth, grace and obedience, commitment and love.”

In being receptive, trusting and surrendering, we allow ourselves to be entirely open to the omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful) and omnipresent (all present) God who calls us to love.

At the Youth Rally

Christ Padgett, the keynote speaker at the

Youth Rally, shared a similar theme.

This call to love, he said, is shown by us through **Meditation, Advocacy** (fighting for those who cannot fight for self), **Sacrifice** (the gift of self), and through **Service**.

This love is intrinsically connected to God through the celebration of the Eucharist at “**MASS**.”

“Jesus has *picked you*” he said. “He *prepares you* and *protects you*. He wants you on His team!

“Make a commitment to get to know Him from this day forward for He cares

about the win- the fight for your sanctity,” Padgett said. “Hear his voice just as a child hears their father’s voice or a sheep hears their shepherd’s voice.”

He went on to tell the 300 plus teenagers and their youth group leaders, “God intends for you to be here today. He loves you and wants you to in turn love one another.”

Echoing these words, the youth of our diocese looked at one another joining Chris in song: “I see you’re wonderful, I see you’re beautiful, I see you’re valuable, you matter.”

It was evident that God’s life had taken up residence in all of us present, or as Johnnette said, “our hearts became tabernacles of the Holy Spirit.”

Our tabernacles were full of love and therefore, full of God.

Jesus desires for each of us to become a temple in which He dwells continually so that we may be transformed into His image and likeness.

Listeners were reassured by both Johnnette Benkovic and Chris Padgett, that God will take our weaknesses or our wounds and do amazing things with us.

Every single person has been uniquely chosen by God to have life, the “Abundant Life.”

Simply let Jesus in and your spiritual life will soar! You will experience freedom, new life, hope, and liberation. In doing so, we can better serve Him and love one another- our true purpose and mission in life.

For “those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8: 5-6)

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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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