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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 6, 2012

## Pope: We can't 'play God'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The modern world is a latter-day Babel, where arrogance inspired by technological progress leads people to play God and sets them against each other, a predicament from which people can escape only through divinely inspired humility and love, said Pope Benedict XVI.

The pope made his remarks during his homily May 27, Pentecost Sunday, during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Acknowledging that communications media and modern transportation have brought the world's people "closer to one another than ever before," Pope Benedict lamented that true "under-

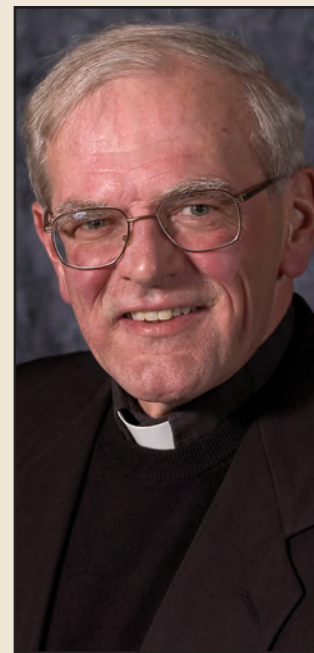
standing and communion" is "often superficial and difficult. Imbalances remain and not infrequently lead to conflict, (and) dialogue among generations is problematic," he said.

"We daily witness events which seem to show that mankind is becoming more aggressive and quarrelsome;

understanding one another seems too arduous an undertaking, and we prefer to remain within ourselves and focus on our own our interests," he said. "Men are nursing a sense of diffidence, suspicion and reciprocal fear, to the extent that they have even become a danger to one another."

### FR. STEPHEN H. GRATTO

Funeral held May 29 in Canton



Bishop LaValley presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Stephen H. Gratto, 65, held May 29 at St. Mary's Church in Canton. Father Gratto died May 26 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse infirmary in Watertown. Father Gratto was ordained May 5, 1973 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana and spent 18 years of his priesthood with Catholic Charities including as the diocesan director from 1986 to 1984. He was the 1994 recipient to the agency's Caritas Award.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Fortnight for Freedom

Bishop LaValley has called on Catholics in the diocese to participate in the national Fortnight for Freedom to protest the recent Department of Health and Human Services mandate requiring almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

"Some, with other agendas, would have us believe that this is really an issue about contraception and women's reproductive rights," the bishop writes. "It is not.

"This is first and foremost a question about religious liberty," he said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## A tribute to the jubilarians

Looking back on memorable ordination days of 25, 50

and 60 years ago  
FULL STORY, PAGE 8

## AT THE DEACON ORDINATION



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

On the evening before his ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Thomas J. Higman vests his friend Scott A. Belina who was ordained to the diaconate May 25 at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown. See story and photos on pages 4, 5, 7 and 16.

'ORDINATIONPALOOZA': A friend reflects on an unforgettable weekend, p. 16

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Rest in Peace,  
brother and friend

The morning of May 26 was a time for great joy in the Church of northern New York.

One young man had been ordained a deacon the evening before; there was much anticipation for that day's ordination of our first new priest in five years.

In the hours between, though, we were reminded of the ultimate meaning of all that we do as Church. In the early morning, a much loved priest had been called home to God.

Father Stephen Gratto, age 65, died May 26 at 3 a.m. at the infirmary of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse where he had lived for the past year.

To lose Father Gratto at such a young age was heartbreaking for all of us who loved him.

A man of fierce intelligence and unqualified devotion to service, Father Gratto left his mark on parishes across the diocese and in his leadership of Catholic Charities.

And he left cherished memories for all those privileged to call him a friend.

Father Gratto grew up on a farm in Canton and took a special interest in rural ministry.

In a 1998 interview with the NCC, Father Gratto looked back on his 18 years with Catholic Charities.

"Growing up on a farm," he said, "made me very conscious of the enormous social issues in rural areas which the national 'war on poverty' didn't address.

He devoted much of his time at Catholic Charities supporting parish social ministry efforts. He met with parishioners to help them determine local needs – for housing, senior

citizen programs or child care, for example – and decide how to meet them.

And he was especially grateful that his administrative work left him time to offer direct service to people in need.

"If we're saying to others that this is what we believe and must do, then some part of our day has to be spent with the poor," he said.

A brilliant, kind, curious – and deeply spiritual – man, Father Stephen Gratto served the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a priest with great devotion for 39 years.

Rest in peace, dear Father Steve. You will be sorely missed.

Mary Lou  
Kilian


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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH  
The Most Holy Body and  
Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

June 9-10

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI  
Director of Evangelization

The Eucharist is our most treasured gift in the Catholic Church. It is the Eucharist, the Body of Christ, who nourishes and sustains us as the Family of Faith and strengthens the bond as a community of believers. It is the Eucharist that draws many back to the life of the Church. It is the Eucharist they miss most.

The Eucharist is our most  
treasured gift in the Catholic Church.

If we were to try to describe briefly who Jesus is, what better way to communicate the Person and the message than in Eucharist? His words, His action of laying down His life in love for us, His acts of blessing, thanksgiving, healing, His Cross and Resurrection are all here in the breaking of the bread.

The Eucharist takes its significance and meaning from these actions and words of Jesus. Eucharist for the early followers of Jesus, and for centuries of Christian communities, was a verb and not a noun.

The early Christians lived and gathered to do Eucharist, not simply receive Eucharist. Eucharist was and still is the operative action that identifies, unifies, and sends us all out on mission for others.

As the Body of Christ, the Family of Faith, we are reminded of Jesus' words, "Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God" (Mark 14:25). What Jesus is saying is that this was not the last meal with His disciples; it was the first of many meals at which the Body and Blood of Jesus would be given in love for the formation of a new people of God, living in God's kingdom. This means that we are the Body of Christ for others, His hands and feet that goes out to proclaim the Good News. We minister to the living Word in others, seeing in whom we minister the Body of Christ.

If we truly see the presence of Christ in others, how differently we would treat them with respect and dignity. How can we change a violent world when we see so much of it on television, on the iPad's, in the homes, around the world? We are being challenged once again to be Eucharist, the Body of Christ, a community that loves one another, and not simply receive the Eucharist. We are challenged to revere and tend to others in the same way we revere and tend to the Eucharistic Christ. If we truly believe this, we move toward becoming the healing, reconciling, and unifying community that is the Mystical Body of Christ. St. Augustine once said, "Believe what you receive. Receive what you believe. Become what you receive."

The Eucharist is the greatest sign we have of what Christ is to us. We have the privilege of being able to receive the Eucharist daily in our parishes. Let us be aware that there may be non-Catholics, or those who cannot receive the Eucharist present with us in the Church.

Let us be welcoming, be friendly, be receptive, be thankful, and be the bread for the world. As the Body of Christ, we are the face of Christ for others. As a Family of Faith, as we continue to break bread and share wine in memory of Jesus, may we learn to live as Jesus lived, breaking our bodies and sharing our blood for the furthering and the strengthening of God's kingdom.

At your family table, what is the meaning and significance of gathering around the table? Do you bless the food before you eat? Do you give thanks following the meal? How do you share your day with each other? How do you go forth from your table to be the Body of Christ for others?

## Welcome Spring

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

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FOLLOW ME

# FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

We hear the cry: "Religious Liberty is under attack!" Is this just another slogan similar to others so often shouted by radicals and extremists?

No! Something dreadfully serious has happened.

Sometimes it's difficult to sort fact from emotion, truth from hidden agendas. This has certainly been the case these past several months as the debate intensifies over the Obama Administration's decision regarding health care.

The recent Department of Health and Human Services mandate requires almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. Some, with other agendas, would have us believe that this is really an issue about contraception and women's reproductive rights. It is not.

This is first and foremost a question about religious liberty. No amount of verbal gymnastics or political grandstanding can deny the fact that with this mandate, the federal government is forcing religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching and purport to define which religious institutions are "religious enough" to merit protection of their religious liberty.

Because our Church seeks to contribute to the common good by providing needed services to those who may or may not be Catholic, i.e.

Catholic Charities, Catholic schools, Catholic nursing homes, this law dictates that the Church would not be exempt from this mandate which violates its moral teaching. This is a tragically unjust law.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Let us be clear. We are not asking for special treatment, simply the rights of religious freedom for all citizens. Rev. Martin Luther King once noted that the church is neither the master nor the servant of the state, but its conscience, guide, and critic. The teaching of the Church is absolutely clear about religious liberty (*Declaration on Religious Liberty, 1966*):

*The human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that in matters religious no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs...whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits...This right of the human person to religious freedom is to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed. Thus it is to become a civil right.*

As a bishop, it is my responsibility to bring the light of the Gospel to our public life, but the work of committed and courageous lay Catholics in the

public square is crucial in the witness of our faith.

We must not succumb to the current tendency to reduce the freedom of religion to the mere freedom of worship. There is an urgent need for all the lay faithful, in cooperation with others, to impress upon our elected representatives and others the importance of continued protection of religious liberty in a free society.

I have encouraged all of our pastors in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to join the faithful of our nation in leading the Christian faithful in prayer, observing a **Fortnight for Freedom**, from June 21, the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More to July 4, Independence Day.

I have provided the pastors with suggestions of how to participate in this prayer campaign. They have, also, received material and resource information that will aid parishioners in this special national effort of teaching and witness for religious liberty.

I will open the **Fortnight for Freedom** with a *Holy Hour for Religious Freedom* at St. Mary's Cathedral at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 21. All are invited to join in this special diocesan expression of our unity on religious freedom.

Please participate, as well, in your local prayer activities. This is a time for earnest prayer and firm resolve. I am most grateful for the support of all the faithful throughout our beloved North Country in this vital struggle.

With God's grace, we can make a difference.

## Funeral held May 29 for Fr. Stephen H. Gratto, 65

CANTON - Bishop LaValley presided at a Mass of Christian Burial for Father Stephen H. Gratto, 65, at St. Mary's Church with priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Father Jeff Hubbard, a close friend, was the homilist.

Father Gratto died May 26 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse infirmary in Watertown.

Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Canton.

Father Gratto was born May 7, 1947, in Canton, the son of the late Clarence and Anna Harvey Gratto. He attended Canton school system through junior high, and then attended Wadhams Hall High School in Ogdensburg.

He entered Wadhams Hall Seminary College in 1965,

with theological studies at St. Mary's in Baltimore.

Father Gratto was ordained a priest on May 5, 1973 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

His first assignment was assistant pastor at Holy Family, Watertown in 1973.

Three years later, he was appointed to the staff of Catholic Charities and an assistant pastor at Brasher Falls in 1976.

He was later named associate pastor in Sacred Heart, Massena, as he continued his work at Catholic Charities.

In 1981 Father Gratto was named director of Catholic Charities, Plattsburgh, and in 1986 he was appointed diocesan director of Catholic Charities.

In 1988, he was appointed

pastor in Hammond/Rossie and in 1990 pastor at St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid.

Father Gratto also served as pastor of St. Alexander's, Morrisonville and St. Joseph's, Treadwells Mill and in 2002, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls and St. Lawrence Church, North Lawrence.

After a sabbatical in 2005, he was appointed pastor of St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden, and St. John's, Lyons Falls.

Because of ill health, Father Gratto retired in 2011.

Most recently, Father Gratto was a resident in the

Sisters of St. Joseph' Infirmary, where he celebrated Mass for the Sisters when his health permitted.

Father Gratto is survived by four brothers: Charles, Joseph, Peter and Clarence,

and one sister, Joan, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations can be made to Catholic Charities or the Priests' Retirement Fund of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



Father Gratto



### 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.smsb.org](http://www.smsb.org) or [www.stmarysschoolticonderoga.org](http://www.stmarysschoolticonderoga.org)



Father Thomas James Higman is ordained to the priesthood

# 'Father, may I have your blessing?'

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

**OGDENSBURG** - In the moments before Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained Deacon Thomas J. Higman to the priesthood May 26, the bishop acknowledged the significance of the long awaited day.

"Deacon Thomas James Higman, soon you shall be consecrated priest, handed over to God forever, so that you can offer women and men a service that comes from God and leads to God," the bishop said. "You know well, there has been much, much preparation and formation for this day of the Lord.

"The Church of Ogdensburg welcomes and rejoices with all present here who have been companions with you on this journey of growth in knowledge and grace, Bishop LaValley said.

"Yes, a day of great gladness and joy has arrived and the Church of Ogdensburg, indeed the whole Body of Christ, is so very blessed," the bishop said.

The gladness of the day was a continuation of the joy from the previous evening when Bishop LaValley ordained seminarian Scott A. Belina as a deacon at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

And it was sustained on the day after as Deacon Belina preached at his first Mass at St. Anthony's in Watertown and Father Higman celebrated his first Mass at St. James in Carthage.

## The ordination liturgy

Bishop LaValley's homily at the priesthood ordination was part of the Rite of Ordination which followed the Liturgy of the Word at the Mass.

The rite began with the "election of the candidate," in which Father Douglas J. Lucia, episcopal vicar for worship and priestly forma-



PHOTOS BY BETTY STEELE

At the conclusion of his May 26 ordination, Father Thomas J. Higman offers his first blessing as a priest to his bishop.

tion, made the formal request that the bishop ordain candidate Higman.

Father Lucia assured the bishop and the people that Deacon Higman was worthy and prepared to become a priest.

Bishop LaValley then delivered his homily before asking candidate Higman to express his resolve to carry out his office in accord with the mind of Christ and the Church, under the direction

of the bishop.

The Litany of Supplication followed as Deacon Higman lay prostrate in front of the altar, joining the congregation in prayer.

The actual moment of ordination followed through the laying on of hands by the bishop and the prayer of ordination: "Grant we pray Almighty Father, to this your servant, the dignity of the priesthood; renew deep within him the Spirit of Holi-

ness, may he henceforth possess the office which comes from you, O God and is next in rank to the office of Bishop; and by the example of his manner of life, may he instill right conduct."

Immediately after the prayer of ordination, the new priest was vested with the priestly stole and chasuble by Augustinian Father James Spenard of Troy, NY, former pastor of Father Higman's home parish in Carthage.

Bishop LaValley then anointed Father Higman's hands, symbolizing the priest's distinctive participation in Christ's priesthood.

At this point Bishop LaValley handed over the bread and wine, pointing to Father Higman's duty of presiding at the celebration of the Eucharist.

The ordination rite concluded with a fraternal kiss from the bishop and the other priests who welcomed Father Higman to a shared ministry in their order.

## Other participants

Priests concelebrating with Bishop LaValley included priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, faculty members from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and other friends of Father Higman.

The deacon chaplains to the bishop were Deacons Richard Staab of Carthage and Gary Frank of Clayton.

Deacon Belina was Deacon of the Word and Deacon Richard W. James was Deacon of the Eucharist.

To proclaim the scriptures, Father Higman invited three friends; Rachel Daly of Peru, read the first reading, Andrew Lauria of Plattsburgh, the second and newly ordained Deacon Belina read the Gospel.

Seminarians of the diocese and other friends of Father Higman were servers while Nathan Kepler and Nicholas Olley were episcopal insignia bearers.

The music was led by Ernie Hadley and singers from St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Parish.

Father Higman has been assigned to serve as parochial vicar for the Malone Catholic Parishes

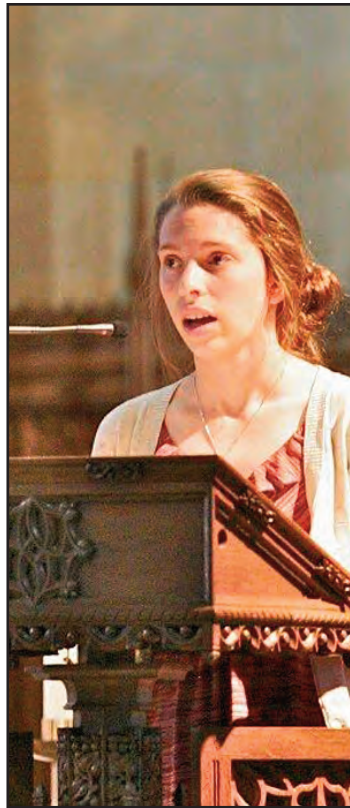
Deacon Belina will spend the summer providing diaconal service to the parishes of Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville before returning to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for his final year of seminary study.



# SCENES FROM THE ORDINATION



Bishop LaValley hands the bread and wine to Father Higman which signifies the priest's duty to preside at the Eucharist. Also shown is seminarian Alex Pacelli of Lake Placid.



Rachel Daly of Peru proclaimed the first reading



The new priest offers a blessing to his parents, James and Mary Higman of Carthage.

The faith communities of St. James Church, Carthage, NY, St. Mary's Church, Copenhagen, NY and Carthage Augustinian Academy (Pre-K - Grade 8) congratulate Fr. Thomas James Higman upon his Ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood of Jesus Christ. We are proud to have you, a native son, respond to the Lord's call to serve God's People as a priest for the local Church of Ogdensburg.

*"May God who began this good work in you, bring it to fruition."*

May God bless you and your priestly ministry to our diocese!

*Fr. George F. Maroun, Pastor*

*Sr. Annunciata Collins, SSJ, Principal of C.A.A.*

*Pastoral Staff and Parishioners of St. James & St. Mary's*



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# Living the power of prayer



"Miracle babies" are baptized. From left, parents David Pinello, Shannon Pinello, Msgr. Leeward Poissant, maternal grandparents and God parents Joy and Jerry Laundree with Dominic, Gianna and Sophia.

Story submitted by  
Keeseville parishioner

**KEESEVILLE** - We've all heard the phrases: "Babies are true miracles", "Children are such a blessing" and "God does answer our prayers" but how would you feel if you experienced all THREE of those gifts in ONE major life event?

That is what happened to one Keeseville couple earlier this year. David and Shannon Pinello were blessed with triplets ... three beautiful babies, one son and two daughters that were born almost 10 weeks prematurely on Jan. 8, 2012.

After the heartbreak of numerous miscarriages, and several failed attempts to conceive a child, the couple all but gave up on having a child together.

Then in July, they found out they were pregnant with triplets! Wonderful news BUT despite their joy, their obstetrician warned them that carrying triplets was considered a high risk pregnancy and there were no guarantees that this pregnancy would be a successful one.

Shannon's mother, Joy Laundree, who also lives in Keeseville, is a commissioned Lay Minister for the parish, a member of The Altar Rosary Society and ironically, helps facilitate the "Rosebud" program which has been a ministry in the parish since 2008. (For those who may not know, the "Rosebud" program is a prayer ministry for women in the parish who have had a miscarriage, experienced the death of a child, are trying to

conceive or adopt a child or who have recently been blessed with a newborn baby).

## Times three!

Along with other parishioners willing to be part of that ministry, Joy had prayed for many other women, (some known, some unknown) for their prayers to be answered or for their pain to be eased.

Like many other mothers have done, Joy asked for prayers for Shannon, David and the triplets. During the pregnancy, Shannon had to deal with many medical challenges and was hospitalized in Burlington for most of the last 3 months of her pregnancy.

Led and inspired by pastor, Msgr. Leeward Poissant, the entire parish kept praying for Shannon, David and their unborn babies and the couple continued to believe that their prayers would be answered.

Despite their 2 month stay in the NICU in Burlington, the triplets: Dominic Giovanni, Gianna Grace and Sofia Elizabeth who were dubbed the "miracle babies" because of their remarkable good health and development, have been the source of much joy to The Catholic Community of Keeseville and on April 22nd, Father Lee baptized the babies. In all of his 47 years of priesthood, he has never had the privilege of baptizing triplets before.

The baptism took place in the Immaculate Conception Church: nothing could be more appropriate than having the Pinello Triplets baptized in a church named for the CONCEPTION of MARY our heavenly MOTHER.

Indeed, the above phrases are true and although we may have heard them hundreds of times before we learn (or relearn) that there's meaning and truth to those words. Yes, God is great and He really does answer our prayers ... and sometimes in THREE'S!

## Bishop LaValley' Schedule

**June 8** – 12 p.m., Mass at the St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Patrick's, Rouses Point, St. Joseph's, Coopersville, and St. Mary's, Champlain at St. Patrick's Church.

**June 9** – 10 a.m., Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy; 1 p.m., Blessing of new vault at St. Joseph's Cemetery in West Chazy.

**June 10** – 3p.m., Confirmation for St. Mary's, Ticonderoga, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Crown Point, Our Lady of Lourdes, Schroon Lake, St. Joseph's, Olmstedville, St. Patrick's, Port Henry, and All Saints, Mineville at St. Mary's Church.

**June 12-15** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Spring Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 6** – Msgr. Euclid Elie, 1962  
**June 8** – Rev. James J. McGowan, 1961; Deacon Ronald Coryea, 1995  
**June 9** – Rev. James Bolton, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. John W. Ryan, 1982  
**June 10** – Rev. Augustus Gaudet, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Alfred J. Boulterice, 1952; Rev. Rupert P. Hajna, O.F.M.Conv., 1979  
**June 11** – Rev. Lawrence K. Brady, 1993

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the

**Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
 anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: aycsnn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

## Deacon

# Scott Anthony Belina



*Congratulations and  
 Best Wishes on your  
 Diaconate Ordination*

From the Pastor and Parishioners  
 of St. Anthony's and  
 St. Patrick's Churches  
 Watertown



*Support And Pray  
 For Vocations*



PREPARES FOR FINAL YEAR BEFORE PRIESTHOOD

# OUR NEW DEACON

Deacon Scott Belina was ordained a transitional deacon May 25 at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.



Bishop LaValley welcomes the new deacon into ordained ministry.

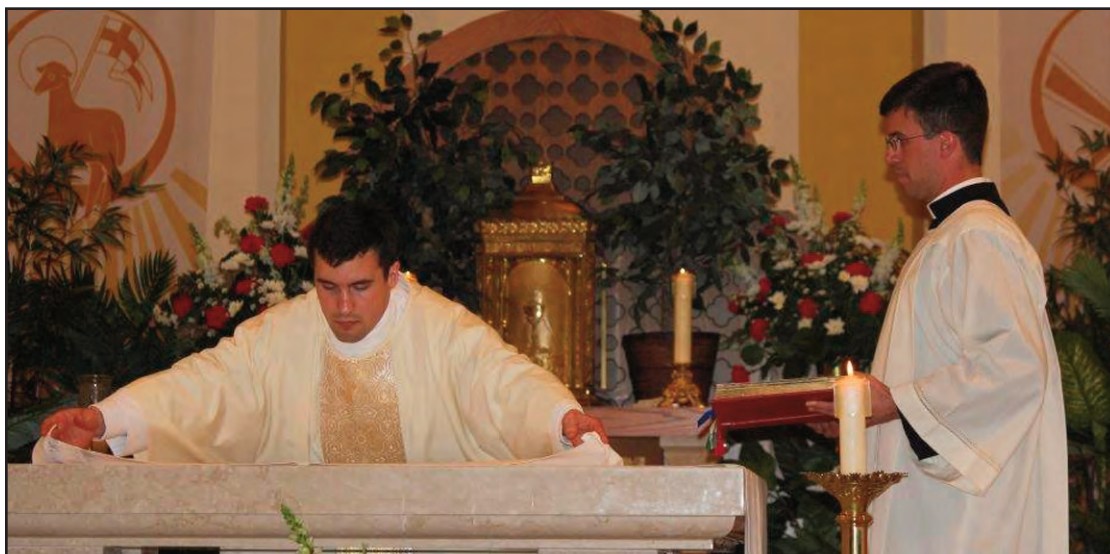


PHOTOS BY DAYNA LEADER

In preparation for his ordination as a transitional deacon, Scott Belina laid prostrate in front of the altar at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown, showing his surrender to Christ's will as the congregation sang the Litany of the Saints, pleading for God's grace for the candidate. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the May 25 ordination.



Deacon Belina assists Bishop LaValley at the altar



In his first responsibility after ordination, Deacon Belina prepares the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist under the watchful eye of Father Bryan Stitt who served as master of ceremonies for the ordination.



Deacon Brian Dwyer of Chateaugay welcomes Deacon Belina to the ranks of the diaconate.



# Congratulations to our Jubilararians!



Fr. Lawrence Cotter, who is celebrating 60 years of the priesthood, gave his first priestly blessing to his parents, relatives and friends. Shown with Bishop McEntegart and Fr. Cotter are Father's parents, Edward and Margaret Clarke Cotter, and his brothers, Fr. Robert L. Cotter, who is celebrating 65 years of the priesthood, and Fr. Charles B. Cotter. (Photo appeared in the June 15, 1952 edition of the *NCC*.)

## Ordination Blessing

Dear Lord,  
 bless these servants who go forth to do your will.  
 As Melchizedek, your priest-king of Jerusalem,  
 sealed his covenant with bread and wine,  
 bless these who will renew your covenant with us  
 through the celebration of the Eucharist.  
 As prayer, anointing, and laying on of hands  
 made kings in ancient Israel,  
 may these chosen ones, after their anointing,  
 imitate the King of all kings  
 in their service to your people.  
 As the apostles were sent by Christ  
 to make followers of all nations,  
 inspire your shepherds to lead all they encounter  
 into the loving arms of your universal family and faith.  
 Amen.



Bishop Brzana silently imposes hands upon Deacon Gerald Cerank, conferring upon him the Order of Priesthood. Ordination ceremonies took place in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, May 13. Fr. Cerank is celebrating 40 years with the priesthood. (Photo by Allen Burns; appeared in the May 21, 1972 edition of the *NCC*.)



Pictured with Bishop Navagh following his ordination is Fr. John P. Kennehan who is celebrating 50 years of the priesthood. (Photo by Jack Byrnes; appeared in the April 15, 1962 edition of the *NCC*.)



Father Daniel Chapin, who is celebrating 40 years of the priesthood confers his first priestly blessing upon Bishop Brzana. (Photo appeared in the May 21, 1972 edition of the *NCC*.)



Bishop Brzana imposes hands of silence, the moment of ordination on Fr. Raymond Wertman who is celebrating 40 years of the priesthood. (Photo appeared in the Nov. 1, 1972 edition of the *NCC*.)



Bishop Eugene LaRocque is shown with Father Scott Fobare and then Deacon James Seymour and Deacon William Reamer, who were ordained on Oct. 10, 1987. All three priests are celebrating 25 years of the priesthood. (Photo appeared in the June 3, 1987 edition of the *NCC*.)





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According to legal scholars:

# Religious freedom at heart of HHS lawsuits

By Liz O'Connor  
Catholic News Service

LEVITTOWN, PA. (CNS) -- The mass media have done the public a disservice by consistently referring to health reform law regulations so narrowly as the "contraceptive mandate," because it leads people to think the regulations are a matter of interest only to Catholics, according to Harvard Law professor Mary Ann Glendon.

Rather, she said, the regulations that would require employers to provide free health insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations are a contravention of religious freedom, "and that's everybody's business."

Legal experts interviewed by Catholic News Service said the lawsuits filed May 21 by 43 Catholic entities in 12 federal district courts, as well as those filed separately by other organizations and concerned individual employers, are based on three principles.

The first is the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Helen Alvarez, a law professor at George Mason University in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Va., said the Supreme Court has ruled that statutes may breach religious freedom if a law is neutral with regard to religion and of general applicability, that is, applied across the board without exemptions.

But, she said, the Department of Health and Human Services regulations to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act contain numerous exemptions affecting thousands of people -- unions, for example, and grandfathered programs -- and so cannot be considered generally applied.

A second reason cited for the lawsuits is the 1993 fed-



CNS FILE PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

The National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington will host the closing liturgy of the U.S. Catholic Church's national education campaign on religious liberty the afternoon of Independence Day. The "fortnight for freedom" begins June 21 with Mass at Baltimore's historic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

eral Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The law says that if the government is going to place a substantial burden on religious practice, the government must have a compelling interest to do so and must use the least restrictive means available.

The HHS regulations do not meet that test, the scholars agreed.

Finally, enforcing the regulations' narrow definition of religiously exempt entities would, Glendon said, require a searching government inquiry into what is and isn't religious activity, "intruding into religious affairs in an unprecedented way."

To be exempt, the religious employer must meet four criteria, that it "has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose"; primarily employs people "who share its religious tenets"; primarily serves people "who share its religious tenets"; and is a nonprofit organization under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

Alvarez said she thinks the

case being made in the lawsuits is really strong but expects that however district courts rule the matter is likely to be appealed to higher courts, unless the Supreme Court rules the whole health Affordable Care Act unconstitutional in a case currently under consideration.

Ned Dolejsi, executive director of the California Catholic Conference, said no California diocese was among those bringing the current batch of lawsuits, but he said that was not a decision the bishops made together nor does it indicate that they disagree with the dioceses bringing suit.

Rather, he noted that the bishops of California went through a similar process in challenging California state law, but the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately declined to hear their appeal.

The California statute, like the proposed HHS regulations has a very narrow religious exemption, for any employer offering insurance

for pharmaceuticals. But he said the Catholic dioceses have been protected from it by federal and state laws that allow them to self-insure in a variety of ways.

However, that protection would be lost if the federal law goes into effect with its current regulations.

"We (in California) share the angst (of other U.S. Catholics) over allowing this definition of religious employer to remain" in force, he said, but different bishops are using different strategies.

Richard Garnett, professor of law and associate dean at the University of Notre Dame Law School, said that with respect to the district court suits filed by various Catholic entities, it is entirely possible that there will be different decisions in different jurisdictions.

He said that at least some of the plaintiffs will probably be successful, and in those cases the court may issue an injunction on enforcement of the HHS regulations within the area of the court's juris-

diction.

Garnett also said the Obama administration may just decide to change the regulations.

The Catholic Health Association, which has not joined in any of the lawsuits, told CNS its only statement on the lawsuits could be found in a May 21 blog post by E.J. Dionne of The Washington Post.

In it, Michael Rodgers, CHA senior vice president for public affairs and advocacy, was quoted as saying in an interview that the association "was not made aware that lawsuits were being filed now."

Rodgers is quoted as adding that CHA is working with the administration to "broaden the exemption by broadening the definition of what a religious institution is."

Julie Billmeier, who serves in young adult ministry in the Diocese of Dallas -- which is among the groups suing the government over the regulations -- said the definition in the regulations "would completely change our Catholic approach to what it means to serve others."

She sees accessible health care for all as an important social justice issue, but says, "It can't happen at the expense of us being able to live out what we believe."

Also in Dallas Kate Dailey, principal of Bishop Dunne Catholic School, said hers is a very diverse school where some 50 percent of students require financial aid. She sees her ministry at the school, which serves grades six through 12, as "who we are, the heart and soul of who we are" as the Catholic Church, and is appalled that the HHS regulations would not consider it a religiously exempt institution.

But she is optimistic the suits will be successful or the regulations changed, saying, "I don't think it (contraceptive requirement) will happen."



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Federal court overturns Defense of Marriage Act; appeal presumed

BOSTON (CNS) -- With a ruling that acknowledged the final decision will be up to the Supreme Court, a federal appeals court declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional May 31. The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the provision of the 1996 federal law, known as DOMA, that defines marriage as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." The three-judge panel cited previous Supreme Court rulings that struck down laws determined to be discriminatory against a class of people as being among the keys to their ruling. The case was brought against the federal government by a group of same-sex married couples and several widowed spouses, all from Massachusetts. They seek access to federal benefits such as Social Security that would be available to heterosexual married couples but are blocked under DOMA. The law was passed soon after Hawaii's Supreme Court held that it might violate the state constitution to deny marriage to same-sex couples. Amid concern that states would soon begin to allow same-sex marriages, Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed the 230-word law, which the appeals court described as "one of the shortest major enactments in recent history." Since then, 30 states have passed constitutional prohibitions on same-sex marriage while six states and the District of Columbia have passed laws permitting it. Another dozen states, including Hawaii, have laws recognizing civil unions between people of the same sex. The 1st Circuit was reviewing only the provision of DOMA that defines "marriage" and "spouse," not its provision guaranteeing that no state or territory is required to recognize a marriage recognized by another state or territory. Among the organizations that urged the court to uphold DOMA were the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and other Christian and Jewish religious groups.

## Pope appoints North Dakota bishop to Denver, Maine bishop to Buffalo

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo, N.D., as the new archbishop of Denver and also named Bishop Richard J. Malone of Portland, Maine, to head the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. The pope also accepted the resignation of Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, who is 75, the age at which canon law requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope. The changes were announced in Washington May 29 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vagano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Aquila, 61, succeeds Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was named to head the Philadelphia Archdiocese last July. The new archbishop has headed the Fargo Diocese since 2002. Bishop Malone, 66, has been Portland's bishop since 2004. Archbishop Aquila will be installed July 18 during a Mass at Denver's Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Malone will be installed Aug. 10 during a Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo. "It is a tremendous blessing to be able to return to the particular church where I was ordained and to a place that I consider home because I lived there the majority of my life and served in the priesthood there," Archbishop Aquila said at a news conference in Denver. At a news conference in Buffalo, Bishop Malone said: "While there is sadness in my heart at leaving the Catholic faithful of Maine ... I look forward with enthusiasm to taking up my responsibility as chief shepherd of the Church of Buffalo."

# In changing times, faith seen as source of strength for fathers

By Daniel Linskey  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The image of the American family is changing and increasingly that means a family doesn't include a father figure.

For example, in 1960, only 11 percent of children lived apart from their fathers, but now that number is 27 percent, according to a recent Pew study.

Expectations of the American father are changing, too. A Gallup poll found that 80 percent of teens believe making enough time to spend with children is "very difficult" or "somewhat difficult" for fathers.

Another Pew study found that 78 percent of fathers living apart from their children visit less than once a month.

Brian Caulfield, editor of the Knights of Columbus initiative Fathers for Good, believes a man's obligation to be a good father is a moral obligation.

"Marriage is a vocation within the church. A married man who has a child includes his family in that vocation," Caulfield said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

The changes seen in fatherhood and the role of fathers in many ways are related to a cultural trend that says men are not needed in a family, he said.

"In vitro fertilization, abortion and divorce take the male actor out of the situation," he explained. "All of these things sideline a father and make him feel he is not as needed."

"I believe the solution we are trying to propose through Fathers for Good is that men need to stay involved in the family," Caulfield said.

The Pew study showed

that 57 percent of adults believe being a father today is harder than being a father 20 to 30 years ago.

Only 9 percent believe it is easier.

Gregory Slayton, a Catholic who is a former U.S. ambassador to Bermuda and author of a new book titled "Be a Better Dad Today," agrees that dads today face a lot of challenges their own fathers didn't.

"I think we got to this point through a confluence of negative events. The media has changed, and the traditional bulwarks of society have less influence today," he told CNS.

However, there is a way to combat such influences, said Slayton, and for him that is faith.

"Faith is an absolutely critical tool in being a good father. Not having a dad myself, I realized I needed to learn from many different fathers," he said.

"There were very few great dads who were not men of faith," Slayton said. "They have their priorities in order, because having a long term relationship with God means you think in the long term for your family."

In his book, Slayton emphasizes that the greatest role a man can play is the role of a good father, adding that men need to understand their role as fathers and set priorities.

"Every father must prioritize for a family. Nothing significant is built without planning. You don't build a church, a network, not even a bicycle without a plan," he said.

Slayton noted that children who grow up without a dad are "three to six times more likely to spend time in prison, become addicted to drugs, fail out of high school, and have children them-

selves out of wedlock."

Both Caulfield and Slayton said a father's strong relationship with his wife is one key to creating a stable family.

"Men need to listen to their wives, and be accepting of what (Pope) John Paul II coined 'feminine genius,'" Caulfield explained. "John Paul II's theology of the body says the holistic complementarity within marriage comes from the family."

And for that, he added, there needs to be a strong and present father.

"A father must work with his wife, he's in a relationship, he's in a sacramental bond," Slayton said. "The idea of Fathers for Good is to incorporate a good faithful man into a family."

The Knights' initiative, [www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org), provides information, advice, an interactive forum, a Q-and-A section and other resources to help the "seasoned dad," new dad, dad to be or single guy who wants "to know more about fatherhood."

Matrimony and loyalty to that matrimony is often the first step in building a strong family, according to Slayton and Caulfield.

The troubling statistics about fatherhood, however, come from fathers separated from their families.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, the consequences of absent fathers are negative factors in poverty, maternal and infant health, crime, teen pregnancy, child abuse, drug abuse, childhood obesity, education, and more.

Slayton has advice for the growing number of estranged fathers.

Quoting Winston Churchill's famous words during World War II, he said, "Never, never, never give up."



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

The Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) was established by Pope Urban IV in 1264.

He was probably influenced by a miracle which had occurred in Boslena, Italy. A German priest, Father Peter of Prague, stopped there to celebrate Mass. It is interesting to know that this priest had been having doubts about the truth of the Real Presence. As he elevated the sacred Host that day, blood poured down on his hands, and onto the altar linens. The blood on the corporal scientifically proved to be human blood is still intact at Orvi-

eto to this day.

There are many other authenticated miracles concerning the Real Presence which are supportive, but not necessary for our faith. Jesus, after all, becomes sacramentally present at every Mass in our own home-town Church.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Does Jesus remain in the elements after Mass?

The ancient practice of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been encouraged by recent popes

In support of the practice of Holy Hours and Benediction, our present Holy Father quotes St. Augustine as

saying "No one should eat this flesh without first adoring it...we should sin were we not to adore it" (On the Psalms 98:9).

Feasts are established by the Church to strengthen faith. This feast is no exception. The readings for today's Mass describe the ritual actions of Moses' pouring blood on the people. Why? To help them remember God's commands.

The second reading speaks of Jesus pouring out his blood on all people. This priestly act effectively redeemed the world from the Father's displeasure.

Then, the Gospel narrates how Jesus established the sacrament of Eucharist as the means of continuing His saving death. "Do this in re-

JUNE 10

The Feast of the Body  
and Blood of Christ

READINGS

Exodus 24:3-8

Heb. 9:11-15

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

membrance of Me", He told His Apostles.

There is tremendous meaning in the word "communion" which describes our reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Just as Jesus at the Last Supper passed around the one chalice, so too we share the one bread and the one cup at every Mass.

First, we adore, then we receive, then we become the food we have received. We

are truly one body in Christ.

Strengthened and transformed in love, truth, and joy through the Spirit, we are ready to share the fruits of love, compassion, forgiveness, service, and all the rest of the great fruits of the Spirit with our brothers and sisters.

No wonder that the apostles and early followers were so insistent on joy as the mark of a Christian.

If anyone confronts you today with that common remark, "What are you so happy about?" we just might set them on their heels with the reply, "I received Jesus into my heart through Communion today!" If we're not that brave, we must settle for "Wouldn't you like to know?"

## On the NCC Facebook page

Find and 'Like' the North Country Catholic Facebook page to see more photos from the priest and deacon ordinations, First Communion shots and more!

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By Father John Catoir  
Catholic News Service

When I attempted to explain to my gay nephew, whom I love as a son, that the right to marry was not an absolute right for anyone, not even heterosexual Catholics in good standing, he was not impressed.

I told him that heterosexual men and women are not permitted to marry in the Catholic Church unless they intend a permanent, exclusive union. Couples who come to us do not get to set the terms of the marriage contract.

If they decide that they want to "marry," but not for life, only for as long as the good feelings last, we send them away. If they want a union that is open to other partners, we do the same thing. Catholic marriages are meant to be exclusive unions between one man and one woman.

If Catholics of the same gender come to us to marry, we respect them, but we cannot marry them.

Under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, gay and lesbian men and women can claim equal rights under the law, but they cannot rewrite the law or the legal presumptions behind it. Two things are in play: the rights of others, and the separation of church and state.

It must be understood that as soon as a person's legal rights come into conflict with the legal rights of another or others, the matter must be adjudicated in a court of law and it could be up to the Supreme Court to decide, if necessary.

One example of something similar is the Occupy Wall Street protesters. They have the constitutional right of free speech and assembly, but it is not an absolute right. If they disturb the peace or misuse public

property, which exists exclusively for the common good, they lose their license to assemble.

The marriage laws are equally complex. What is a gay marriage? Gays and lesbians differ in their beliefs. Some believe in the right to be polygamous; some demand the right to be promiscuous; some are committed to a lifelong relationship; some are not.

Marriage laws must be applied equally. All parties must accept the same definition of the marriage contract.

The U.S. is a democracy, and we the people have the right to oppose any law deemed to be unjust. In the United States majority rules, and the homosexual community will not advance its chances of gaining a majority vote to change the law by strident political tactics, which often alienate sympathetic observers.

Even if they won a major-

ity vote, creating an amendment to allow gay marriage, even if it is passed under the banner of equal rights under the 14th Amendment, there is still the issue of the separation between church and state.

A U.S. law can never be used to command religious institutions to change their laws, which they deem to be a divine precept: namely, the concept that marriage is a contract between one man and one woman.

As a practical matter, all I can do for my nephew and his long-standing partner, both of whom are good and decent human beings, is bless them and wish them good health, long life and much happiness.

But, I cannot attempt to "marry" them in the church or anywhere else without violating church law. I tell them they have a right and a duty to follow their conscience and then trust in God's love.

## SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY

# About Catholic marriages



AT THE MOVIES

# THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Cross "A Passage to India" with "Fawlty Towers" and you'll get "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" (Fox Searchlight), a comedy-drama combination about seven elderly Brits searching for enlightenment - and excitement - on the Indian subcontinent.

Directed by John Madden ("Shakespeare in Love," "The Debt") and based on the 2004 novel "These Foolish Things" by Deborah Moggach, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" offers a mixed, and problematic, moral message about the "golden" years, as crusty old fogeys let their hair down -- and unleash their libidos.

Each has a different reason for wanting to escape to the East. Evelyn (Judi Dench), shackled by her late husband's debts and her controlling children, longs to assert her independence. Unhappily married Douglas (Bill Nighy) and Jean (Penelope Wilton) aren't quite ready for retirement in a drab assisted-living community.

Madge (Celia Imrie) and Norman (Ronald Pickup) are a couple of randy seniors on the prowl, looking for love -- make that lust -- in the fabled land of the "Kama



CNS PHOTO/FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Judi Dench, Tom Wilkinson and Bill Nighy star in a scene from the movie "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel."

Sutra."

Graham (Tom Wilkinson), a distinguished judge, returns to India where he lived as a boy. Openly gay, he seeks a reunion with his childhood lover whom he has not seen in 50 years. The movie both romanticizes his quest and invites viewers to endorse the relationship underlying it.

Finally, there's Muriel (Maggie Smith), the lone reluctant traveler. A mean-

spirited bigot, Maggie needs a hip replacement, but can't bear the six-month waiting period. The fast track means a free operation in India.

For Muriel, change and an uncertain future are terrifying. "At my age, I can't plan ahead," she moans. "I don't even buy green bananas."

Still, it's off to India they all go, enticed by an advertisement promising elegant retirement living "in the proud tradition of the Raj"

in Jaipur's titular hostelry. It's certainly exotic, but far from a five-star establishment. The dilapidated guesthouse is run by Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel), a young man with big ambitions.

Sonny's comic antics, the clash of cultures, and each traveler's personal awakening is chronicled by the

sympathetic Evelyn in her online blog. "India is an assault on the senses, a riot of noise and color," she says. "Nothing here has worked out quite as I expected."

And how. As each character's staid existence unravels, Sonny exudes an unabashed optimism. "Everything will be all right in the end," he promises. "If it's not all right, then it's not the end."

Yet, in the end, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" offers a skewed vision of the twilight years. Screenwriter Ol Parker's script is on firm ground in presenting them as a time for forgiveness and reconciliation. But cutting matrimonial ties and embracing hedonism is no more recommendable toward the close of life than at any other age.

The film contains a benign view of premarital sex and homosexual acts, partial nudity, gruesome images of a corpse, some sexual innuendo and occasional rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.





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The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**NORTH COUNTRY  
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What we're hearing about the newly designed [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org):

*"Excellent job on the new website. It's clean and easy to navigate. And, you now have the capability to provide news daily and hourly. Good work!"*



## CLINTON

## THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

**Plattsburgh** – There will be adoration in the chapel concluding with special prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Date:** June 15

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 8

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

## 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

## EUCHARISTIC 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.

**Theme:** "Let us love God and adore him and offer him praises by day and by night." (St. Francis of Assisi). Everyone is invited to spend some quiet time with Jesus anytime during these hours.

**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.

## MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

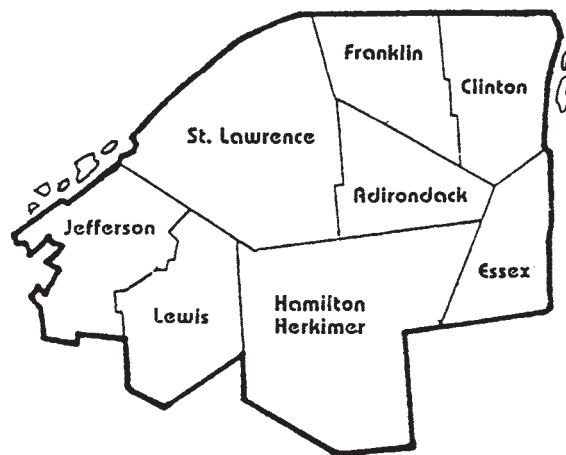
**Ellenburg** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having a monthly prayer meeting.

**Date:** May 26 (every last Sunday)

**Features:** Please bring a dish to pass and RSVP to olaprayhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

## PRAYER MEETING

**Plattsburgh** – A weekly prayer meeting



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.

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

## 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

## 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

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

**Date:** June 28

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart, meatballs are \$.75 each

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

## 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.

## MOUNT CARMEL FEAST

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Church will celebrate its 96th Annual Mt. Carmel Feast in honor of our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

**Date:** June 29, 30 & July 1

**Features:** A Special spaghetti supper will be held in the church basement on June 28 at 4:30 p.m. \$8, Adults and \$4.50 for Children. Take-outs available.

On the Grounds traditional Italian foods will be served. Great Entertainment each night. Friday – Les Gates; Saturday – Nick Mulpagano; Sunday – Fred and the Eds. Regular BINGO in the School Gym on Friday at 7 p.m. Rides by Ontario Amusement Company. Religious Procession begins at 5 p.m. Sunday followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Fireworks Sunday night at 10 p.m. \$1700 cash raffle after fireworks.

Grounds open Friday at 5:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. All days end at 10 p.m.

**Contact:** For more information contact St. Anthony's parish office at 782-1190.

## 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

## ANNUAL BANQUET

**Glenfield** – St. Peter's Rosary-Altar Society will hold their Annual Banquet featuring a Roast Turkey Dinner.

**Date:** June 13

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** "The Central"

**Cost:** \$13

**Contact:** Jackie Kaban at 376-3201 to make reservations.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## K OF BRUNCH

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

**Date:** June 10

**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

## EUCHARISTIC 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 holds 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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## THEOLOGY OF BODY ROUNDTABLE

**Saranac Lake** – An opportunity to continue the Theology of the Body conversation that began with Christopher West's September 2011 visit to our diocese.

**Date:** July 20

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** The interactive format will develop possible strategies for integrating Theology of the Body into religious education, marriage preparation, RCIA, and other aspects of parish life.

**Contact:** For information/registration: Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, Diocesan NFP Directors. Email: apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org . Phone 518-483-0459.

## 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

**Contact:** On 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

# Congratulations to the ordinates

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., would like to congratulate and send our blessings to Deacon Scott Anthony Belina and Father Thomas Higman. Our thoughts are with them and their families as they experience these joyous days.

**From the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg**

Deacon Belina was ordained Deacon on Friday, May 25th in Watertown at St. Patrick's Church by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Father Thomas Higman was ordained a Priest on Saturday, May 26th at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg also by Bishop LaValley. It was a wonderful way to spend a holiday weekend, filled with joy and hope for Vocations in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

We wish Deacon Belina all the best as he embarks on a final year of pastoral service and education before his ordination to the priesthood in 2013. May God Bless him in his ministry and keep him in His tender loving care.

We also hope and pray for Father Higman as he begins his journey into Priesthood. We pray his heart is filled with the love of the Christ and that he may ever experience the peace, joy, wonder, and power inherent in such love.

Through the sacrament of ordination, they will draw strength from the gift of the Holy Spirit. They will draw strength from the prayers of all who love them and love the Church. May God Bless them both and may the Lord's peace fill our hearts. And always remember, "Celebrate this day for you are his chosen one!"

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

**The Miraculous Prayer**

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

**St. Jude Novena**

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

**OBITUARIES**

**Brushton** – Ruth E. (Arquiett) Trombley, 95; Funeral Services May 30, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Brushton** – Rhonda J. (Tremblay) Trumble, 85; Funeral Services May 31, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Parish cemetery.

**Carthage** – Coleen A. (Tabolt) Hamilton, 61; Funeral Services May 30, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in St. Peter's Grove, New Bremen.

**Clayton** – Francis "Fran" A. Wagner, 93; Funeral Services May 30, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Keene** – Patricia K. (Walker) Quinn, 87; Funeral Services May 31, 2012 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Michael E. Cobb, 63; Funeral Services June 4, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Richard A. "Rick Blueberry" Hart Sr., 63; Funeral Services June 1, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Helen Provo, 98; Funeral Services Jun 2, 2012 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Louisville** – William F. Singleton, 78; Fu-



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neral Services May 29, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Evelyn B. LaPoint, 88; Funeral Services May 30, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Massena** – Richard F. LaComb, 84; Funeral Services June 1, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Harold Vernon Murray, 66; Funeral Services June 1, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Joseph P. Tynon, 87; Funeral Ser May 29, 2012 at Foxwood Memorial Park Chapel.

**Plattsburgh** – Frances D. Sweatt, 86; Funeral Services June 2, 2012 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Joanne M. Bigwarfe, 43; Funeral Services June 4, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Raymondville** – Dale J. Baxter Sr., 76; Fu-

neral Services May 31, 2012 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Raymond H. Patnode, 79; Funeral Services May 31, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery, Black Brook.

**Theresa** – Robert Calvin Nottell, 68; Funeral Services May 31, 2012 at Frederick Bros. Funeral Home, Inc.

**Ticonderoga** – Helen Mary (Dennett) Drinkwine, 94; Funeral Services June 2, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Port Henry.

**Ticonderoga** – Sarah Lynn Porter, 15; Funeral Services June 4, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

**Watertown** – Ida E. (Zomponti) Alteri, 93; Funeral Services May 30, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Kenneth Harblin Jr., 85; Funeral Services May 29, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

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## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# God is good... all the time!

By Andrew Lauria  
Contributing Writer

God is good, all the time!" This is the chant used at Guggenheim summer camp to call everybody to silence while in a group.

And this same chant best explains the endless cheering and clapping this weekend at what the Guggenheim entourage lovingly coined Ordinationpalooza.

**Over 30 young people from recent Guggenheim "generations" completed the entire Ordinationpalooza circuit with great enthusiasm.**

This weekend we witnessed both Father Tom Higman and Deacon Scott Belina publically answer a resounding "all the time" as they dedicated their lives to the goodness of God through service to His holy church.

And it took an entire weekend to properly celebrate such an amazing moment in our North Country Church history.

It is not often that we young people get to publically celebrate our Catholic faith, so we took full advantage of the opportunity this past weekend.

Over 30 young people from recent Guggenheim "generations" completed the entire Ordinationpalooza circuit with great enthusiasm.

Within three days, we celebrated over eight hours of liturgy in four different churches, attended five receptions at five different venues, and spent almost 24 hours at post-liturgical Guggenheim after-parties.

Along with the ordinations, we also celebrated a birthday and engagement. As a group, we laughed uncontrollably, shared long-



PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

Andrew Lauria, a teacher at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh, is pictured with his friends Deacon Scott Belina, left; and Father Tom Higman, during a celebration of their ordinations. The three became friends while working at Guggenheim.

winded stories of our favorite memories together with Tom and Scott, danced until our feet hurt, sang until our vocal chords quit, and partook in a vitality that can only be explained as Divine.

And considering that most of us drove at least a few hundred miles to get there, I think it is fair to say that we properly palooza-ed.

If the pure joy experienced this weekend was just a tiny glimpse of heaven, then we have something indescribably amazing to look forward to for the rest of eternity.

So why such an intense weekend of celebration?

Why the 72 hours of constant prayer and partying?

Because the ordinations of Father Tom and Deacon Scott are worthy of being

celebrated in such an exuberant manner.

As a group, we have anticipated this weekend for years and in a small way, shared in the same expectation that the world experienced while waiting for their Savior.

And just like in the age of Jesus, Father Tom and Deacon Scott's witness to the Truth is a triumph in a time of moral apathy and religious hostility.

They are saying yes to God with their lives and yes to the life only He can bring. This stands in stark contrast to the rest of the world that struggles to find its way through the darkness.

They are the light to our world, impersonating the light of Christ that came into the world over two thousand years ago.

This is quite a reason to celebrate!

God hears our prayers and when we respond to Him, we are filled with joy. People need to see joy in the world today.

It is no coincidence that Father Tom was ordained on the feast day of Saint Philip Neri, the notoriously good-natured saint, famous for his joy and levity.

Just as Pope Benedict XVI mentions when speaking about The New Evangelization, Father Tom and Deacon Scott are living the reality that God is faithful to His people and the result of that faithfulness is a profound joy.

How blessed are we who had the opportunity to experience that joy this weekend!

And joy through obedi-

ence to Christ is what brings us together as a Guggenheim community.

This eagerness and acceptance of the Lord's will was first seen in our Blessed Mother in her Fiat, her "yes" to serve the Lord completely.

**If the pure joy experienced this weekend was just a tiny glimpse of heaven, then we have something indescribably amazing to look forward to for the rest of eternity**

We in our Guggenheim community try to support this same personal "yes" to the Lord in each other. It is in solitude that we hear our call, but it is through our relationships with each other that we find the way to answer it.

By setting such a profound example, Father Tom and Deacon Scott have therefore encouraged us in a profound way to continue to seek and then to follow our vocations both independently and as a group.

I am so proud of Father Tom and Deacon Scott. I am blessed to call them friends.

Being with them this past weekend was indescribable. I cannot think of two better men to accept the blessed yet terrifying challenge of priesthood in the modern world.

But I know that I speak for the entire Guggenheim community when I say that they have led us closer to the Lord through their examples of accepting and living out their vocations to the priesthood. As a group, we join the chorus of Saints in heaven with great joy in saying, "Well done, my good and faithful ones."

Congratulations Father Tom and Deacon Scott!

Alright, who is up for Ordinationpalooza II next year?!