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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 67, Number 12

IULY 4, 2012

Raising people up to God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christians find fulfillment not by using power or force to realize their own wishes, but by being submissive to God's will and serving others, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Many in the world today are surrounded by people or things that threaten to become the guiding force in their lives, therefore, "it's necessary to have a hierarchy of values in which the top priority is God," the pope said during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall June 27.

In his catechesis, the pope continued his series of talks on prayer in the letters of St. Paul, looking this time at the Letter to the Philippians. People often look for "self-actupower, alization in domination and in powerful means," creating a tower of Babel in a quest to be godlike, said the pope.

Such pursuits reflect the

sin of Adam, who sought to put himself ahead of God. Jesus, instead, showed that true exaltation and victory come with absolute abasement and humility -- being a servant to others and obeying God's will, even to the point of being killed on the cross, the pope said.

Weekend to focus on family life

The offices of Family Life, Natural Family Planning and Pre-Cana are offering two days of enrichment at Guggenheim Lodge.

A "Theology of the Body Roundtable" will be held July 20 to continue the discussion started last fall with Christopher West, and explore ways to implement Theology of the Body in our parish programs.

An "Invitation to a Passionate Marriage" is being presented July 20 by authors John and Kathleen Colligan as a marriage enrichment and training for those in pre-cana ministry.

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

NCC summer schedule

The North Country Catholic will be printed every other week through the middle of August. The next issue of the paper will be dated July 18

AT PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

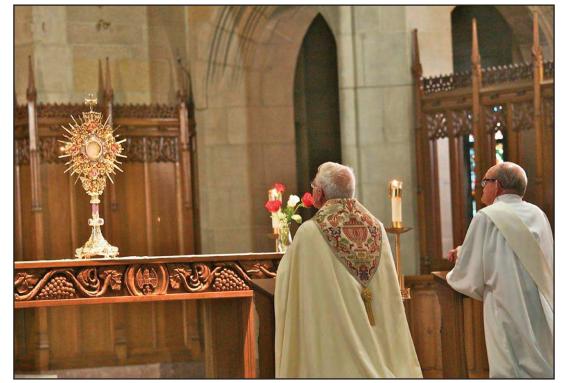


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Deacon Francis F. Bateman pray before the Blessed Sacrament during a Holy Hour for Religious Freedom held June 21 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The prayer hour opened the diocesan observance of Fortnight for Freedom. The bishops of the United States asked American Catholics to set aside June 21 through July 4 as a "special time of prayer, fasting, education and witness for a new birth of religious freedom in our beloved country."The bishops' campaign emerged because of the federal government's attempt to force religious organizations to pay for health services that violate religious principles.

ON A

Three inspiring weeks in India



PHOTO SUPPLIED

James Franke, a native of Rouses Point, who works for the Family Missions Company in Abbeville, La., took part in a three week mission trip to India in December. He shares reflections on his experiences - which including working with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity - in this week's Young Catholic Voice column.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

FOR VOCATIONS: New D.O.V.S have flown into the diocese... p. 4

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Box 326 Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669 USPS 0039-3400 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY President

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> Editor/ General Manager



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Send address changes to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0326 LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hooray - it's summer!

Summertime in God's Country – aahhh!

The signs and sounds are all around us: jetskis speeding

down the river, campers singing along Lake Saranac and sighs of relief from those cooling in the pool.

And we've only just begun!

Next week, young Catholic athletes will arrive at Sportscamp while faraway family and friends will come home for special reunions.

Offices will be emptied and campgrounds filled.

Even after the mildest of winters, every second of our short but oh-so-sweet summer is to be savored.

Many of us will take advantage of these days for much-needed and (perhaps!) richly-deserved vacations.

And we can look to the Holy Father for some words of advice to take full advantage of days away from our desks.

A couple years ago, Pope Benedict was spending a few days in

the Italian Alps and shared reflections that transfer easily to our own part of the world.

"Before this scenery of mead-

ows, forests and peaks reaching toward the sky, the desire to praise God for the marvels of his works rises spontaneously from the soul and our admiration of this natural beauty easily transforms itself into prayer," Pope Benedict said.

"Every good Christian" knows that a vacation is a time not only for physical relaxation, but also

"to nourish the spirit through greater space for prayer and meditation, to grow in a personal relationship with Christ and to conform oneself ever more closely to his teaching," he said.

In a couple of months we will join the pope and Catholics around the world to celebrate a a special Year of Faith.

This kind of R and R will do much to prepare for the busy year before us.



Mary Lou Kilian

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Faith and Rejection 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time - July7-8

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJDirector of Evangelization

It was not easy for Jesus to proclaim the message of the Kingdom of God to His own people in His native place of Nazareth. It was to the "hard of face and obstinate of heart" just as Ezekiel faced with his own community.

When God sends a prophet to be His spokesman, the people on the receiving end may or may not heed what God says to them through his prophet. God does not send prophet s because the people are submissive and obedient. God sends prophets to rescue His people from their self-destructive sinfulness.

that Jesus was not accepted in His own town. Where did Jesus get all this wisdom? Rejection, questions, doubts were not new or foreign to Jesus, nor to Ezekiel or to Paul.

In our culture of today, we, as a Catholic Church, A Family of Faith, are experiencing the pain of rejection, especially Church authority. We all have experienced some form of rejection in living out our faith. This should not stop us from witnessing our faith or carrying on the work to which we are all called to from our Baptism. It is helpful to remember that we are not alone when we face misunderstanding and rejection, sometimes from those who are closest to us. Jesus gives us the grace He possessed and the promise He made to St. Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:8). His grace will carry us forward to be faithful to the work at hand.

In what ways have you experienced rejection or misunderstanding concerning your faith? How do you respond?

Dioces of Ogdensburg The Official 2012 Directory of



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AT THE K OF C CHAPTER BALL



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

Each year, the 49 Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Ogdensburg unite for a diocesan-wide charitable event at the Bishop Brzana Chapter Charity Ball. The 2012 Chapter Ball hosted by Tupper Lake Council 2177 June 9 raised \$6,000 including \$3,400 at the ball's charity auction and \$2,600 in donations made by councils and individual knights. Since 1999, the Chapter Ball has raised approximately \$66,000 for worthy charities within the Diocese of Ogdensburg. This year, St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake and St. Agnes School in Lake Placid each received \$1,000; Family Champions of the North Country in Tupper Lake and the Liferight of Watertown each received \$2,000. Pictured, front, from left are Charlotte Pepe, member of Liferight of Watertown; Joan Boulio, Liferight of Watertown president; and Karen Pioli, Family Champions of the North Country director; back, William Ose, Chapter Ball chairman; Michael Willette, chapter president; William McIntyre, Saranac Lake Council 599 Grand Knight Elect; and Reginald Perras, District Deputy.

Respect life grants given to groups across diocese

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has approved the grants from this year's Respect Life second collection.

The Respect Life Collection Grant Board met April 30 to review the 25 applications and then submitted their recommendations to the bishop for his review and approval.

The committee members are Father Kris Lauzon, Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and John and Colleen Miner.

The recipients of this year's grants follow: five Gabriel Projects (Gouverneur, Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena and Plattsburgh), Malone Catholic Charities counseling services, three Youth Buses for Life, two March for Life family buses (Lewis County and Clinton

County), Birthright in Plattsburgh, Lewis County and Champlain Valley Right To Life Fair Booths, Liferight of Watertown, Alexandria Bay Thrift Shop Building Project, Plattsburgh Newman Center Project 4 Life, Dr. John Middleton's pro-life media campaign, 40 Days for Life, Natural Family Planning and Pre-Cana materials, USCCB

Respect Life Month pastor packets and a Theology of the Body workshop.

This year's total was \$68,367, slightly down from 2011, a \$2,805 difference.

Further information on the Respect Life grant process, is available at the diocesan Respect Life website: www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life.

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Fidelis Care awards \$30,000 to Catholic Charities program

OGDENSBURG – Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic Health Plan, has announced that Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been awarded \$30,000 to support its Healthy Families/Healthy Communities counseling program.

For the eighth consecutive year, Fidelis Care offers grant funds to non-profit organizations that share similar missions and values of service to low-income, vulnerable individuals.

The Fidelis Care Community Grant Fund will make grants available, in coordination with Ogdensburg Bishop Terry LaValley and his brother bishops, across New York State's eight Roman Catholic Dioceses.

"Fidelis Care has always valued and understood the importance of a strong community presence and enduring partnerships with community organizations that share our healing ministry," said Mark L. Lane, President and CEO. "We are pleased to support such worthwhile programs and services and know that they will benefit local residents within the Diocese. This is the heart of our mission."

Catholic Charities' Healthy Families/Healthy Communities counseling program is geared towards individuals and families who lack access to other counseling services. A particular emphasis is placed on serving the working poor, expectant mothers

and couples, domestic violence victims and offenders, and divorced couples working through parenting issues with their children. The ultimate goal is to help individuals and families build bridges to healthier lives.

Fidelis Care offers free or low-cost health insurance through New York State's Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, and Medicaid Managed Care programs. Members are covered for regular checkups, preventive care, routine screenings, hospital and emergency care, eve exams, dental care, and more. Fidelis Care also offers a variety of benefit options for seniors through Fidelis Medicare Advantage, Dual Advantage, Medicaid Advantage Plus, and Fidelis Care at Home programs, available in certain counties.

With more than 776,000 members in 59 counties Statewide, Fidelis Care was founded on the belief that all New Yorkers should have access to affordable, quality health insurance.

Members have access to a provider network of more than 51,000 health care professionals Statewide. Regional offices are located in Rego Park (Queens), Syracuse, Albany, and Buffalo, with satellite offices in Rochester, Poughkeepsie, and Suffern.

For more information, call Fidelis Care toll-free at 1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547) or visit www.fideliscare.org.

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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

St. Mary's Church, Clayton 10th Annual Summer Gala & Raffle To benefit St. Mary's Church

Only 370 Tickets to be sold!

(One need not be present to win)

Ticket Price: \$100.00 U.S. (Includes dinner for two, two drinks and chances to win - Sorry no take outs)

1st Prize \$10,000.00

2nd Prize \$2,000.00 3rd & 4th \$500.00 5th & 6th Prize \$250.00 7th - 11th Prizes \$100.00 **Prize amounts depends on 370 tickets sold**

All winning tickets will be returned to drum and be eligible for all 11 prizes.

Where: The Town of Clayton Recreation Park Arena When: Tuesday, August 7 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Make checks payable and mail to: St. Mary's Church 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624 (315) 686-3398

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Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society

New D.O.V.S. in the diocese

By Fr. Brian Stitt

Christine at 315-608-7556 to make the change

Diocesan Vocation Director

Odds are very good that if you are reading this, you would like to have more priests and religious in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

D.O.V.S. lets you do something about it.

With its Constitution being adopted on April 12 of this year, D.O.V.S. (the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society) sets about encouraging and supporting vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated religious life here within the beautiful North Country.

The 22 current members were previously members of the former Serra Club of Ogdensburg.

The first major event will

be a pilgrimage to Philadelphia, Penn., to visit St. Charles Borromeo seminary, the shrine of St. John Neumann, the Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel, and the Motherhouse of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.

The pilgrimage will be Monday through Wednesday, October 8-10, 2012. The cost will be \$495 for double occupancy in the hotel (or \$645 for single occupancy).

Any profits from the pilgrimage will be used for the promotion of vocations.

Besides the annual pilgrimage D.O.V.S. also has monthly meetings. These meetings involve prayer, coming up with vocations promotion materials such as holy cards, correspondence with our priests and religious, and fellowship.

Most meetings are held in either Colton or Norfolk. The participation in the meetings is encouraged but not obligatory.

Dues for members of D.O.V.S. are \$50 for an individual and \$75 for a husband and wife. All monies collected for dues will stay in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the promotion and support of Vocations.

If you are interested in joining D.O.V.S., please contact our secretary Sondra Castle at (315) 265-3578. If you are interested in more information about or signing up for our pilgrimage to Philadelphia, please call Connie Randall at (315) 265-2762. And as always, thank you for all that you to do to encourage and support vocations in the Church!



Members present at the founding of D.O.V.S. were, front from left, Henry Domingos, John Castle, Sondra Castle, Lois McCasland and Ron McCasland, back, Francis Sharlow, Robert Gibbs, Father Bryan Stitt, vocation director; Deacon Thomas Proulx, John Andrikut, Jacqueline Cutler, Betty Hutchins and Connie Randall.

Carthage parishioner restores reproduction of the Pieta at St. James Church

Work on statue becomes a work of prayer

By Elaine M. Avallone Contributing Writer

CARTHAGE - For more than 50 years, a plaster reproduction of Michelangelo's Pieta has stood in the vestibule of St. James Catholic Church and during that time has fallen into disrepair.

"There was a large hole in Mary's back, a big gap in the base, some damage from fire and several chips and dings," said Mary Beth Renaud, who has taken on the task to restore the statue - a gift from the Knights of Columbus Council 291.

As she sanded the life-size statue of Mary holding her deceased son, Jesus, Mrs. Renaud, a St. James parishioner, said she used a mixture of plaster of Paris and joint compound to fill the holes. Once dried, the filler must be sanded down until it is flush with the surface of the statue and smooth.

When parishioners went to church April 29, they found the statue had been primed with a brown paint. The final step in the restoration is to repaint the statue.

Mrs. Renaud said she will use a dry brush technique which she said utilizes "softer, finer lines," to make it look "more realistic."

This is the second major restoration project Mrs. Renaud has done for the church. Last year, she worked on the life-size crucifix which hangs before the altar. It took her 10 months to complete that project.

She said the crucifix was in much worse shape, with some of Christ's fingers and toes missing and places where the plaster was worn right down to wire under structure.

She is working on deadline for the Pieta statue since she wanted to have it completed before Fa-



PHOTO BY ELAINE AVALLONE

Mary Beth Renaud works on a reproduction of Michelangelo's Pieta in St. James Church in Carthage.

ther Thomas Higman's ordination into the priest-hood May 26.

Mrs. Renaud said she has had little formal training. The 1981 Carthage Central High School grad-

uate took four years of art classes in high school. Then, in 1983, she worked in South Carolina for High Gate Pictures while the movie company was filming a mini-series, "Chiefs."

Through that job she learned the techniques to restore and paint statues.

Besides the two major projects, she has restored five pieces of the church's nativity scene and several small statues for the late Alma Frezza. Straying from the plaster statues, last year, she repaired the church's fiberglass statue of Mary which is used for the May Crowning.

She said she enjoys repairing the religious works and enters the work prayerfully.

"It's a passion," she said adding, "It would be nice if it were a profession."

Mrs. Renaud - a marketing assistant for Christopher A. Lorence Public Relations and Marketing - said prior to her work sessions, she spends a few minutes in prayer asking for the "talent to do it right."

As she worked on the Pieta, she would reflect on the dead Christ and pray for those in her life who have died.

Looking into the sad eyes of Mary, she said she would pray for those who were sad or who had suffered loss.

While working on the corpus from the crucifix, she said she prayed, "Please lord, don't let me mess you up."

Then, as she dripped paint from the wound in the side of the corpus, it flowed into a heartshaped droplet on the loincloth which she took as a sign.

"It was like a little hug from heaven," Mrs. Renaud said.

Reprinted with permission of the Carthage Republican Tribune.



Looking for an opportunity to get away and enjoy your family?

You are invited to one of three Family Guggenheim sessions

August 9 – 12, August 16 – 19, October 5 – 7

to be held at the Guggenheim Center in Saranac Lake.

Family fun, prayer, swimming, workshops, mountain climbing, liturgy, and more please contact the rectory for more details and registration forms. Flyers may also be downloaded from the Family Life website www.dioogdensburg.org/family-life



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DIPLOMA TIME



During the graduation ceremonies at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, Stewart Brereton receives his diploma from Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, episcopal vicar for education for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

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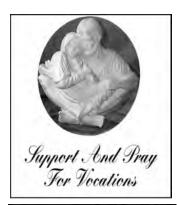
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Parish brick project

The Catholic Community of Moriah is undergoing a project of installing a pathway of brick pavers to the statue at St. Patrick's and St. Peter & St. Paul Cemetery in Port Henry.

Interested persons wishing to purchase a brick in memory of their loved ones can obtain information by calling the church office at 518-546-7254 or the parish website: http://ccofm.grainofwheat.n et. Bricks can be purchased for \$50 (4"X8") or \$100 (8"X8").

More information and details regarding the design can be viewed by going to the parish website.





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Bishop LaValley' Schedule

July 5 — 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

July 8 — 3 p.m., Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing of new Rectory at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville.

July 9 – 5 p.m., Mass at Sportscamp at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

July 10 — 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

July 11 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral and tour with the Keeseville Altar Rosary Society.

July 12 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 4:00 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

July 13 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

July 14 — 7:00 p.m., Dinner for the Knights of Columbus Northern Conference in Champlain.

July 15 – 12:15 p.m., Pilgrimage to St. Ann's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont.

July 16 – 12:00 p.m., Teacher of the Year Award Luncheon at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg; 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

July 17 — 4:00 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.



Rest in Peace

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

July 4 — Rev. Joseph L. St. Jacques, 1952

July 9 — Rev. John Rogers, 1887; Rev. Joseph H. Emard, O.M.I., 1924

July 10 — Rev. Mary Ignatius Grom, 1936; Rev. John F. McNamara, 1971; Deacon Victor Fisher, 1999

July 12 – Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881; Most Rev. Albert Pascal, O.M.I., 1920

July 13 — Rev. George Garand, 1941

July 15 — Rev. John Conlon, 1881; Msgr. Armand Dussault, 1963; Rev. Joseph F. Quinn, 1970; Rev. Joseph F. Dowd, 1983

July 16 – Rev. Eugene Carroll, 1882; Rev. H. T. Regan, O.S.A., 1937; Rev. James Torsney, 1958; Rev. Joseph L. Quinn, 1970

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The North Country Catholic summer schedule has begun. The next issue of the NCC will be dated July 18

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, Terrianne 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

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NORTH COUNTRY PARISH LIFE

CONGRATUATIONS, GRADUATES



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Nine high school graduates were honored at the 2012 Baccalaureate Mass at St. Mary's Church in Clayton. From left are Gabriella Frances Haycock, Anthony James Ingerson, Nicholas Richard Ivey, Steffanie Marie Korcz, Kelsey Rebecca Pacific, Natalie Rachel Reff, Brooke Ann Robinson, Danielle Karen Savage and Michaelene Warren.

TO TELL THE TRUTH!



The second graders from St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point played their own version of the old TV game show "To Tell The Truth" on Good Shepherd Sunday. Father William Gordon was the "Host" assisted by Deacon Noel Hinerth. Each of the "contestants" was asked who they were and each responded "I am the Good Shepherd". Abigayle Lernza was a teacher, Zander Timmons was a Missionary, Nicole Trahan was a mother, Richard McGrath was a soldier and Sage Hogle was a nurse. When Father Gordon said "Will the real 'Good Shepherd' please stand up" all five students stood up since "we are ALL called to be Good Shepherds," Father Gordon said.



Father Richard S. Sturtz celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Oratory in the Irishtown section of the Town of Minerva on Memorial Day. In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, oratories are usually former parish churches where occasional Masses are celebrated.

Memorable Mass on Memorial Day

By David McNally Contributing Writer

IRISHTOWN - Forty-eight people joined Father Richard Sturtz as he celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Oratory in the Irishtown section of the Town of Minerva on Memorial Day.

During the Mass, Clifford Coyle assisted Father Sturtz on the altar, Laura West read from the scriptures, Bob Savarie and Mike McSweeney took up the collection, and Barbara Repp presented the gifts to the altar.

A six person choir led by Mike Leddick on guitar included Bill Brannon Rita Leddick, Betty LeMay, David McNally, and Geraldine Plumley.

Following the Mass, refreshments prepared by Betty LeMay were served.

Father Sturtz extended the grateful appreciation of the

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entire congregation to a number of St. Joseph Church parishioners who volunteer their time and talent to the preservation of St. Mary's oratory and cemetery.

Bill and Ellen Brannon worked tirelessly to ensure the oratory was clean and decorated beautifully for Memorial Day with fresh cut daisies and geraniums adorning the altar.

Dan McGee was commended for his dedicated work in doing ongoing repairs to the oratory and Tom Grace was thanked for the beautiful way he keeps the cemetery mowed.

St Mary's Oratory was originally built in 1848 and was used regularly until the larger St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built in Olmstedville in 1871.



JULY 4, 2012

India: 'Satyameva Jayate'

By James Franke Contributing Writer

India is the seventh-largest nation by geographical terms and the second most populous. Of the 1.2 billion people living there, a mere 2.3% of them are Christian.

That is to say that just over 2% of this vast nation has heard about the love of Jesus Christ and accepted Him into their lives. Just over 2% have heard Christ's proclamation in John 14:6 where he boldly announces to God's people that "I am the Way, the TRUTH and the Life".

In a land where the national motto is the sanskrit phrase "Satyameva Jayate" (Truth Alone Triumphs), I cannot help but be convicted even deeper that our Lord desires for India to draw near to Him.

That He yearns for the conversion of the one billion plus people still living in darkness and in bondage to their 330 million idols.

That His heart aches for them to be made free, to have them dwelling in His Divine Light, to be living in the TRUTH that they are all so desperately searching for!

It was to this land that I was blessed to travel to this past winter for missions. Having heard about the poverty, both materially and spiritually, the caste system that still binds its people and the absence of Christianity, which can only lead to an absence of truth, hope and love, I had no idea what to expect while boarding my flight in Houston on my way to Kolkata (Calcutta).

Over three years ago, the Lord placed India on my heart. Since then I have been praying and waiting upon the Lord to open that door up to me in my missionary life.

This past winter, that desire was made real when God

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Rouses Point native James Franke led a three week mission trip to Kolkata and Puna, India, in December, in his work for the Family Missions Company of Abbeville, La. Here he reflects on his experiences there.

opened the door for me to lead a short-term mission trip to Kolkata and Puna for the three weeks before Christmas. With a group of 12 missionaries, our trip begins in the streets of Kolkata.

The first half of our threeweek mission was spent in Kolkata, with the better part of every morning being spent with the Missionaries of Charity in their homes of out-

Each morning, our group would wake up early to join the MOCs for Mass above Blessed Teresa's tomb at the Motherhouse. Following Mass, a communal breakfast and prayer we took off to serve for the rest of the

Walking to our first morning of ministry through the twisting and winding streets of the city, I am again struck

morning.

by the foreignness of this new place.

Having traveled to over 15 countries in the last three years, I did not think that I was capable to this feeling anymore. I had thought that "foreign and new" was a thing of the past, that foreign was now my "normal".

However this was not the case in Kolkata. The strangeness of this land extended far beyond the poverty and dirt that surrounded everything. It was a strangeness that stretched further than the sickness and death that was lurking around every corner.

This was a strangeness that I had never truly witnessed before, the strangeness of a people living without God, an entire people living in slavery to idol worship.

As I approached Prem Dan (Gift of Love), the home

the week, I prayed, "Lord, how am I to serve you in a place where you seem so hidden? Please show vourself to me. Jesus, let me see that you are here.' Entering the home I saw

where I would be working for

that the world within these walls was much different than the world outside of them. There was still sickness, disease and even death... but amidst all of all this, moreover, ABOVE all of this was love!

There was a love radiating from the Missionaries of Charity as they were already beginning to clean the residents, tend to their wounds, give them their daily medication, and wash their sheets and their clothes.

However what was most striking to me was the way that they were loving the sick and the poor.

Outside of these stone walls was a world in which the "rich and elite" would move about, literally stepping over the poor and the dying. A world in which the privileged would do everything they could to avoid the very air being breathed by the "untouchables", those who were unlucky enough to be borne into India's lowest caste.

And inside these walls was a group of servants, the Missionaries of Charity and many of the volunteers who were caring for these same people. They were feeding them, washing them, caring for their wounds and most of all giving them the love and affection that the world had kept hidden from them for so

In their love I saw for the first time the real love of Christ in this land. Jesus was beginning to answer my praver.

As my day went on, I finished washing clothes and



out to dry, gave a mid-morning snack to many of the residents and then found myself looking around for another way to help.

At this time the MOCs were now in full-swing with their medical help, giving daily medications to many and treating the wounds of many more. A result of much of these men's sicknesses was the drying and cracking of their skin. Of the volunteers. those who wanted were able to take lotion and apply it to the men as needed to help with these side effects.

One or two of the other guys grabbed a container of lotion and a pair of plastic gloves and began their work. I was hesitant. Many of the residents had open wounds, infections and worn skin.

I soon remembered how St. Francis was convicted to embrace the leper and how his life was changed. Would I have done the same? Would I do so to these men? Yes. Lord.

I walked over to the cabinet, grabbed the last container of lotion, left the plastic gloves behind and went to the nearest resident.

pointing at the tub I was holding. With the nod of his head and extension of his arms and legs, I dipped my hand in the lotion and began rubbing it on his hands.

He seemed surprised that I had not put on gloves. They all put on gloves. My skin is sick, my wounds are deep. But how could I?

I looked at this man, into his eyes, and I saw my Jesus staring back at me. I had found Him!! He was hiding where He always does, in the sick and the poor. Why did I think it would be any different here?

As the morning wore on, I continued with my little mission... my mission to allow each of these residents to feel. Not to feel lotion and plastic, but to feel someone, the hands of another not afraid to embrace them.

How could I place a barrier between my and my Savior who was looking back at me through each of them?

As I rubbed their hands I felt the hands of Christ. I prayed. I thanked the Lord for placing those hands so willingly on the Cross for me and for all of these men in

I thanked Him for allowing me to help comfort those hands that very day. I prayed that He would not simply look back at me through these men's eyes, but that He come to dwell in their hearts. I prayed that they would

come to know Jesus and the love that He has for each of them. I do not know if any of these men were Christian, if any of them had the faintest idea of who Christ was, but for a few hours each morning, I was able to spend time with Him, quietly looking back at me through them.

I was able to massage and comfort His bleeding hands, His feet that walked to Calvary and His back that brushed up against the grain and splinters of the Cross.

I made this my mission, not only to feed these men, take them to the bathroom, wash their laundry and make their beds, but to let them know that they are loved. Not simply by me and my love or by the MOCs and their love, but by Jesus Christ and His infinite love.

Being one of only a few of the volunteers to learn any Bengali, I was able to commu-

nicate and connect with the residents in a special way. I don't know that I've ever said "Jesus loves you" more times in a week than I did that week in Kolkata.

I also don't know if I've ever gotten such an array of reactions to that simple phrase... confusion, anger, longing and intrigue.

However the reaction that I saw rise up most in the faces of these men when I would speak those words in my broken Bengali was joy. A joy that I knew had come from Him, and one that I prayed would be lasting. A joy that would remain long after I. and everyone else had gone.

My time working with the Missionaries of Charity was blessed beyond belief. Not only did they inspire me with their love and sacrifice, but it was working by their side, serving the lost and the lonely, the sick and the poor, that I was able to have my first glances of Jesus hiding in India.

He showed me that He is there, that He is waiting, waiting to be known and waiting to be loved. Waiting to be given His rightful place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to be the One True God in a nation that is currently subjected to worshiping idols... to worshiping false gods and deity's. He is there! He wants to be known, to be called upon, called upon to free them, to change their lives and their hearts!

"But how are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15)

If India is to be free, if the more than one billion people living in darkness and

bondage to idols are to be shown the beautiful light of Christ, if they are to feel His love and His joy which we celebrate with our lives... WE MUST GO!

If India is to become a land where the Truth (Christ Iesus) alone truly does triumph... we must go, we must be sent, we must preach.

St. Francis Xavier was told by St. Ignatius of Loyola to go and "set all afire." There is a fire that needs to be lit in India, throughout all of Asia, and it is only the love of Christ already burning brightly in the hearts of Christians that can create a spark and fan into flame a consuming fire to burn throughout the land.

St. Francis Xavier, after seeing India for himself wrote home to Spain saying, "Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ!"

Let us give up any ambitions that are not for the building of His Kingdom and the spreading of the Good News as the Church teaches all Christians that "The Church was founded for the purpose of spreading the

Kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable ALL men to share in His saving redemption, and that through them the world might enter into a relationship with Christ" (Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Aposto*late of the Laity) from the*

This is the beginning of mission India.

2nd Vatican Council).

If you feel as though the Lord may be calling YOU to serve Him in a radical way, I would invite you to e-mail me at missiontrips@fmcmissions.com for opportunities to do so. Also, anyone interested in coming to serve on a life-changing three-week short term mission trip to India this winter can contact me at the address above.

May God bless you and may the peace and joy of Christ be always in your heart!

James Franke, a native of Rouses Point, works for the Family Missions Company in Abbeville, La. A graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, he spent three summers as a staff member at Camp Guggenheim..



One of many local "trash gathering" spots where families and children are often seen digging and searching for food, clothes, blankets and anything to help them survive.

Pope approves Archbishop Sheen's heroic virtues, step closer to sainthood

By Francis X. Rocca Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI has approved the heroic virtues of U.S. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, the Vatican announced June 28, clearing the way for the advancement of his sainthood cause.

Among the others honored in decrees announced the same day were first prelate of Opus Dei, the Canadian

and Irish-American founders of two orders of religious women, a priest murdered by the Sicilian Mafia, and 154 martyrs killed during the Spanish Civil War.

Archbishop Sheen heroically lived Christian virtues and should be considered "venerable," said a decree issued by the Congregation for Saints' Causes and signed by Pope Benedict. Before the

archbishop can be beatified, the Vatican must recognize

CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES U.S. Archbishop Fulton Sheen is pictured in an undated file photo. Pope Benedict XVI

has approved the heroic virtues of Archbishop Sheen, declaring him "venerable" and clearing the way for the advancement of his sainthood cause. The announcement came Jun e 28 from the Vatican. As a priest, he preached on the popular "The Catholic Hour" radio program and went on to become an Emmy-winning televangelist.

that a miracle has occurred through his intercession.

The decree came just more than 13 months after Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., presented Pope Benedict with two thick volumes about the life of Archbishop Sheen, whose home diocese was Peoria.

Archbishop Sheen, who was born in Illinois in 1895 and died in New York in 1979, was an Emmy-winning televangelist. His program, "Life is Worth Living," aired in the United States from 1951 to 1957.

Last September, a tribunal of inquiry was sworn in to investigate the allegedly miraculous healing of a newborn whose parents had prayed to the archbishop's interces-

The Vatican also announced papal decrees approving the beatification of 158 men and women, including 156 martyrs, all but two of them Spaniards, killed during their country's 1936-39 Civil War.

Father Giuseppe Puglisi, a Sicilian priest and activist against organized crime who was killed by the Mafia in 1993, was another of the martyrs recognized.

Martyrs do not need a miracle attributed to their intercession in order to be beatified. However, miracles must be recognized by the Vatican in order for martyrs to be canonized.

Other decrees recognized the heroic virtues of eight men and women, including:

- Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, the first prelate of Opus
- Mother Marie-Josephte Fitzbach, founder of the Good Shepherd Sisters of Quebec.
- Mother Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, the Irishborn founder of Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, who died in New York state in 1984.

CATHOLIC AT A GLANCE

Bishop of Rochester, N.Y., host of 'Catholicism' series honored

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) -- Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester, N.Y., publisher of the Catholic Courier, the diocesan newspaper, has received the Bishop John England Award from the Catholic Press Association. The bishop, who will turn 75 July 15, has headed the diocese since 1979. He was honored for his work in supporting the newspaper and its staff in carrying out its journalistic responsibility throughout his tenure and instituting a dramatic restructuring of the newspaper in 1985 during a time of plummeting revenues and mounting debt. He also established a strategic planning committee that led to a 2004 plan that found the Catholic Courier reach every Catholic household of the diocese. The England award is named for the Irish-born bishop of Charleston, S.C., who founded The Catholic Miscellany, the oldest Catholic newspaper in the U.S. in terms of continuous publication. Presented annually, the award recognizes publishers in the Catholic press for the defense of First Amendment rights, such as freedom of the press and freedom of religion. It is the CPA's highest award for publishers. This year's Clarion Award from the Catholic Academy for Communications Arts Professionals was been presented to Father Robert Barron, who will become rector and president of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois July 1. Father Barron received the award for his 10-part video series called "Catholicism." Four parts of the series were broadcast on 90 public television stations across the country in the fall.

Pope says pallium is sign of tie to heaven and earth, Christ and pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- After placing a woolen band around the shoulders of 44 new archbishops as they knelt before him, Pope Benedict XVI told them it was a reminder of their ties to heaven and earth and of their loyalty to Christ and the successor of Peter. "You have been constituted in and for the great mystery of communion that is the church, the spiritual edifice built upon Christ as the cornerstone, while in its earthly and historical dimension, it is built on the rock of Peter," the pope said June 29 during his homily on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. However, he added, the "church is not a community of the perfect, but a community of sinners, obliged to recognize their need for God's love, their need to be purified through the cross of Jesus Christ." Before celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Benedict gave the archbishops from 23 countries the woolen pallium as a sign of their sharing with him authority over the faithful in their archdioceses. The pallium is presented every year to new archbishops or those who have been assigned to a new archdiocese. The archbishops included Archbishops Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia; William E. Lori of Baltimore; Samuel J. Aquila of Denver; and William C. Skurla, who leads the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

After June 28 Supreme Court decision:

Bishops urge Congress to fix health law flaws

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The U.S. Supreme Court's June 28 decision upholding the health reform law makes it even more urgent for Congress to act to fix the law's "fundamental flaws" on abortion funding, conscience protection and immigrants' access to health care, the U.S. bishops said.

The court found that although the individual mandate in the 2010 health reform law does not pass constitutional muster under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, it can be upheld as an acceptable exercise of Congress' taxing powers.

In a 65-page opinion announced by Chief Justice John Roberts, five members of the court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in full but limited the federal government's right to withhold its share of Medicaid funding from states that do not expand the health program for the low-income and disabled as mandated by the law.

"The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not joined in efforts to repeal the law in its entirety, and we do

not do so today," said a USCCB news release issued shortly after the decision. "The decision of the Supreme Court neither diminishes the moral imperative to ensure decent health care for all, nor eliminates the need to correct (the law's) fundamental flaws."

Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said she was pleased that the health care law "has been found constitutional and will remain in effect." The Daughter of Charity noted that CHA had submitted friend-of-thecourt briefs urging the court to find in favor of the individual mandate and the Medicaid expansion.

"In the coming weeks and months, we will continue working closely with our members, Congress and the administration to implement the ACA as fairly and effectively as possible," she added.

However, CHA has agreed with the bishops in urging the government to expand its definition of religious employers who are exempt from the requirement to provide contraceptives and sterilization free of charge to their employees.

Joining Roberts in the majority opinion were Justices

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, although Ginsburg differed from the other four on whether the mandate was constitutional under the Commerce Clause.

"The federal government does not have the power to order people to buy health insurance ... (but) does have the power to impose a tax on those without health insurance," the Roberts opinion says. The mandate "is therefore constitutional, because it can reasonably be read as a tax."

Dissenting were Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, who would have overturned the entire law as an unconstitutional violation of the Commerce Clause. By forcing those who are young and healthy to purchase health insurance, the law compels those who do not wish to participate in a particular marketplace to do so, the dissenters said.

"If Congress can reach out and command even those furthest removed from an interstate market to participate in the market, then the Commerce Clause becomes a font of unlimited power, or in (Alexander) Hamilton's words, 'the hideous monster

whose devouring jaws ... spare neither sex nor age, nor high nor low, nor sacred nor profane," said the dissenting opinion, written by Scalia.

The decisions do not affect other lawsuits against the health reform law's requirement that most religious employers must provide contraceptives, including abortion-causing some drugs, and sterilization to their employees at no cost. Those cases are still in lower courts and have not vet reached the Supreme Court.

But Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, said the Affordable Care Act "forces an abortion agenda on the American people unlike anything seen since Roe v. Wade," the 1973 Supreme Court decision that lifted most state restrictions on abortion.

The opinions issued by the court June 28 actually involved four separate challenges to the constitutionality of the health reform law. The court first had to decide whether the Anti-Injunction Act, which says no tax can be challenged in court before it is due, precluded a challenge to the Affordable Care Act until after the individual

mandate takes effect in 2014. The majority decided that it did not.

The next question was whether the individual mandate -- also called a "shared responsibility payment" -- exceeded Congress' authority to "regulate commerce" or to impose taxes. Roberts played the key role in deciding that, siding with the dissenters on the commerce question but with the majority on the tax question.

If the mandate had been overturned, the court would have had to decide whether the entire health law must fall if one section does -- the so-called "severability" issue. But the affirmation of the mandate made that question moot.

Finally, the court faced the question of whether Congress could penalize states that opt out of the law's requirement to expand their Medicaid programs. In its early years the expansion is mostly funded by the federal government, but states are expected to take over funding the coverage in later years. The court ruled that the federal government cannot threaten states with the loss of their existing Medicaid funding if they do not participate in the expanded Medicaid program.

Father Pavone allowed to minister outside diocese

AMARILLO, TEXAS (CNS) - A Vatican decree allows pro-life activist Father Frank Pavone to minister outside the Diocese of Amarillo, where he was incardinated in 2005, but he still must obtain specific permission to do so from Amarillo Bishop Patrick J. Zurek.

The decree from the Congregation of the Clergy was dated May 18 and became public about a month later.

Bishop Zurek said in a June 20 statement that the congregation "has sustained Father Frank A. Pavone's appeal of his suspension from ministry outside the Diocese of

Amarillo."

"As a gesture of good will, I will grant permission to him in individual cases, based upon their merits, to participate in pro-life events with the provision that he and I must be in agreement beforehand as to his role and function," the bishop added.

The priest, who is national director of Priests for Life, also must continue his ministry as chaplain to the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a religious order in Channing. He was appointed chaplain by the bishop.

A June 26 statement on the

Priests for Life website, said the group was "happy to announce that the Vatican has upheld Father Frank Pavone's appeal and has declared that Father Pavone is not now nor has ever been suspended. Father Pavone remains a priest in good standing all over the world."

Last September, Bishop Zurek suspended the priest from ministry outside the diocese, saying he was needed for work in Texas. Father Pavone has remained a priest in good standing in the Amarillo Diocese.

The disagreement between

him and the bishop became public last fall when Bishop Zurek sent a letter to other bishops raising questions about the finances of Priests for Life and its affiliated organizations.

Although the letter announced Father Pavone would not be allowed to minister outside the Amarillo Diocese, it did not accuse him of financial impropriety.

In mid-October, Bishop Zurek called for a meeting with Father Pavone, but the priest declined to attend on the advice of his canon lawyer. Father Pavone appealed the bishop's decision on his outside ministry to the Congregation of the Clergy.

"We were confident all along that a just decision would be made by the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy. While we fully agree that Bishop Zurek has rightful authority over the priests of his diocese, we also see the urgent need for Father Pavone to be allowed to conduct his priestly ministry outside the Diocese of Amarillo for the good of the prolife movement," said the Priests for Life statement.

Monsignor

Whitmore

Paul E.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Exploring the right use of authority

How often we are amazed when someone from our

neighborhood achieves national prominence.

We almost splutter, "But I knew him (or her) as a young kid in shorts. I had no idea she would end up as a glamorous singer (or a famous ball player).

And if we're on a committee to select a speaker for some important occasion, we are much more inclined to seek out someone from at least a hundred miles away.

The inhabitants of Nazareth, especially his relatives, felt the same way about Jesus. Where did He

get all this knowledge? So they did not put any faith in him!

Without an environment of faith, Jesus refused to perform miracles for their entertainment, as though He were a vaudeville magician. They were looking for a show, while Jesus wanted them to listen and believe

in His Word. To act otherwise would be a betrayal of the power He shared with the Father.

How do we use the au-

thority that God has bestowed on as public servants, parents, teachers, or employers, foremen, or supervisors? Everyone has power over someone (even if it's only the dog!).

Do we flaunt our authority as though we were responsible for our own excellence? Or worse, do we abuse that authority, causing real harm to those 'under" us? We will all be held accountable some day for how gently or how cruelly we have acted.

Without real love for those entrusted to our care or guidance, a love that is stronger than the desire for personal advantage or 'glory", we will be liable to

JULY 8

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS Ezekiel 2:2-5 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Mark 6: 1-6a

exceed the boundaries of right relationship.

The right use of authority demands discipline and humility, while the right acceptance of that same authority demands trust and respect.

How much was lost by the skeptical Nazareans who were so lacking in faith. Like so many of us, they

had already put Jesus in a little box, dismissing him with the too-easy judgment that they knew him, and knew all they needed to know about him. Jesus was so frustrated and disappointed in them.

He had so much that He wished to teach them!

Surely there are important lessons for us from this week's readings.

May we never be guilty of dismissing the Good News through too easily dismissing the words of our preachers, our Bishops, or the teaching of Christ's Vicar on earth, our Holy Father.

Is there a teaching of the Church that I refuse to accept?

RESPECT LIFE

The blessings and perils of scientific progress

By Kathleen M. Gallagher **Director of Pro-Life Activities** New York State Catholic Conference

When I was about eight months pregnant with my second child, I remember standing in an elevator when a woman walked in, cheerfully touched my belly and inquired, "Boy or girl?" "Human," I replied, which drew a blank stare from the perplexed woman. "We'd like to be surprised at the time of birth," I fully responded, to which the nosy lady said, "That's unusual."

That was 19 years ago, and research confirms it's even more unusual today.

Today's advanced methods of prenatal testing make it relatively routine for expectant parents to find out if they will be welcoming a little girl or a boy.

Parents say it helps them to better decorate the nursery, buy the proper clothes, select names and plan for a pink or blue shower. Some say it even helps them to better bond with their child

in the womb.

Rarely do we hear of someone who wants to know the sex of their baby in order to eliminate the baby. But believe it or not, it happens.

Rarely do we hear of someone who wants to know the sex of their baby in order to eliminate the baby. But believe it or not, it happens

The practice of "sex selection abortion" has been welldocumented in countries like China, India and Korea where the cultural preference for male children is very strong.

It also happens here in America. A study published last year by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco found that immigrant Indian women in the United States continue to feel cultural pressure to bear male offspring and are more than willing to use the

reproductive technologies in this country to abort female babies.

A similar study by University of Connecticut researchers found evidence of male sex selection in Asian and Pacific Island women who deliver in the United States.

Congressman Chris Smith (R - New Jersey) says that the United States is a "destination country for sex selection abortion.'

That's why he co-sponsors the "Prenatal Non-Discrimination Act of 2012" also known as PRENDA. The bill would make it unlawful to perform or coerce an abortion because of the sex of the baby.

It came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on May 31 where it garnered 246 favorable votes, but failed to get the two-thirds vote required under the process utilized on the House floor.



Kathleen Gallagher

Tragically, the issue is being politicized by Planned Parenthood and other abor-

> tion advocacy groups who say that a vote for the sex-selection abortion ban is a vote "against women's health.'

> Destroying unborn baby girls simply because they are girls is cruel and despicable. It is the ultimate sex discrimination. It is a genuine "war on women," and every feminist group in

America should be outraged by it. It is a practice that must be banned.

It is a classic example of how marvelous advances in medical technology can be used for immoral purposes.

Too much information isn't always a good thing.

Last week researchers announced that technology is now able to determine the entire DNA blueprint of a child months before he or she is born. A simple test using blood from the mother and saliva from the dad can determine virtually the entire genome of an unborn child. No needles, no invasive or dangerous tests. It's not foolproof, but it's also not science fiction.

Pretty soon, in addition to a baby's sex, parents can learn if their son or daughter will have any one of some 3.500 genetic diseases like cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, or Tay-Sachs. They will be able to know if their child will likely grow up to face cardiovascular troubles, cancer or Alzheimer's disease.

They can find out if their child will be smart, athletic, pretty, artistic, tall or short.

Wow. Too much information. While some families will use the information to explore options for treatment and care of a child with a serious disorder, others will certainly choose to destroy children they consider "imperfect."

Future families will be pre-selecting their children based on desirable traits. Just like buying a car, par

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER

By Joseph McAleer Catholic News Service

The 16th president of the United States uses his trusty ax to split a lot more than rails in "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" (Fox).

Directed by Timur Bekmambetov ("Wanted") from a screenplay by Seth Grahame-Smith (based on his 2010 novel), this goofy mash-up of American history is not for the squeamish, as the Great Emancipator - recast as our country's first superhero slashes his way toward truth, justice and the American way.

The narrative begins with the young Lincoln (Lux Haney-Jardine) in the shelter of his trademark log cabin, watching as his mother Nancy (Robin McLeavy) dies from a mysterious illness. Mummy was bitten - not by a deadly bug but by a vampire.

Years pass, and Lincoln (Benjamin Walker), consumed by a thirst for revenge, crosses paths with equally bloodsucker-averse mystery man Henry (Dominic Cooper). Henry becomes Abe's mentor, training him in the art of vampire hunting. For the uninitiated, this involves a good deal of stabbing and shooting, as well as the lopping off of undead heads.

The most effective weapon, we are told, is silver. Ever since Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of it, the metal has been cursed. Lincoln's ax is given a silver blade, and soon we're on our way to Vampire Central: New Orleans.

According to Grahame-Smith's back story, vampires have been around for some 5,000 years, wandering the earth in search of a place they can call home. Seems they've found one in the American South, where they own the plantations and keep the slaves. This gives Lincoln another motive for their eradication.

Not so fast, Henry tells his protege. "Real power comes not from hate but from truth," he says. "If vengeance is all you seek, you will never be able to save mankind. Fight this war with me, not for one man but for the whole

world." And so Lincoln puts his ax aside, takes up the law and enters politics.

He vanquishes his rival, Stephen A. Douglas (Alan Tudyk), and steals the heart of Douglas' fiancee, Mary Todd (Mary Elizabeth Winstead). Mary is a feisty lady and handy with a rifle.

Before long we're in the White House, and the Civil War erupts. Adam (Rufus Sewell), the chief veindrainer, strikes a deal with Confederate President Jefferson Davis (John Rothman) to defeat the Union Army at Gettysburg.

Lincoln, however, has other ideas: He rearms himself, rounds up as much silver as he can, and faces his destiny.

The tone of "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" is, for the most part, so serious that viewers ignorant of American history might easily be lulled into thinking this is how it all really happened, were it not for the occult overlay. A certain lev-





CNS PHOTO/FOX

Anthony Mackie and Benjamin Walker star in a scene from the movie "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter."

ity does creep in now and then, though -- as when Mary calls to the president from her carriage window, "Hurry up, Abe, or we'll be late for the theater."

The film contains relentless bloody violence, fleeting upper female nudity, and the occasional use of profanity and rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is L limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R - restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



Theology of The Body Roundtable

Exploring the Mysteries of the Human Person, God and Love

Respect Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE

ents will be able to pick the color and choose the options. Innovations in medical technology are truly staggering. In addition to prenatal testing, medical experts are now regenerating organs with stem cells, treating patients "tele-medically" without an actual visit, applying robotics, smart pills, and artificial intelligence to the health care world.

All of it is revolutionizing and reshaping wellness,

prevention and the clinical practice of medicine.

The challenge to us is to harness the promise of these advances while avoiding the ethical minefields.

The ability of science to generate information must not outpace our ability to interpret the data in a way that is life-affirming and beneficial to all

We must use technology always to respect life and dignity, protect the vulnerable and promote the common good. Why did God create us?

Join us for a
Roundtable discussion

What is His plan for Sex and Marriage?

How can we share the beauty and truth of the Theology of the Body within our parishes?

What programs are available and how are they used?

Friday, July 20, 2012 Guggenheim Lodge Saranac Lake, NY

10:00 am-5:30 pm concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley at 4:30

Lunch provided

To Register Contact: Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli 518-483-0459 apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org

CLINTON

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HOSPICE

Lyon Mountain — Holy Family Council #7215 Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Benefit Concert for Hospice

Date: July 15 Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Cost: \$3 at the door

Features: Music by Back Porch Band

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.

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.

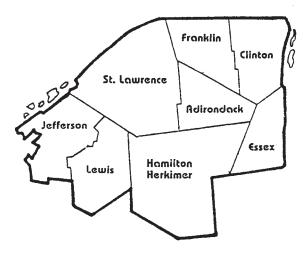
Date: May 26(every last Sunday) Features: Please bring a dish to pass and RSVP to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

PRAYER MEETING

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church, St. Brother Andre' Chapel.



The **North County 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.

Features: Prayers and songs of praise followed by devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Divine Mercy Chap let/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

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.

Features: Meditation on the following

Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Canada

Sunday Aug. 19 to Thursday Aug. 23, 2012

Fr. Alan Shnob is leading a pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre, Cap-de-la-Madeleine and St. Joseph's of Montreal.

- ◆ Cost is \$500.00 for a single, \$450.00 per person for a double and \$430.00 per person for a triple. Cost is in US dollars. Price includes transportation, 4 nights lodging, admission to all events and all meals except for 3 lunches.
- We have 2 pick-up sites one in Massena and one in Peru.

For further information contact:

Paul Bronchetti at 315-764-0239 or Roberta Evans at 518-643-6759 pilgrimage co-coordinators

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 **Place**: Upper room at St. Peters Features: A guiet prayerful environment, allows participants to be immersed/soaked in God's love

ESSEX

ST. MARY'S SUMMER FESTIVAL

Ticonderoga – Vendor space is still available at the St. Mary's Summer Festival.

Date: July 20-22 Place: St. Mary's Church and School

Features: The festival will include carnival rides, arts and crafts, chicken barbecue, food, entertainment, a \$10,000 raffle, semi-formal dinner and dance with auction, and more. The fee is \$50 and the space is a 10'x10'space under a tent, available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Contact: Anyone interested in a vendor space should contact Kristina Wells at 518-585-3420.

Information: Visit the web site at stmarysfestival.com

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 Mon day 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

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 educa tional 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.

ST. LAWRENCE

PIG ROAST PLANNED

Brasher Falls – A Pig Roast will be held. Date: July 7

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

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 10, \$5 **Features:** Take-outs available; public is invited.

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: July 8

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon Place: Visitation Parish Center Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16 Take-outs available

SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

Canton – The Surviving Spouse Friendship and Support Group meets the first Thursday of the month.

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Best Western University Inn Contact: Lita Maroney at 379-1650 for more information and for restaurant planning purposes.

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.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's Cathedral holds a monthly Holy Hour to pray for Voca-

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel Features: Nocturnal Adoration contin-

ues through the night

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FAMILY ENRICHMENT DAYS

Saranac Lake - The offices of Family Life, Natural Family Planning and Pre-Cana are offering two days of enrichment at Guggenheim Lodge

Friday July 20, "Theology of the Body Roundtable" – If you would like to continue the discussion started last fall with Christopher West, and explore ways to implement Theology of the Body in our parish programs, this day is for you. Join us for Speakers, Group Forum, Fellowship and Mass with Bishop LaValley.

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

Saturday, July 21"Invitation to a Passionate Marriage" is being presented by authors John and Kathleen Colligan as a marriage enrichment and training for those in pre-cana ministry, as well as those who are considering becoming involved in marriage preparation. Join us as we explore and discover this comprehensive, theology of the body based marriage preparation program.

Contact: To register contact Dayna Leader dleader@dioogdensburg.org 315-287-2874

K OF C PILGRIMAGE

Isle La Motte — The New York State Knights of Columbus will hold their Annual Pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine. Bishop Terry LaValley will offer the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Date: July 15

PRO-LIFE TEEN CAMP

Utica — New York State Right to Life in partnership with the Good News Foundation of Central New York and the New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians presents Camp Esther, their fourth prolife teen leadership weekend.

Date: Aug. 17-19

Place: Good News Center, Utica NY Cost: Tuition, rooms, meals, speakers, and a t-shirt for weekend is only \$100 (\$150 after June 30).

Features: Camp Esther is an intensive weekend-long pro-life "boot camp" that trains students to be effective advocates for Life. With presentations on issues from abortion to euthanasia to stem cell research, games, and opportunities to practice presenting the pro-life message Contact: For more information or to register, contact Natalie at 518-434-1293 or natalief@nysrighttolife.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

The St. Peter Apostle Appeal

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

Every summer, the month of July brings the St. Peter Apostle appeal to your doorstep. This is a National Appeal that targets the need for assistance with increasing vocations to the priesthood. Although vocations to the priesthood in the Missions are increasing dramatically, there is still an insufficient number of priests to cope with the decrease in missionaries in some places and the increase in population in other areas.

The Society of St. Peter Apostle, an affiliate of the Propagation of the Faith, provides support for mission vocations. The financial support provides aid to men who hear the call to follow Jesus as a priest but who would, without your help through the St. Peter Apostle, not be able to enter a seminary because of material poverty. Likewise help is given to those who want to be Religious Brothers and Sisters. Typical help for a seminarian's education is \$700.00 a year. Each Sister and Brother needs \$300.00 for Spiritual Formation. The Pontifical Society of St. Peter Apostle also supports the formation of more than 9,000 religious Sisters and Brothers who serve the poorest and most vulnerable of our mission families - especially children in schools and orphanages, and the elderly and sick in Church-run hospitals. Your donation instills hope in so many ways! A bishop serving in a mission country tells us that no missionary is more important than the Sisters, who are priceless because they bond with the people and greatly influence the faith lives of the poor. Would you in your kindness please contribute to this essential work of our Church?

I often think about our diocesan priests who served in Mollendo, Peru for forty years. With the struggle of trying to be at peace with the departure of our priests from Mollendo, the Peruvians were blessed that a native priest would become their pastor. It was indeed a blessing for our priests to know that a native son whom they most likely had inspired to become a priest would continue our diocesan priests forty years of service.

If you have ever considered a missionary vocation overseas, here's your chance to do so by giving! These missionaries, serving the poorest of the poor, are doing what the Lord has asked of them. Let us all play our part in this holy calling. Thank you for promoting vocations in the developing countries. While you would not know by name the young people whose vocations you help to support, you would be sure of many prayers offered for you, as you pray for the seminarians and novices in the missions. In your "link of love", you will make a difference to a future priest or to a future Brother or Sister. You make a difference in the worldwide mission of Jesus.

OBITUARIES

Black River — Martin L. Greene, 55; Funeral Services June 22, 2012 at St. Pauls Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Brasher Falls — Rita A. (Leroux) Charlebois, 83; Funeral June 27, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Alexandria, Ontario.

Brasher Falls – Kathlene Q. (Queor) Oakes, 81; Funeral Services June 21, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brasher Falls – Anna L. (Rufa) Thompson, 81; Funeral Services June 29, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Joseph J. Ferris, 48; Funeral Services June 25, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in Old St. James Cemetery.

Chasm Falls — Earl W. Paquin, 66; Funeral Service June 23, 2012 at St. Helen's Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery.

Chazy – John F. Columbe, 67; Funeral Services June 28, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Copenhagen – Patrick McNamara, 58; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan — Gerald A. Boliver, 75; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Cumberland Head — Carol Ann (Burke) Deshaies, 68; Funeral Services June 26, 2012 at St. Mary's of the Lake Oratory; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Leslie P. Cree, 47; Funeral Services June 23, 2012 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Maria M. Ulla-Britt Libre, 71; Funeral Services June 23, 2012 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Constance R. (Kloster) Der, 69; Funeral Services June 18, 2012 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Denmark.

Lowville — Norma K. Kelley, 83; Funeral Services June 28, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville — Judy Ann (Dean) Kellogg, 65; Funeral Services June 20, 2012 at St.Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain — Nicole Baker, 17; Funeral Services June 29, 2012 at St.
Bernard's Church; burial in Independence Cemetery, Saranac.

Malone – Lillian M. (Jacques)Grant, 97; Funeral Services June 22, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone — Alice M. (White) Mainville, 96; Funeral Services June 23, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Robert J."Big Bob" Mossow, 66; Funeral Services June 18, 2012 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Patricia D. (Pecore) Pelletier, 70; Funeral Services June 26, 2012 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers – Theodore K. Willette, 82; Funeral Services June 23, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church.

Morrisonville – Edward J. Baker Jr., 75; Funeral Services June 25, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville – Melanie A."Mel" (Golden) Dowdle, 49; Funeral Services June 20, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church.

Norfolk – Augustus "Gus" Molnar, 91; Funeral Services June 22, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norfolk – Patrick J. Regan Jr., 60; Funeral Services June 23, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood — Judith A. (Agnitti) Casselman, 61; Funeral Services June 25, 2012

at the Buck Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Martha (Lobdell) Mallette, 92; Funeral Services June 20, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Union Cemetery, Dekalb.

Ogdensburg — Helen Irene (Almasy) Vernsey, 89; Funeral Services June 25, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Peru – Tammy Ruth (Clark) Rivers, 48; Funeral Services June 21, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh — Debra M."Greta" Conners, 49; Funeral Services June 19, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – James K. "Jim" Goodrow, 78; Funeral Services June 19, 2012 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Bernard Sauvie, 65; Funeral Services June 19, 2012 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard Cemetery.

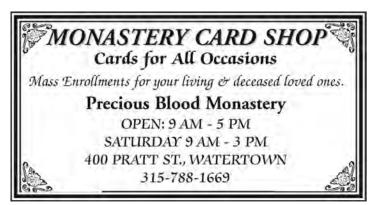
Sciota — Edna M. (Greenwood) Brunell, 81; Funeral Services June 22, 2012 at St. Louis de France Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Waddington – Lloyd F. Besaw, 85; Funeral Services June 22, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Harold J. Benware, 85; Funeral Services June 21, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary Dick, 96; Funeral Services June 27, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Frederick Wearne, 89; Funeral Services June 20, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



Weekend to focus on God's plan for human love

By Suzanne Pietropaoli

Diocesan director, Natural Family Planning

Camp Guggenheim is known for its spectacular views and welcoming atmosphere, a place where many are shown the beauty of nature, the goodness of God, and the wonders of his love.

What better place for a weekend dedicated to understanding more about God's plan for human love?

Everyone is invited to join the discussion when the Diocesan Family Life Department, NFP Office, and Marriage Preparation Coordinators host a weekend event at Guggenheim Lodge on July 20 and 21.

Beginning at 11 a.m. July 20, the program will be devoted to a Theology of the Body Roundtable - an interactive opportunity to consider the mysteries of human and divine love in the light of God's plan for human happiness.

The roundtable format will focus on developing ways to share the beauty and truth of Theology of the Body with our families and in our parishes.

Presenters will include John and Kathleen Colligan from the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Syracuse as well as Dayna and Henry Leader, Ogdensburg Diocesan Marriage Preparation Coordinators. (Please see accompanying article.)

Bishop LaValley will celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m.to conclude the day. For information, or to register, please contact the NFP Office via email, apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org; or at 518-483-0459.

The focus shifts a bit on Saturday, when a marriage enrichment and training program will be offered. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in enriching their own marriages, with particular emphasis on couples working in PreCana and other types of marriage preparation—or those considering such work.

Presenters for the day will be John and Kathleen Colligan, authors of the marriage preparation program, "Invitation to a Passionate Marriage." Topics include "Passionate Loving", "The Families That Formed Us", "Intimate Understanding", "Holy Sex", and "Passionate Living." This program begins at 10 a.m.. and will run until 9: p.m. The schedule includes Mass, as well as lunch and dinner. To learn more, or to register, please contact Dayna Leader via email: dleader@dioogdensburg.org; or at 315-287-2874.



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About the speakers...

By Suzanne PietropaoliDiocesan NFP director

Henry and Dayna Leader of Gouverneur are beginning their second year as Marriage Preparation Coordinators for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Henry is a partner in the law firm of Case and Leader, while Dayna currently devotes most of her time and energy to her family—a labor of love which makes ample use of her background in education and public health.

The parents of eight children, the Leaders were team members for Worldwide Marriage Encounter for ten years prior to beginning their work in marriage preparation. For the past three years they have served as directors for Family Guggenheim, and have long been active in their parish of St James.

In addition, Henry is in his second year of diaconate formation.

Their vast experience, deep faith, and clear vision have led Henry and Dayna to make their own marriage and family life their highest priority—and to work tirelessly to enrich the marriages of other couples.

In their own words, "It is so essential to help young people understand what the sacrament of Marriage really is, that it is a foreshadowing of the heavenly banquet, and God's greatest natural gift to us. If they do not understand God's role in their one-flesh union, they will be eaten up by the cultural misinformation that is all around us."

Recognizing that marriage works best when lived according to the design of God, the Leaders are committed to helping spread the good news that is Theology of the Body—whether in their own family, in their parish, at PreCana, or in venues like the Diocesan youth Rally.

Their faith and their experience have taught this couple that the plan of God for



Kathleen and John Colligan

life and love is challenging—but even more, it is authentic and filled with joy. After all, they say, "The surest way to stay married and live a happy life is to have God in the center of your life and of your marriage!"

The Colligans

Currently Directors of Family Life Education for the southern region of the Syracuse Diocese, authors and educators John and Kathleen Colligan are hardly strangers to the North Country.

John was raised in Watertown and graduated from IHC; the couple were at one time columnists for the *North Country Catholic;* and over the years, they have offered marriage programs in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Their academic backgrounds do not immediately reveal the direction which has come to define their life and work. John earned BS and MS degrees in Physics before adding a PhD in Policy Sciences to his resume, while Kathleen earned a BA in Sociology. Then, in 1983, both earned MA degrees in **Adult Christian Community** Development from Regis University in Denver—but by that time, they had already been working in marriage preparation for 10 years, and had developed their own format for that effort.

The couple has since written and published two more marriage prep programs, one published by Paulist Press in 1995 and the other which was recently made available online for any parish that would like to use

it, Mrs. Colligan explains.

"It was important to us that it would be available at no cost because originally the program [Invitation to a Passionate Marriage] was written for a Spanish-speaking population who often reside in poorer parishes and cannot afford more expensive programs...We have both the English and Spanish translations online for the talks, as well as Couple Discussion Guides for the engaged," she said.

The Colligans bring an ex-

The Colligans bring an extraordinary wealth of experience to this work: married for 53 years, they are the parents of five children (two of them deceased) and grandparents of 14; they also have two great grand-children.

At an age when many people have long since retired, they continue "because we love God, we love each other, we love our Catholic Church and we certainly love the people we serve. We have found that young couples are searching for anything that will help them have a happy marriage. Many feel helpless, frightened, confused by all they've seen and heard. even within their own families."

Still, after so many years, why not simply retire from this challenging task?

"We have a tremendous desire to help [couples] prepare for a lifelong commitment," explains Mrs. Colligan, "and to encourage them to include God as the centre of their home and of their relationship. God is Love. Inviting Love to be at the center of your home is a no-brainer. "The key to a happy marriage is welcoming God to be the center of your relationship," she said. "Good communication, a strong sexual relationship, openness to life, willingness to change are all key ingredients. The crucifix is the perfect sign of the love to which a married couple is called. It is total giving of ourselves to each other. That kind of generosity only comes with grace."