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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 13, 2013

Creation story reveals God's love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The biblical account of creation isn't a textbook for science, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Instead, the first chapter of Genesis reveals the fundamental truth about reality: that the world is not the result of chaos, but is born of and continually supported by God's love, the pope said

Feb. 6 at his weekly general audience.

In a series of Year of Faith audience talks about the creed, Pope Benedict touched on the description of God as "creator of heaven and earth."

In an age of science and advanced technology, how are Catholics supposed to un-

derstand the Old Testament account of creation that says God created the heavens and earth in six days, and rested on the seventh? the pope asked.

"The Bible isn't meant to be a manual of natural science," the pope said. "Instead it is meant to make understandable the authentic and deep

truth of all things," he said.

The creation account in Genesis reveals the fundamental truth that "the world is not a collection of opposing forces, but has its origin and steadiness in the Word, in the eternal reason of God, who continues to sustain the universe," Pope Benedict said.

TIME OF GRACE

Women gather at cathedral

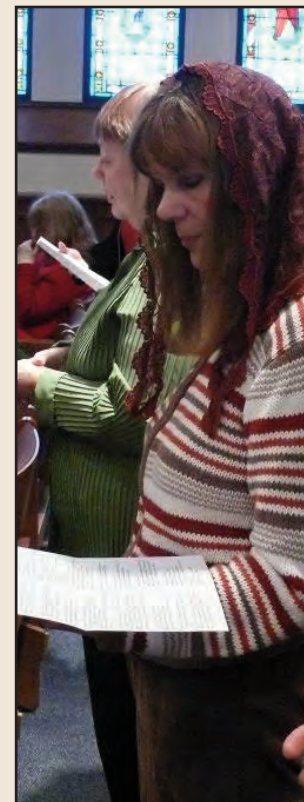


PHOTO BY KRISTINA DEAN
Gail Patrick and Denise Betterman of St. Mary's in Evans Mills read the consecration prayer to Mary during "Moming of Grace," held Feb. 2 at St. Mary's Cathedral. In the program organized by the Women of Grace., women from throughout the diocese gathered with Bishop LaValley for a question-answer session and Mass.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Rice Bowl for Lent, for life....

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is urging participation in the 2013 Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program.

CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program that helps Catholics live in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable around the world. The hallmarks of the program are prayer, fasting and giving.

Since 1975, Catholics have donated more than \$200 million. Nearly 13,000 faith communities in the U.S. participate each year.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8-9

Year of Faith Story of Faith

Croghan man looks back on life of ministry with young people and liturgical music

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

'REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST'



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Father Ray Fleming places ashes on the forehead of John Curran during a midnight Ash Wednesday service at St. Monica Church in Rochester in 2012. Catholics around the world begin the penitential season of Lent with prayer, fasting and the mark of ashes. This year Ash Wednesday is Feb. 13. Bishop LaValley's message for Lent appears on page 3, Lenten regulations on page 6 and Msgr. Whitmore's reflections for the First Sunday of Lent on page 12.

ONE STEP CLOSER: Men preparing to be deacons instituted as lectors, p. 3

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Faith, fasting and Friday fish fries

Lent and food.

Sometimes it seems you can't think of one without the other.

For many of us, giving up candy for Lent remains one of our earliest Catholic memories.

As adults, Lent is inextricably linked with fasting... and fish fries on Fridays!

As we begin our annual Lenten journey this week, it might be good for us to look at a couple Lenten opportunities that encourage us to consider our relationship with food.

Lent 4.5, for example, is a seven-week faith formation

program which inspires and informs Christian communities on how to use the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to protect God's creation, embrace Gospel justice and nurture spiritual fulfillment.

The program offers practical opportunities for people of faith to apply the values of Christian simplicity to their everyday lives.

The focus of the very first week is *food* as participants explore how buying and eating are moral acts.

In this issue, and throughout Lent, highlights of the Lent 4.5 program will appear in NCC's Environmental Stewardship corner (p. 6). The upshot for week one: do more than give up candy - simplify your life!

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl is another Lenten program which urges us to deny ourselves a little so that hungry people are fed.

This week's centerfold offers _____ should work hard at!



Mary Lou
Kilian

meaningful ways to participate in an experience that promises to "bring Lent to life."

Cooking simple meals - with recipes suggested - is just one way to make a difference.

Simplifying your life is never a simple proposition but when we hear "what you give up for Lent changes lives," simplifying is challenge that we

Make Lent a time of renewal - go to Mass!

"You are indeed Holy and to be glorified, O God, who love the human race and who always walk with us on the journey of life.

Blessed indeed is your Son, present in our midst when we are gathered by his love,

and when as once for the disciples, so now for us, He opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread."

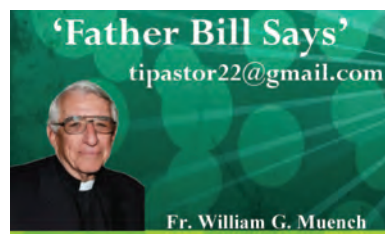
This is the opening prayer of the special Eucharistic Prayer for use in Masses for various needs - #1 The Church on the Path of Unity.

This Eucharistic Prayer summarizes so completely why we join in the celebration of the Mass. God loves us - God wants to be with us - God is with us always. Our Savior, Jesus Christ is present in this Mass in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

In each and every Mass, Jesus opens the Scriptures for us. Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist of every Mass just as Jesus did for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The Mass is our best prayer. In each Mass, we meet Jesus and celebrate Jesus. In every Mass we are united with Our Savior, Jesus Christ, in a perfect way, a unique way.

Today, I am thinking of the Mass because Lent is beginning I like Lent - it has always been good for me. Although it can be painful at times, it does make me a better person.



Sometimes I think - for me - Lent should last all year.

Lent is a spiritual journey - from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Lent is a retreat, a time to do something about our spiritual lives, a time to make ourselves holier by doing something.

Usually when we think of Lent the first thing that comes to mind is "giving something up." It's a good idea to give something up to deal with an addiction, to show that we can control our lives.

What is your problem? Your addiction? Should you give up some kind of food, drink, television, internet, computer?

For me - and I will be bold enough to tell you of my Lenten plan - one of my addictions is computer games so I resolve to give them up for Lent.

Now, I want to add something more to your Lenten plans, a spiritual practice that is guaranteed to change your life.

I encourage you for the time of Lent to attend Mass - not just on Sunday - but every day of the week.

The Mass is our spectacular time of prayer. At Mass, we

unite ourselves to Our Lord, Jesus, who comes to make us holier and better people.

By joining with others at prayer at Mass each day the Mass becomes part of our daily routine and unites us with the Lord, Jesus, in such a beautiful and meaningful way.

In the Mass, we first listen to the Sacred Scriptures and then we carefully place our intentions, our needs, our hopes and dreams on the altar before the Lord, to be united with the bread and wine.

In this Offertory, we place ourselves - our very being - on the altar of sacrifice to be touched by the Lord Jesus as the bread and wine is consecrated into the Body and Blood

of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and God.

We are then transformed and made new as we receive the Lord in Holy Communion.

The celebration of the Mass is our perfect way to make Lent a time of spiritual renewal.

Each day will be blessed by the opportunity of uniting ourselves with Jesus as the Savior comes to each of us to fill our lives with his love and peace.

The Mass brings the love of God, the presence of Jesus, into everything we do during the day. Lent will become a time of renewal, a time to find the happiness promised us by God, a time that gives us the Holy Spirit to make our world a better place.

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FOLLOW ME

The grace of Lent in this Year of Faith

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Lent 2013 promises to be an especially graced moment for you and me in our common journey through this Year of Faith.

We enter this sacred time with renewed determination to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ and His Mystical Body, the Church.

We respond trustingly to His invitation, "Follow Me."

When we open our minds and hearts to God's reconciling love, all that holds us back from encountering Jesus in an intimate, life-altering way melts away.

Our efforts to re-vitalize and strengthen our faith must begin with an acknowledgement that sometimes our words and deeds rupture our relationship with the Lord and one another.

We are in need of healing and reconciliation. So, we examine our consciences and admit our failings, knowing that Jesus' merciful love continually welcomes us into His warm embrace.

This Lent I hope that you will approach the Sacrament of Penance to receive God's forgiveness and the grace that the Sacrament offers. It is this grace that is the catalyst of a renewed life in Jesus.

Having received the gift of forgiveness, we are called to extend the same forgiveness and mercy to others. We take up the mission of being instruments of reconciliation in a world, and in a nation, which continue to struggle through violence, division and confrontation.

In addition to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance, Holy Eucharist and other devotional practices, I encourage you to participate in your parish's special Lenten activities.

This time of reconciliation and renewal can bring us closer to Jesus and to one another. Let us together follow the Crucified One to the glory of the resurrection where God's peace will abide forever.

Let us pray for each other this Lent and always!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

For 13 men preparing for ordination as deacons

Bishop LaValley presides at Rite of Lector Feb. 1

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

OGDENSBURG – Bishop Terry LaValley faced the thirteen candidates for the permanent diaconate seated before him and said, "read as one in love with the Word made Flesh, not as a stranger called to merely read, but as a believer rejoicing in the telling of the greatest love story ever told."

The event, held at Feb. 1 Wadhams Hall was the Institution of the Rite of Lector for the men preparing to become permanent deacons of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The institution as lector is one of the ministries candidates receive as they proceed towards diaconal ordination. As the rite indicates, a lector is charged with proclaiming the Word of God in the liturgical assembly, instructing children and adults in the faith, and preparing them to receive the Sacraments worthily.

Each candidate approached the bishop and placed his hands on the lectionary.

"Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of His People," Bishop LaValley instructed each candidate.

Family members, friends, pastors and faculty of the diaconate program joined



PHOTO BY KEVIN MASTELLON

Paul White, Westport, is pictured receiving the prayers of institution from Bishop Terry R. LaValley during the Institution of the Rite of Lector Feb. 1 at Wadhams Hall. Also shown is Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, director of deacon formation and Deacon John L. White, assistant director.

Bishop LaValley in congratulating the new lectors.

The Director of the Diocesan Program of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate, Msgr. Robert Aucoin, and Assistant Director Deacon John White assisted Bishop LaValley at the ceremony.

The candidates are: Lawrence Ambeau, Adams; Patrick Donahue, Cape Vin-

cent; John Drollette, Plattsburgh; Guy Javarone, Watertown; Henry Leader, Gouverneur; John Lucero, Keeseville; Daniel McGrath, Madrid; Brian Neureuther, West Chazy; Anthony Pastizzo, Ogdensburg; Joel Walentuk, Fineview; David Wells, Ogdensburg; Paul White, Westport and Donald Wilder, Watertown.



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YEAR OF FAITH...STORIES OF FAITH

Serving God and community

By Michelle Beagle
Staff writer

CROGHAN - As the journey continues through this Year of Faith and a new liturgical year has begun, Thomas Schneeberger is living out his faith, serving his community, educating children and bringing home the importance of being rooted in a belief system that exemplifies Christian values and love for Jesus.

This charismatic and enthusiastic man is a member of the St. Stephen's Parish and the fulltime director for St. Francis Christian Formation Center.



Thomas Schneeberger reflects on the growth of his faith from his childhood in Croghan through his life in ministry, particularly with young people. He currently serves as the director of the St. Francis Christian Formation Center in Croghan.

Journey begins

As with any journey, a journey of faith begins with the first step; the planting of a seed and watching it grow.

For Tom, the seed was planted by his mother, Nina, St. Stephen's music director and organist.

As a child, Tom would tag along to the choir rehearsals and became absorbed in listening, observing and waiting for his mother to finish the practice.

While he was peering out from high up in the choir loft the seed started to germinate.

"Looking down onto the altar from above provides you with a whole new perspective," he said.

This gave Tom his philosophy of moving faith outward into the world.

The next steps

Upon graduating from Beaver River High School he attended Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg, completing a degree in philosophy and theology. While at Wadhams Hall he worked summers as a counselor at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

Although Tom's mother was a piano teacher, he chose

not to pursue the piano. Instead, to the delight of many, he picked up the guitar and his music ministry begun.

His time at Guggenheim would further develop his music ministry.

Tom completed his studies at Wadhams Hall and returned to the Croghan area to wed, Ann Schantz.

Parish ministry

In 1980 Tom took over the coordinator's position for religious education for the churches of St. Stephen's in Croghan which includes the areas of Belfort, Castorland, Indian River and New Bremen.

The old Franciscan Friary at St. Stephen's, known as the Franciscan Formation Christian Center houses Tom's office, and he embraces the chrism and philosophy of the Franciscan Tradition.

Over the years his title has changed many times; Coordinator, DRE, RICA director, but the vision remained the same - to teach and embrace Catholic values, passing knowledge and love of the church unto others.

For the past 28 years he has facilitated the Upward Retreat Weekend for students of the parish in grades

six, seven and eight at Beaver Camp in Lowville.

The youths participate in a challenge course to help build confidence and trust. The weekends also feature Mass and workshop activities.

The high school age group participates in a retreat the first weekend of January also held at Beaver Camp.

On the road

For the past five years as part of Tom's youth ministry, he has taken a group of young people to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, Penn., on Memorial Day Weekend.

The Inn is run by the same group of friars from the Holy Name Providence who operated St. Leo's Catholic School in Croghan for 76 years. Brother Xavier who had served in Croghan in the 1950's was instrumental in assisting the group's visits.

The young people work serving meals, busing tables and immersing themselves in the experience of "being a light in the world for others." They must follow through on assigned tasks and be accountable.

After the weekend a debriefing session is held giving the students a chance to

discuss the impact of the experience.

In the community

The local community is important to Tom and he belongs to many broads and organizations.

For the past eight years he has served on the Board of Education at Lowville Academy and currently serves as president. He is a member of the Loyal Brotherhood of Elks and has served on the Head Start Board of Directors for 16 years and one time served as president.

He is currently the president of Catholic Charities Diocesan Board. At one time he was Diocesan Director for DRE's.

An author

Between the responsibilities of Director of the Formation Center, Tom has found time to write and publish two books of children's literature, a natural progression for a man who enjoys educating others about God's presence in the world.

In 2006 he wrote *Magnum's Homecoming* published by Gateway Press in Utica. Magnum, a beagle dog, is lost in the woods for 72 days in the foothills of the

Adirondacks and eventually finds his way home. It is a story whose theme is one of faithfulness and never giving up.

In 2008, *Catch the Wind and Spin, Spin, Spin* was published by Publish America. A story based on wind energy.

Illustrations for that book were provided by students of the gifted and talented program at Lowville Academy and Central School.

Role models

If you were to ask Tom who he looks to as positive examples for living out their faith he names Pope John XXIII and Mother Theresa.

Pope John placed emphasis on ecumenism and was instrumental in the Second Vatican Council, he explained, while Mother Theresa reached out to the truly unfortunate with compassion. She did not hold a personal agenda except to allow God's light to shine forth, he said.

As such, Tom feels there is a natural flow from the body of the church to being a presence in the world.

Finding a balance

In asking how balance is found, he states the importance of paying attention to the inner voice of contemplation, receiving strength from the Holy Eucharist and paying attention to the little things with an "attitude of gratitude."

He says that his faith today is ever ongoing and evolving, growing deeper and forming roots.

Tom stated he likes to read the *America* magazine published by the Jesuits. When working with future catechists Tom states it rejuvenates and refreshes his faith.

Today, as every day, Tom is showing up and continuing on his faith journey and hopes others will continue on their personal faith journeys as well.



PHOTOS BY KRISTINA DEAN

Eight women were consecrated to Mary during the Mass at a Morning of Grace gathering Feb. 2 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The event was sponsored by Women of Grace groups from throughout the diocese. From left are Meg Ringer, Alexandria Bay; Amy Schirmer, Heuvelton; Judy Bogart, Morristown; Karen Bogart, Ogdensburg; Beverly Newton, Ogdensburg; Norma Hall, Ogdensburg; Nancy Williams, Hammond; and Catherine Priest, Waddington.

Mary Dillenbeck of Fishers Landing, regional coordinator of Women of Grace and facilitator for the Feb. 2 event, welcomes the group.

A morning - and afternoon - of grace

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer

OGDENSBURG - Women from throughout the diocese met with Bishop Terry R. LaValley Feb. 2 for a Morning of Grace



Bishop LaValley answered questions for the women for more than two hours before celebrating Mass at the cathedral chapel.

at St. Mary's Cathedral. The bishop spent time answering questions and celebrating Mass for about 40 women belonging to Women of Grace, a ministry and program created by EWTN host and national speaker, Johnette Benkovic. The event was organized by Mary Dillenbeck, regional coordinator and facilitator of the women's ministry.

The program offered women a chance to query the bishop, who answered questions ranging from how to handle a noisy church before Mass, how to find spiritual directors, to what advice he might give those whose faith estranges them from their family.

One answer suggested by the bishop was to teach and heal others through personal witness. In other words, he explained, by living their faith outwardly as examples of Catholic lives, others may see its effects in the lives of the women.

Part of this includes being open and willing to share and to offer gentle encouragement, the bishop said, not judging or feeling better than others who may not

have been taught Catechism. Teaching the young correct Catholic catechism was another solution, he said. Although 90 minutes was designated for questions, Bishop LaValley spent an additional 40 minutes answering questions, said Mrs. Dillenbeck. "Bishop LaValley exemplifies a true shepherd of the church," she said. "I am deeply grateful for his prayerful and active support of Women of Grace."

"We sincerely thank him for accepting our invitation for a "Saturday of Grace," she said. Originally called "Morning of Grace," Mrs. Dillenbeck began to refer to it as a "Saturday of Grace" since it extended into the early afternoon hours.

She described the event as a time to learn from the shepherd of the diocese. "As we mature spiritually we long to deepen our relationship with Jesus and expand our role within the body of Christ - His Catholic Church," Mrs. Dillenbeck said.

"The guidance Bishop Terry gave us, as a direct successor of the Apostles, is

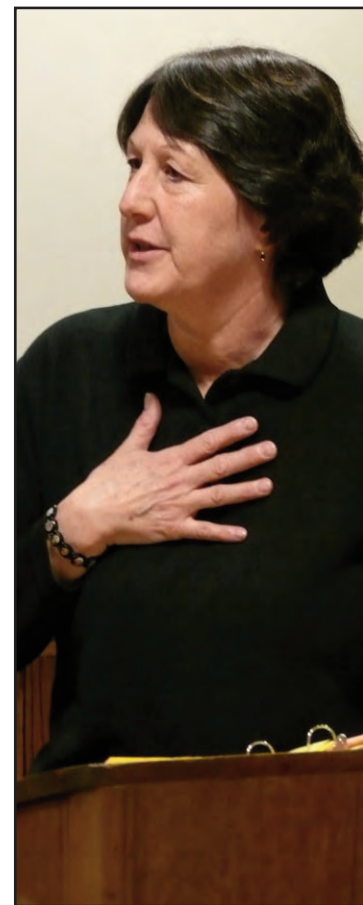
vital to our spiritual development," she said. "The Women of Grace study, which develops into spirituality, helps women understand deep in their souls how important the truth is - even when being obedient means suffering and sacrifice, for they have tasted the joy found in the Truths of the Catholic faith.

"The graces received on Saturday will fortify and sustain us," she said. "Thank you Bishop Terry."

One participant, Denise McKane, facilitator of the Lake Placid Women of Grace, thanked the bishop for attending and told him he was loved by the Women of Grace. She showed the group's appreciation with a gift of a red heart full of chocolate candy.

After answering questions, the Bishop celebrated Mass with the women, during which several consecrated themselves to Mary, the Blessed Mother. A luncheon was held afterward.

The women were also encouraged to share their stories with one another regarding what the ministry has done for them.



Denise McKane, facilitator of the Lake Placid Women of Grace, welcomes the bishop, telling him he is loved, and that she is thankful for him. She gave the bishop a red heart filled with chocolate, from the Women of Grace.

Lenten regulations

For the Diocese of Ogdensburg in the Year of Faith

February 13, 2013 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent.

ABSTINENCE

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, & Good Friday.

FASTING

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound also to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday (Feb. 13) and Good Friday (March 29). Fasting, that is, eating less, involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Lighter nourishment may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

PRAYER & PENANCE

The entire season of Lent should be observed in a spirit of prayer and penance. Spending extra time in prayer or Bible study, attending daily Mass, voluntary sacrifice and self-denial, combined with works of charity and service to others, are all excellent ways to obey the Lord's command to reform our lives and to prepare for the joyful celebration of Easter. Parishes are highly encouraged to offer periods of Eucharistic Adoration during the Lenten Season, as well as, the traditional devotions of the Stations of the Cross and the recitation of the Rosary.

PILGRIMAGE

During the Year of Faith (October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013) we in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are encouraged to retrieve a sense of the importance of pilgrimage in our faith life. We are encouraged to encounter God on the journey. To do so we have the opportunity to take part in a variety of pilgrimage experiences. Some are pilgrimages to holy sites here in the diocese (see Diocesan website for listing) or in the surrounding area, other destinations, such as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

All the pilgrimages will remind us of the Christian's primary journey—to the Holy Trinity. They will be offered both in physical and in virtual ways.

Whatever pilgrimages in which you are able to take part, we hope that this Year of Faith will be a graced time, a time for you and your loved ones to encounter God, a time for you to taste again all the goodness of the faith as if for the first time.

To encourage participation in at least 5 pilgrimage destinations/events, a pilgrimage passport is available at <http://pastoral.dioogdensburg.org/Evangelization>. When an individual pilgrim or a family makes 5 pilgrimages, they will receive a Year of Faith Pilgrim Certificate.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Again during the Season of Lent, Bishop LaValley encourages parishes throughout the Diocese to dedicate Tuesday of Holy Week (March 26) to the Sacrament of Penance as part of "The Light is on for You" program. In addition, parishes might want to adopt the model of dedicating one Lenten evening each week to providing occasion for the Sacrament of Penance, as suggested for Advent.

EASTER DUTY

All Catholics who have reached the age of reason must confess their serious sins in the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year. They must also receive Holy Communion at least once each year during the Easter season, which this year extends from February 17th, the First Sunday of Lent, until Trinity Sunday, May 26th.

FAITH FORMATION

The focus of this Year of Faith called for by the Holy Father is the renewal of faith and of the Church.

The Lenten season is a special time where we can make a special effort to read and reflect on the Word of God, deepen the knowledge of our faith as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Documents of Vatican II, so that we can share our faith story anew. Parishes are encouraged to provide opportunities for Scripture reflection and sharing, along with Adult Faith Formation.

MARRIAGE

Although other seasons are more suitable, the celebration of marriage and the Nuptial Mass are not forbidden during Lent, according to The Code of Canon Law. When liturgical rules permit, the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage may be used and the nuptial blessing may be given.

However, you should advise the spouses and their guests to exercise proper restraint in accord with the penitential character of Lent.

OBLIGATION

All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law to do penance. The days set aside for fast and abstinence in Lent are special ways of doing penance and are an expression of unity for all the Church.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Since MARCH 25th falls on Monday of Holy Week, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is transferred to MONDAY, APRIL 8th.

FUNERALS DURING THE SACRED TRIDUUM

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, Funeral Masses may not be celebrated. However, a Funeral Service consisting of the Liturgy of the Word and the Final Commendation may be held in Church.

Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 13 – 12 p.m., Ash Wednesday with Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Feb. 14 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Diocesan Envisioning Team Meeting with the Catholic Leadership Institute at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Feb. 15 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Feb. 16 - 5:15 p.m., Mass at Holy Family Church in Watertown followed by Dinner for Two

Feb. 17 - 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Feb. 18 - Josephinum Board Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Feb. 27 - 3 p.m., St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

March 7 - 4 p.m., St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

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**, Terriane 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

Environmental Stewardship

Do something different this Lent

Lent is a spiritual "pause" moment, a time to assess our lived faith. It is a time to "stretch" our spiritual life, and to become more intentional about helping to make the world better

"Imagine the Earth divided equally among all of us. Each person would receive 4.5 acres. Now imagine that everything you need must come from those 4.5 acres, but it takes 22.3 acres to maintain the average American lifestyle. There is a new way of observing Lent that helps us care for God's creation by taking steps toward using only our fair share of its resources." www.lent45.org

During the next several weeks this column will share seven ways to use the traditional Lenten disciplines of PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING to consider the ways that our daily lives may protect God's creation, embrace gospel justice and nurture spiritual fulfillment. *Taken from Lent 4.5

"Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live. . . By freely embracing an act of self-denial for the sake of another, we make a statement that our brother or sister in need is not a stranger. . . this practice needs to be rediscovered and encouraged again in our day, especially during the liturgical season of Lent."

Pope Benedict XVI

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 13 Deacon Edward F. McAuliffe, 1986; Rev. Harry E. Giroux, 2012

Feb. 14 – Rev. John McDonald, 1879; Msgr. Gerald F. Kellogg, 1979; Rev. Charles Joseph Richard, 2007

Feb. 15 – Msgr. James H. Driscoll, 1928

Feb. 17 – Rev. Joseph Alfred Hervieux, 1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

Feb. 18 – Rev. Charles Guillot, M.S.C., 1985

Feb. 19 – Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

Through program facilitated by Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

Student volunteers assisting elderly with chores

LAKE PLACID — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is facilitating work with Aging in Place Task Forces in each of the Tri-Lakes communities to help the region become more aging-friendly.

The task forces are collaborating with community service programs at Lake Placid Central School, Northwoods School, National Sports Academy, and Tupper Lake Junior/Senior High School.

As part of their community service requirements, and to foster intergenerational relationships in the community, student volunteers are available to help elders with fall, winter, and spring outdoor

chores or yard work.

Elders who need assistance with snow shoveling, raking leaves, other yard work or outdoor chores, should contact Patti McConvey, Lake Placid Central School 523-2474, EXT. 4130 or at pmcconvey@lpcsd.org; Katie Weaver, Northwoods School 523-3357 or at weaver@northwoods.school.com; or Peter Fish, National Sports Academy 637-1595 or at pfish@nationalsportsacademy.com; or Diane Helms, Tupper Lake Junior/Senior High School 359-3322, ext. 206 or at dianeh@tupperlakesd.net

Donna Beal, Executive Director of Mercy Care for the

Adirondacks said, "It is just wonderful to see our schools serve people of all ages in our community. It is also an opportunity for our older and younger generations to get to know each other better."

"The school community service programs are going above and beyond by taking

calls directly from elders in the community who need assistance," she said.

The Community Service Program Director in each school matches the elder's need for assistance with a student who is performing his or her community service requirements.

Mercy Care for the Adiron-

dacks is a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy to extend mercy to elders in order to enhance the fullness of their lives.

Its work is carried out through a Friendship Volunteer Program, a Faith Community Nurse Program, and an Education and Advocacy Program.

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to represent the
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on critical social
issues



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Wednesday, March 20, at the State Capitol in Albany

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- Meet with your elected officials
- Join the Knights of Columbus for a Rosary Rally and Procession

NYS Catholic Conference
465 State Street
Albany, NY 12203

(518) 434-6195
info@nyscatholic.org
www.nyscatholic.org

The New York State Catholic Conference is the official voice of the Catholic Church in the Empire State.



Diocesan Directory



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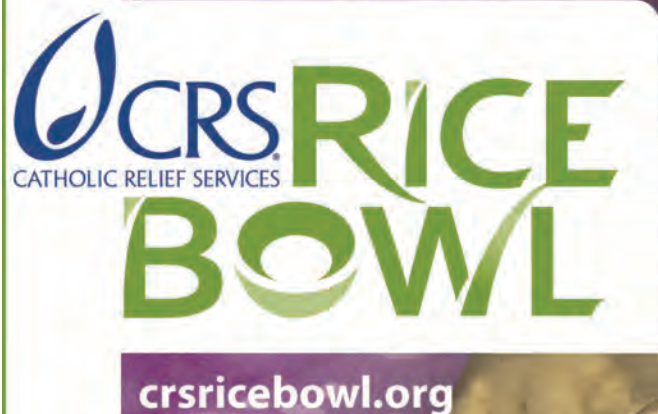
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FOR LENT, FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT CHANGES LIVES.

About Catholic Relief Services:

Our work is about more than helping people survive for the day. Catholic Relief Services approaches emergency relief and long-term development holistically, ensuring that all people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, are able to participate in the very fullness of life - to have access to basic necessities, health care and education - all within peaceful, just communities.

To achieve this, we focus on six key areas of services:

Emergencies • Hunger • Education • Health • Peace • Helping at Home

For more information, visit our website: www.crs.org

CRS RICE BOWL BRINGS LENT TO LIFE.

CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program that helps us to live in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable around the world.

- We **pray** to reflect on what type of person we are called to be.
- We **fast** to remove the things that get between us and God, and to remember those without enough to eat.
- We **give** to honor Jesus' call to serve those in need.

A LENTEN TRADITION

What is CRS' Operation Rice Bowl?

Catholic Relief Services helps more than **100 million** of the world's poorest people each year. CRS' Operation Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program began in 1975 in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania as an ecumenical response to the drought in the African Sahel. Since 1975, Catholics have donated more than **\$200 million** to help the poor through CRS Rice Bowl. Nearly 13,000 faith communities across the United States participate in the program each Lent to demonstrate solidarity with the poor around the world.

How can I get involved?

CRS' Operation Rice Bowl develops resources to enrich the Lenten experience for parishes, schools, individuals and families. Participants **pray** together; give things up, or **fast**, in solidarity with those who hunger; **learn** about our global community and the challenges of hunger and poverty around the world; and **give** sacrificial donations to those in need.

How are my contributions put to use?

Seventy-five percent of CRS' Operation Rice Bowl donations come to Catholic Relief Services of your donations support CRS's humanitarian relief programs in 100 countries worldwide. (\$10 provides a family with 2 weeks of food). Twenty-five percent of CRS' Operation Rice Bowl of your donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in your own community.

Take a Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar to enhance your Lenten experience at home.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Make a Lenten Plan on Ash Wednesday.

Use the Lenten Spiritual Guide that came with your Rice Bowl, or download the [pledge form](#) and post it as a reminder throughout Lent.

Once a week during Lent:

- Read the [Stories of Hope](#) and learn how you are making a difference through CRS.
- Prepare and share simple meatless meals using the [CRS Rice Bowl recipes](#).
- Put your Lenten offerings into your CRS Rice Bowl. You may also return your gift [online](#).

These fun resources can help bring Lent to life for your family.

- Spend 5 minutes each day in prayer and reflection. The [Daily Calendar](#) includes reflections and activity suggestions for each day of Lent.
- Help children learn about Jesus' Gospel message of love and service to others with these fun [coloring pages](#).
- Test your knowledge of global hunger and poverty realities by taking the [World Awareness Quiz](#).
- Make a Lenten "Jesse Tree" or decorate your Easter baskets with the [Lenten Prayer Eggs](#), which offer a visual reminder of the people you are helping through CRS Rice Bowl.

All of the underlined information can be found at www.crsricebowl.org/participate/

COOK SIMPLE MEALS

Each year, through CRS Rice Bowl, you are invited to sample food from the featured countries with your family and friends by preparing a simple, meatless recipe shared with us by the people we serve overseas. You can also find a collection of simple, meatless meals from past years that you may want to try during Lent or throughout the year on the website at www.crsricebowl.org/participate/recipe-archive/

Try the following recipe with your family this week.

Recipe From Burkina Faso: Bean Cakes

- 1 can black-eyed peas, drained
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled & chopped
- 1 egg, whisked
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup oil
- 2 cups cooked rice

Place black-eyed peas in a blender with the onion, carrots, and egg. Blend to a smooth paste and add salt and pepper. If bean mixture has too much liquid to form balls, then add a ¼ cup of flour to thicken. Shape mixture into 2 inch balls and roll in flour. Pat into flat discs and fry in vegetable oil until browned (about 5-7 minutes), turning occasionally. Serve with rice.

This recipe serves 4 people.



A SPECIAL MOMENT



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A woman and man react after meeting Pope Benedict XVI during his general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Feb. 6.

Pope: youth need real help

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Young people's essential needs, including decent work and an education, demand a serious, effective response from both the church and the wider community, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Problems facing young people "cannot be met with responses that are evasive or banal," he said, especially if humanity is going to have a hopeful, generous future.

The pope made his remarks Feb. 7 during an audience with members and advisers of the Pontifical Council for Culture. The council was hosting a plenary meeting at the Vatican Feb. 6-9 on "Emerging Youth Cultures."

The vast majority of people under the age of 25 live in developing nations, and the pope said these young people represent "a challenge to the world of global-

ized consumerism and the culture of entrenched privileges of which a small segment of the population of the western world benefit."

"Consequently, youth cultures are also 'emerging'" in the sense that they are showing signs of important unmet needs that should be addressed, he said.

Today's young people are showing in many different ways "a deep need, a call for help or even a 'provocation' that cannot be ignored or left out either by civil society or the church community," he said.

The pope highlighted his and the church's concern about the crisis in education and the labor market as well as "other 'emergencies' that touch on the different dimensions of the human person and his fundamental relationships."

If these issues aren't dealt with adequately, the world and all of humanity will experience not only "economic and social impoverishment,

but a human and spiritual one as well," he said.

"If the young no longer hope or progress, if they don't put their energy, their vitality and their ability to look toward the future into the flow of history, then we will find a humanity that is locked in itself, lacking both confidence and a positive attitude toward the future."

The pope said despite "the many problematic situations" affecting young people, their faith in God and their sense of belonging to the church, "we wish to renew our faith in the young and reaffirm that the church sees their condition and their cultures as an essential point of reference for pastoral outreach."

The church believes in the young, their energy and generosity, the pope said, adding that the church "needs their vitality in order to continue living the mission entrusted to her by Christ with renewed enthusiasm."

Says struggling leads to 'higher level of spirituality'

By Laura Dodson
Catholic News Service

MELBOURNE, FLA. (CNS) - Franciscan Father Richard Rohr told a Florida audience that he is about to end 43 years of giving retreats all over the world "and I haven't found a single perfect person."

Father Richard Rohr on final retreat tour'

"We all come to God by falling, by doing it wrong," he said. "The ego doesn't like that."

The San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park partnered with St. Stephen Parish in nearby Winter Springs to welcome the priest Jan. 24-27 on the last leg of his final tour.

A prolific author, speaker and founder of the Center for Contemplation and Action in Albuquerque, N.M., Father Rohr is celebrating his 70th birthday in March with the launch of the Rohr Institute's Living School for Action and Contemplation.

"Psychologist Carl Jung said that the two major tasks in life are building your ego structure in the first half and getting beyond the building to the purpose of life in the second," Father Rohr said. "It is transformation that gets you from the first to the second half - the transformation of failure. The normal paths of transformation are great love and great suffering - there is something more than you love yourself."

He cited families with a handicapped child, couples after divorce, a homosexual coming out and rejection as examples of suffering.

"Great suffering lets us see reality is not the way it seems," Father Rohr continued. "Struggling moves you to a higher level of spirituality and whatever happens to

you is pure grace."

Laughter erupted throughout the presentations as participants followed Father Rohr's example and advice to "laugh at yourself."

"Dualistic thinking is exclusionary," he said. "It produces divisions and the ego loves to take sides. It gives a false satisfaction."

As if to add weight to his own authority, he told the crowd: "I checked this out personally with Dr. (Mehmet) Oz," a physician with a popular nationally syndicated talk show. "He said the mind is a binary system," the priest said. "It functions with comparison: short/tall, win/lose, if it's not this, it's that. It's not true, but it's helpful in a world of constant binary choices. A lot of people stay there."

Father Rohr explained that the major documents of Christianity demand that we move beyond the binary -- calling the work of the Second Vatican Council "brilliant documents of high-level inspiration." And he cited the Trinity as the perfect example -- "the principle of three undoes two, moves to dynamism and relationship."

"In a normal day, you can get through with dualistic thinking," Father Rohr continued, "but then comes love, death, suffering, a notion of God, a notion of infinity, sex and you need a different processor. Love overcomes the dualistic mind. You cannot love in any sustained way with a dualistic mind. The ego begins with no -- the soul begins with yes."

"Start with a yes," Father Rohr concluded. "Silence is the only thing deep enough. Great love, great suffering and prayer is the technique for seeing your inner self -- immense enlightenment. The goal of love, suffering, prayer is a unitive consciousness -- union with everyone and everything."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

College presidents urged to equip students for faith-based outreach

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Carolyn Woo, president of Catholic Relief Services, wants to see graduates of Catholic colleges become more involved in service -- globally and even locally within their own parishes -- and said university presidents should do more to make sure this happens. "Young people love to volunteer," she said, but what she "finds missing" from them is a "lifelong commitment" to the poor and a sense of "responsibility for building up the church." Woo spoke during the Feb. 3 plenary session at the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington. She said students hunger for the "inspirational challenge" to help others and said she believes "we as elders may not have given enough energy" to encourage them. Woo, who took the helm of CRS a year ago, previously served as dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame. CRS is the Baltimore-based overseas and development agency of the U.S. bishops. She said that while she was dean, she often wondered if the school was doing enough to form students in the faith. She would question if the graduates would be courageous enough, if they would know how to use power and if their faith was strong. She said Catholic colleges and universities should not just be competitive with other schools but should be distinctive because of their Catholic mission and thus be able to prepare graduates for service-oriented work. The key, she said, is in how Catholic social teaching is presented, which she feels is currently falling short. Woo urged college leaders to make sure the teaching does not get short shrift. "Students must know what it stands for," she said. She also noted that campus ministers cannot assume that students already have knowledge of it because many do not. Citing recent studies, Woo said many young people simply equate God to a "divine butler or a nice uncle."

Vatican official says ending clerical sexual abuse is long-term effort

ROME (CNS) -- The Catholic Church's efforts to prevent clerical sexual abuse and protect children around the world will be "a long-term effort," said Father Robert W. Oliver, a Boston priest who began work Feb. 1 as the promoter of justice in the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. "All of us -- every single person has difficulty coming to understand what this really is and how prevalent it is in our societies across the world," said Father Oliver, whose position includes monitoring and investigating cases of priests accused of sex abuse. When one first hears of a case of abuse, he said, "every single one of us begins with denial," which is why the entire church, at all levels, must make a concerted effort to educate its members about the reality of abuse and the best practices for protecting children. Speaking at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University Feb. 5, Father Oliver said the conference that the university and several Vatican offices sponsored last year for bishops and for superiors of religious orders was an important step forward, as is the pilot project for an online prevention and child protection course being run by the Gregorian-based Center for Child Protection. Father Oliver spoke at the university as the center presented a report on its activities over the past year. Responding to a reporter's question about the role of the media, especially in the United States, in forcing the church to come to terms with the reality and breadth of the sex abuse scandal, Father Oliver said, "those who continued to put before us that we needed to confront this problem did a service" and continually reminded the church that it had to deal with the scandal "with honesty and transparency."

Proposed HHS rules fall short of meeting bishops' concerns, cardinal says

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The new proposed rules issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding insurance coverage of contraceptives show movement but fall short of addressing the U.S. bishops' concerns, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a Feb. 7 statement.

The cardinal, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the 80-page document released Feb. 1 by HHS concerning the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act indicates that the administration "seeks to offer a response to serious matters which have been raised throughout the past year."

He also noted that the bishops "look forward to engaging with the administration, and all branches and levels of government, to continue to address serious issues that remain. Our efforts will require additional, careful study."

The rules are open for a 60-day comment period and are expected to be finalized this summer.

After evaluating the proposed rules, Cardinal Dolan said that the bishops continue to stand by the statement on the HHS mandate issued by their Administrative Committee last March and affirmed by the entire body of bishops last June.

In that statement, he said, the bishops expressed concern over the mandate's "exceedingly narrow" four-part definition of "religious employer," one that exempted houses of worship, but left "our great ministries of service to our neighbors, namely, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the students in our schools and universities, and others in need" subject to the mandate.

Such a distinction, they said, created a "second class of citizenship within our re-

ligious community," and weakened the federal law's "healthy tradition of generous respect for religious freedom and diversity."

The cardinal credited the administration for proposing to drop the first three parts of the four-part test, which he said "might address" some of the bishops' concerns but not all.

An HHS spokeswoman said Feb. 1 no nonprofit religious institution -- including churches, universities, hospitals and charities -- will have to "arrange, contract, pay for or refer for" contraception insurance for employees who want it.

Cardinal Dolan faulted the proposed rules for maintaining an "inaccurate distinction among religious ministries," noting that HHS "offers what it calls an 'accommodation,' rather than accepting the fact that these ministries are integral to our church and worthy of the same exemption as our Catholic churches."

He also said the proposed rules seem to "take away something that we had previously -- the ability of an exempt employer (such as a diocese) to extend its coverage to the employees of a ministry outside the exemption."

The cardinal also noted that the government would require all employees of "accommodated" ministries in religious institutions to have access to contraception coverage, noting that they "may not opt out, nor even opt out for their children."

According to HHS, even in the case of self-insured religious entities -- which includes many dioceses and colleges -- employees or insured students who want contraceptive coverage will be able to arrange it through outside insurance companies, at no cost to themselves and without financial

or even administrative support of the faith-based institution.

Cardinal Dolan said "gaps in the proposed regulations" make it unclear "how directly these separate policies would be funded by objecting ministries, and what precise role those ministries would have in arranging for these separate policies."

This lack of clarity, he said, provides "the possibility that ministries may yet be forced to fund and facilitate such morally illicit activities" which the bishops would like to see changed.

The cardinal also expressed concern that the HHS mandate "creates still a third class, those with no conscience protection at all" such as "employers sponsoring and subsidizing the coverage, insurers writing it, and beneficiaries paying individual premiums for it."

He said the proposed rule confirms that HHS "has no intention to provide any exemption or accommodation at all" to this group.

The new proposed rules specify that no exemption will be given to "for-profit, secular employers."

Cardinal Dolan noted that during the past year, the bishops have been assured by the administration that they will "not have to refer, pay for, or negotiate for the mandated coverage" and they "remain eager for the administration to fulfill that pledge."

"We will affirm any genuine progress that is made, and we will redouble our efforts to overcome obstacles or setbacks," he said.

He also noted that the bishops take seriously the invitation to submit concerns during the comments period and said they will "do so in the hope that an acceptable solution can be found that respects the consciences of all."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Lent: we remember, we celebrate, we believe!

It's finally here—Lent, the springtime of the liturgical year, and renewal time for

our own personal journeys to God.

A good theme for our First Sunday in Lent might be found in the chorus of Marty Haugen's hymn: We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

In the first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses is preparing the people to leave the desert sands and joyfully enter the Promised Land.

Before they begin their new life of freedom and enjoy the fruits of the new Land that the Lord has prepared for them. Moses wants to make sure they will never forget the incredi-

ble works of God in freeing them from the shackles of slavery.

And, even though, during these past forty years, they have grumbled much and have been unfaithful to the Covenant, God has relented and has forgiven them over and over. He has shown them mercy beyond measure.

Now, God commands them to renew that covenant, and, so purified,

begin a new life in the lush lands of Canaan. Moses charges them never to forget the mercies of the Lord, and never to let their children forget.

Lent is a time for us to remember and to celebrate the mercies of the Lord, and

to shake off any traces of sin or sinful habits.

In the Gospel, we see a parallel to the Old Testament story of the Exodus. Well over a thousand years after the journey of the Jews through the desert, Jesus embarks on His journey in the desert as messiah and saviour, not just for the Jews, but for all people, past, present, and future.

The Spirit who had overshadowed Him at his baptism in the Jordan, now leads Him into the desert for His initial battle with the powers of Evil.

Satan seeks to probe any human weakness in his adversary. First, he tempts Jesus to flaunt His power, Why not turn stones into bread?

Later, Jesus will miraculously feed others, but he refuses to let the devil man-

Feb. 17

First Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

age his miracles! Again Satan tempts Jesus to political power and possessions - and Jesus, the poor and humble teacher, refuses.

The last temptation is to pride and glory. Jesus, knowing that His Mission is to win hearts through love and truth, refuses to engage in theatrical stunts to win popularity.

Quite soundly beaten, Satan leaves him - for awhile! Angels come and minister to Jesus who is now ready to begin His public ministry.

This Sunday, we celebrate the victory of Jesus over Satan. What were His weapons? Prayer, fasting, and the truths of Scripture.

Through humility and a recognition of the weakness of being human, Jesus overcame temptations to pleasure, power, and pride. He thus strengthened himself for His passion and death.

Ultimately, He must drink the cup of suffering to secure victory - and so must we, His followers. His weapons against Satan must be our weapons, too, this Lent, as we enter the discipline of believers.

Jesus believed in the Father's truth and in the Father's love. He believed in obeying the Father's Will in all things.

In that spirit, let us remember and celebrate...and believe!



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

OUR READERS WRITE

A Year of Faith thank you

It's 5 a.m. and your phone rings. Its your baby (who's four hours away at college). She says I'm in the emergency room and later says I need to have surgery. This was supposed to be her first day of college.

Your mind races as you wake up and try to figure out what to do first. This is a parent's worst fear, your child's in the hospital and you are not there.

In the whirlwind of what to do, We made a phone call to Father Arthur LaBaff, our pastor and friend here at St. Mary's Clayton. I told Father what was happening. He said he would pray for Gabi and us as we traveled, he also said he would call the hospital where Gabi was located.

You might ask why this one call should be considered important. Father Art contacted the hospital chaplain, Mary Roty, who did what Alynda and I couldn't do at the time. Mary just missed seeing Gabi as she went into surgery. But Mary sat with Gabi the whole time in recovery till we could get there.

If you ever wondered what an angel looks like, she's about 5 feet tall, with salt and pepper hair, a twinkle in her eyes, a take charge attitude. Mary continually

called us with updates on Gabi's condition as we fought our way through tropical storm Isaac on the thruway.

Mary was calm, telling us to be careful, that she was watching over Gabi. Gabi's whole team of nurses were parishioners of St. Benedict's parish, which is a mile from Gabi's campus.

Gabi's ordeal had started around 4 a.m. and so she called the Daemen college security guards. They did not question her for calling them, they just got an ambulance and paramedic's (who knew where Clayton is) to come and take Gabi away.

Gabi was taken to Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, 10 minutes away from the college, which we are told is the best hospital in the Buffalo area. The whole staff there was great to Gabi and us. If Gabi had gone to a more rural school, would she have been a) so close to any hospital b) been taken to such a modern hospital that had the people and the equipment to do Gabi's surgery, leaving her with just 3 little laparoscopic scars and c) we got to meet Mary.

God does have a plan for each of us. Why he does things the way he does them, is not for us to know. We just know that for our family our faith has helped

us get through troubled times. Gabi was back at school the next day, yes I know modern medicine, and we are back to being empty nesters.

As I write this I think back to Gabi's high school graduation morning mass and the song that was sung that day. (Fly like a bird, to the Lord, my soul. I want to fly like an eagle. Though I may journey far away from home, I know I'll never be alone.)

May each of you always realize that you are never alone.

DAN AND ALYNDA HAYCOCK
CLAYTON

If you're pregnant, it's a baby

On Jan. 25, 2013 I watched 650,000 people (mostly young) silently March for Life in the nation's capitol to protest legal abortion (killing) of over 55 million babies since the flawed Supreme Court decision 40 years ago. Ironically only one television network covered the largest civil rights issue in America today - EWTN, a Catholic network! The rest of the main stream networks were deliberately silent - no coverage of an event protesting an abominable holocaust, as they know how shameful we have been to turn our backs on the innocents.

How corrupt and far from God we have become!

We are sickened when an unborn baby dies when his mother is murdered or even furious when someone abuses an animal. But make killing your unborn child legal and suddenly it's open season on babies in the womb. Make something legal and our consciences disappear! How sad, most animals would protect their babies with their lives. Years ago a mother and/or her doctor would have made every effort to at least save the unborn baby.

Do women really not know what it means to be pregnant? Pregnant = having a child or other offspring developing in the body; with child or young, as a woman or female mammal.

Clearly the woman finds out with a simple test that she is now pregnant, ie, with child. Her choice is to keep or to kill her child developing in her body. She will have to live with her decision the rest of her life. It is not her body, it is a new life at the moment of fertilization; it is not her right to kill her developing baby in her womb - she is made to have children, not kill them.

Yes, it is her choice, but really the only right choice is to have her baby. Unfortu-

nately, those who do abortions like Planned Parenthood, do not provide the woman help with this right choice - Life. For those of us involved in the pro-life movement, we must get this information to the pregnant women, before they make the mistake of a life(time). Stay tuned for my next letter which will provide this life-saving info.

SAVE OUR CHILDREN,
CHRIS LAROSE
POTSDAM

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

•Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

•We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

•Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

•Join the conversation!

AT THE MOVIES

IDENTITY THIEF

By Adam Shaw
Catholic News Service

When Denver family man Sandy Patterson (Jason Bateman) discovers that his identity has been stolen - with huge credit card debts racked up in his name and criminal charges pending against him - it's not surprising that he expects the police to intervene on his behalf.

No such luck, at least in director Seth Gordon's morally murky comedy "Identity Thief" (Universal).

Sadly for Sandy, the titular culprit Diana (Melissa McCarthy) is a resident of Florida, which places her outside the reach of Colorado law enforcement.

So it could take years to bring her to justice.

But Sandy's ruined credit rating and reputation have placed his newly secured, high-paying finance job at risk. So he decides to travel down to the Sunshine State, take custody of Diana himself and drag her back to his neck of the woods to put

things right.

As it turns out, Sandy gets more trouble than he bargained for:

Diana's illegal exploits have drawn the unwelcome attention of Julian (Tip "T.I." Harris) and Marisol (Genesis Rodriguez), a pair of ruthless bounty hunters who quickly decide to target Sandy as well.

Despite an interesting, if slightly unbelievable, premise, Craig Mazin's screenplay offers few fresh jokes. He relies instead on exploitative sight gags and foul language.

Additionally, his script seems to wink at theft in situations far removed from those narrow and extreme circumstances within which Judeo-Christian morality might excuse it.

Stealing a loaf of bread to feed your starving family is one thing.

Using your unappreciative ex-boss' credit card to fund a night of high living in a five-star resort, as Sandy eventually does, is something else entirely.

Do unto others as others have done unto you is, after

all, anything but a golden rule.

The film contains skewed moral values, much slapstick and other violence, considerable sexual content including a semi-graphic nonmarital encounter, off-screen masturbation and brief rear nudity, occasional profanity, frequent rough and crude language and an obscene gesture.

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.



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy star in a scene from the movie "Identity Thief."

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CLINTON

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will offer weekday adoration during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday after the morning daily Mass at 7 AM and will end with Benediction at 7 PM on Wednesday of Holy Week.

Schedule: Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. after 7 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.; Mon. only After 7 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m.

Contact: To sign up for one hour a week of adoration or for more information, call the rectory at 563-1692 or email kjeleshouse@verizon.net."

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – The St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host an all you can eat spaghetti dinner.

Date: Feb. 16

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center; Take-outs available

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$3.50; 5 and under, Free

TAG SALE

Mooers Forks – The Mooers K of C Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Tag Sale.

Dates: March 8, 9 & 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Anne's Church Hall

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club present their Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: March 10

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children 6-10, \$3; under 5, Free

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a Lenten Bible Study Program.

Dates: Feb. 16; March 9 & 16; April 6

Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Features: Rita Breen will be reflecting on themes of Lent Light lunch provided. Donations appreciated.

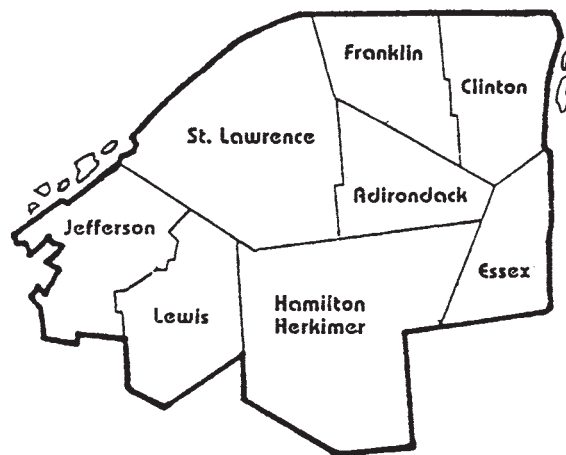
Contact: RSVP 518-594-3253 or toolaprayehouse@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF HEALING PRAYER

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be offering Christian Healing Ministries School of Healing Prayer Level I Training.

Date: Feb. 21-24

Information: Course provides a founda-



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.

tional, practical approach to developing a prayer ministry and offers a scriptural basis for God's gift of healing prayer. Overnight accommodations available. Level II given in March, Level III in April.

Contact: To register or for questions email Pat at olaprayehouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253. Course limited to 6.

LENTEN RETREAT

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a Lenten Retreat.

Date: March 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Speaker: Fr. Bill Edwards.

Features: The day will conclude with Mass. Lunch provided.

Contact: Email call 518-594-3253 or olaprayehouse@gmail.com to register. Donations for the day appreciated.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's chapel

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

Theme: "Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist, I adore Thee."

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Sciota – Monthly prayer group to be held second Friday of the month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: To be determined, contact Nancy Monette at 561-8225 for details

Features: praying the Rosary, The Divine

Chaplet, centering around creative prayer and music.

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: Participants are immersed in prayer with individual prayer time

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Keeseville – The Keeseville Altar Rosary Society will sponsor a Sunday weekly Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament.

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Soaking Prayer is offered every second and fourth 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, to be soaked in God's love

LECTIO DIVINA

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having Lectio Divina (Divine Reading), every Friday.

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Features: Meditation on the following Sunday's readings and Rosary

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.

ESSEX

LIVING OUR FAITH

Schroon Lake – As part of the Year of Faith program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Saint Joseph's Church, "Living Our Faith": The Catechism of the Catholic Church" Will be presented

Schedule: Fridays at 4:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, Olmstedville; Sundays at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes, Schroon Lake. (Note: Sessions have already started)

Features: A summary of the catechism, known as YOUCAT, is available at \$11.25.

Contact: For further information, call (518) 532-7100.

FRANKLIN

ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Malone – Join members of the Malone Catholic Parishes each Thursday evening for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Time: 7 p.m. to 8

Place: Notre Dame Church

JEFFERSON

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An ecumenical bereavement Meeting is to be held.

Date: Feb. 25

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Hearthside Hospitality Center

Program: Mrs. Kathy Sheley, a widow who is currently on the Hospice of Jefferson County Board of Directors, Will talk on "Healing Through Helping".

DOLLAR DINNER

Watertown – The Knights of Columbus Watertown Council #259 will be having a Dollar Dinner.

Date: March 20

Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: IHC Intermediate School

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: Feb. 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 (Please bring your own containers)

Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m.

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Watertown – DVD "Catholicism: A Jour-

ney to the Heart of the Faith" to be shown.

Dates: Feb. 11, 18; March 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

Place: Hearthside Center at the Motherhouse SSJ

Contact: Holy Family Church at 315-782-2468 for more information

DINNER FOR TWO

Watertown – A Dinner for Two for married and engaged couples to be held at Holy Family Church at no cost

Date: Feb. 16

Time: 5:15 p.m. liturgy; 6:15 social followed by dinner

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: The office has videos, books and educational materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

LEWIS

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Feb. 17

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

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

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-SPAGHETTI

Harrisville – An all you can eat spaghetti dinner has been planned

Date: Feb. 20

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30; Take outs Available at 4

Place: St. Francis Solanus Church

Price: Adults: \$8.00, ages 12 - 5 \$5.00, under 5 – free.

Features: With meat balls and sausage, Italian bread, salad, homemade dessert.

ST. LAWRENCE

FISH & SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School will be having a Fish & Shrimp Fry every Friday during Lent.

Date: Feb. 15-March 29

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available, phone ahead for faster service, 287-0130. For deliveries call 287-0130

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

Our Lenten journey of faith

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

Today, you and I will begin with God our own journey down a path we have each walked many times before: our Lenten journey in our faith.

To move in the right direction on our life's journey and to follow that right path set before us by the Lord is at the heart of what it means to be a missionary disciple. It's clearly deep within your heart as well. That's why I'm urgently asking for your help today.

While we as Catholics often times think of Lent as that time of year we "give up" to strengthen our faith, our best way to demonstrate our love for God is by "giving to" those who are less fortunate and in desperate need of our help. The certain knowledge of God's love and eternal life to those who are lost and without hope!

As you know, the Pontifical Mission Societies, which include the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, are the Pope's chief representatives in supporting the Church in the Missions. These are the great works providing the gifts of our faith, and our loving hands, to those who are desperate for God's love.

Thanks to your past offerings, you have been a personal missionary to so many in need. From Africa to Asia, from Oceania to Latin America, today, there are so many who desperately and urgently need your prayers and your help. Whether it is children lacking food, water and clothing, or the elderly suffering from serious illness without medical attention, or discovering the peace of Christ, there are many neighbors who need your outstretched hands today.

Every dollar and prayer sent will bring sustenance and hope to those who are hanging by a thread. Encouraged by the preaching of the Gospel, these brothers and sisters can carry on, knowing that their lives have meaning and their future is bright.

This helps them remain on the right road in the right direction!

Your missionary gift not only directly sustains the poor and the desperate but also provides support to the priests, religious and lay catechists who are offering tangible help, while sharing news of the Lord's boundless love.

Thank you for reaching out, with strong and loving hands, to make a difference this season that resounds throughout the world.

I am so grateful for your generous, missionary heart! Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Canton — Robert DeFazio, 65; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery, Waddington.

Champlain — Pauline J. Gooley, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Clayton — Sue A. (Reff) Ludlow, 65; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Valda (Gray) Hance, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2013 at the Green Funeral Home; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Michael A. Kamide, 61; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2013 at St. James Church; burial in Old St. James Cemetery.

Hogansburg — William J. "Bill" Brockway, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in the new parish cemetery.

Keeseville — Raymond J. Martin, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Malone — Valerie R. (Revoir) Flynn, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena — Royall F. Greene, 70; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church.

Massena — Louie E. Welch, 62; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery, Ellenburg.

Massena — Harry J. Witkop Jr., 81; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena — Gerald A. Yelle, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers — Joan Kathryn (Garrand) Tetreault, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

North Lawrence — Margaret M. (Black) Hallahan, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2013 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Richard Heaton, 87; Funeral Feb. 5, 2013 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Philadelphia — Marjorie (Fortune) Sands, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Antwerp.

Plattsburgh — Merrill J. Gonyea, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Delores C. (Bushey) Rivers, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Robert "Bob" M. Smith, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2013 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Pero — Sue Ellen Bousquet-Guay, 49; Memorial Services Feb. 9, 2013 at St. Augustine's Church.

Potsdam — Carolyn Joan (LaBarge)Deon, 76; Funeral Feb. 7, 2013 at St. Mary's

Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam — Carol F. Wheeler, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2013 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in West Potsdam Cemetery.

Redford — Roy Patrick Ano, 57; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2013 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Holy Name Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

Saranac Lake — Gladys L. Hough, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery, Franklin.

Treadwells Mills — Darrell W. Collins, 63; Funeral Service Feb. 6, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church.

Tupper Lake — Mary E. (Amoriell) Malerba, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2013 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Warrensburg — John "Jack" Doyle, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2013 at St. Cecilia's Church.

West Chazy — Margaret G. (Thornton) Lavarnway, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Winthrop — Perry F. Stowe, 54; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2013 at the Hammill Funeral Home.

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SETON CIVICS LESSON



SCHOOL PHOTO

Dana Chapman and Brian Murray, seniors at Seton Catholic Central School in Plattsburgh, are shown with Senator Betty Little, Assemblyman Daniel Stec and Assemblywoman Janet Duprey during the third annual Meet Your State Legislators Conference, held at Peru High School Jan. 26.

FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH

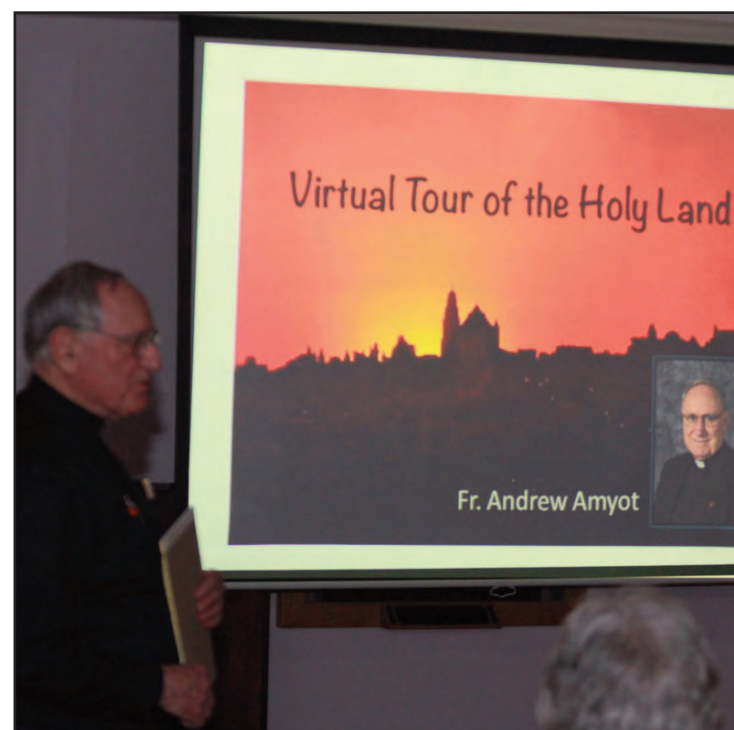


PHOTO BY CHARLES ROBINSON

Father Andrew Amyot is shown during a Jan. 31 presentation in Norfolk about his journeys in the Holy Land. Parishioners from the Church of the Visitation, Norfolk; St. Raymond's, Raymondville; and At. Andrew's, (Norwood; gathered for the Year of Faith program. The photo on the screen, taken by Charles Robinson, is of the Church of the Dormition in Jerusalem at sunset during a Holy Land pilgrimage which Father Amyot led in 2011.

Around the diocese

ST. LAWRENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

LENTEN MISSION

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Parish are sponsoring a Lenten Mission.

Date: March 4, 5, 6

Presenter: Father Scott D. Fobare, pastor of St. Mary and St. Joseph in Massena

Topic: Celebrating & Living My Faith.

Schedule follows:

March 4: Cultivating Friendship with God (living fully), 7 p.m. Mass and homily at St. Mary's Cathedral, confessions follow session

March 5: Giving Ourselves to God (living freely), 7 p.m. Mass and homily at Notre Dame Church, confessions follow session

March 6: Encouraging a Life of Communion (living HOLY lives) 7 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY

Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus Council 258's will hold a special Ash Wednesday Fish Fry.

Date: Feb. 13

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5 free

Features: The K of C Ladies Auxiliary will provide homemade desserts for \$1 and there is a cash bar. All proceeds benefit K of C Charities and the Building Fund.

FISH DINNERS DURING LENT

Star Lake – St. Hubert's Church will have fish dinners every Friday during Lent.

Date: Feb. 15 to March 22

Time: 5 p.m.

Costs: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8

Features: Deep fried or oven baked. Homemade desserts. Take-outs call 848-3612

DURING TURBULENT TIMES

Ogdensburg – Dr. Barbara Walker & Patricia Kelley of COPE Consulting Services are presenting a program "Holding Steady During Turbulent Times"

Date: Feb. 27

Time: Two sessions 10 a.m. to noon or 5

p.m. to 7.

Place: Off the Hook Bed and Breakfast, 7 Butternut Street (off Rt. 37, Lisbon)

Cost: \$10 per person, includes meal

Features: We usually do not have much influence over what life deals us. We CAN control how we respond to change, loss, and grief. This workshop will provide a strong start in taking control of grief and understanding its effect on us and the people in our lives.

Contact: 315-393-3287 for reservations

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Massena – The Catholic Community of Massena/Louisville will be using Fr. Robert Barron's video series "Catholicism" during this Year of faith.

Dates: On Wednesdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6; April 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: No cost, but workbooks can be purchased for \$25

BINGO NEW NIGHT

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Bingo

is now on Thursday nights.

Features: Early Bird starts at 7 p.m. Pull tabs, 50/50 & concession available.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's will have a Benediction and Adoration every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES ARE BACK

Ogdensburg – K og C Friday Night Fish Fries are back beginning Jan. 11 and continue every Friday until Easter.

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

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, free; desserts, \$1 and cash bar All proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus Charities.

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's I 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

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg – Bishop LaValley will preside at the annual Rite of Election for Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates for those preparing to enter the Catholic Church.

Date: Feb. 24

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral