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Twelve cardinals to watch in the coming weeks | PAGE 14

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 27 2013

## FROM THIS DAY FORWARD....

### NCC's Catholic Marriage issue

A wedding lasts a day, a marriage for a lifetime  
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### With God at center

"Our marriage is built on love with a solid, never-failing foundation, writes Potsdam woman

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

### Church support for couples

The Diocese of Ogdensburg offers support for marriage through a variety of marriage preparation and marriage enrichment programs, Natural Family Planning and more



GREER & CICALLETTI PHOTOGRAPHY

Among the hundreds of couples married in Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Ogdensburg during the past year were Stephen and Katie Fredette Simpson. Above, Father John Yonkovic leads the couple in their marriage vows during their June 2012 wedding at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh.

## Visioning process begins in diocese

OGDENSBURG – Bishop Terry R. LaValley has formed an Envisioning Leadership Team to work with him to “discern, define and proclaim a *Mutually Shared Vision* for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.”

“Providing clarity to our God-given mission as a diocese and charting the course for us to accomplish that mission is the most basic need we face as a diocese,” he said.

The first meeting of the group was held Feb. 14 at the Bishop's Residence

The bishop explained that the team will “purposefully and prayerfully engage in conversation; carefully and respectfully listen to a wide cross-section of our diocesan brothers and sisters; and honestly assess our needs and priorities as a diocese in light of the conversations held.”

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

### IN HONOR OF THE POPE



SPECIAL ISSUE NEXT WEEK

## Catholics to gather for Public Policy Day March 20

Bishop LaValley will lead a contingent from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Albany March 20 for the 2013 Public Policy Day.

The group will join Cardinal Timothy Dolan, other bishops and more than 1000 Catholics from across New York State to speak with state legislators about issues of Catholic concern.

The issues include: opposition to abortion expansion, preservation of Catholic schools and support for the imprisoned, affordable housing and just healthcare reform.

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### Around the Diocese

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

## What Catholics believe about marriage

The NCC's annual Wedding/Marriage issue is always a favorite of this romantic editor.

For three years in a row, it was a chance to reflect on the weddings of my three children; this year I can rejoice in marriages that are making me a grandma for the first ... and second times!

For every special issue that we publish, I turn to the experts in our midst to make sure we provide meaningful articles for our readers.

For this paper, I sought assistance from Gayle Frank, director of family life ministry; and

Mary Lou  
Kilian

Suzanne Pietropaoli, director of natural family planning; and, of course, they came through for me.

In addition to a report of some of the work of the Family Life Office, Gayle also shared a reflection written by John Bosio, the Nashville-based author of *Happy Together: the Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage*.

Bosio, and his wife of 40 years, Teri, used the materials from his book to develop "Six Dates for Catholic Couples," a program offered by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

His points about what "Catholics believe about marriage" are important considerations for every couple preparing for marriage.

But they probably make a lot more sense for those of us married for decades.

Here they are:

- Marriage is a sacrament; one of the seven sacraments through which Christ makes us holy.

- It is a lifestyle of total dedication and self-giving to each other that reflects God's love for humanity and Christ's love for the Church.

- Because God's love is always faithful and his covenant unbreakable, the marital bond that represents it is also indis-

soluble

- Marriage is a vocation, a call by God to be collaborators with Him in bringing new life into the world and creating a family that is the first school of faith and love.

- As collaborators with God, husband and wife are guided by the Church to responsible parenthood through natural means of birth regulation that conform to God's design for human sexuality.

- Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in the relationship and gives spouses the graces to endure the challenges of their vocation.

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This is a lot to think about - even for a grandmother!

## More surprises await after papal news

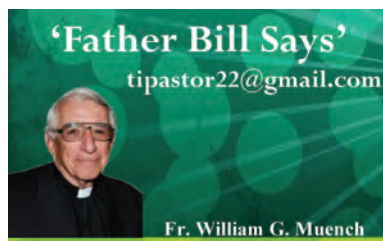
Everyone continues writing and talking about Pope Benedict XVI and his upcoming retirement, so I thought I would take a moment and join in.

Like everyone else I was surprised at his announcement. However, my immediate response was "sensible."

I have no idea what influenced his decision. I do know he remembers the last years of Pope John Paul II's pontificate and I'm certain that Pope Benedict realized there is a better way. I certainly want to join those who are offering gratitude to Pope Benedict for his service to our Church.

I have noticed that some have used this situation to criticize the Catholic Church - some rather rude comments and cartoons. At the same time, many more have spoken of his talks and writings and his efforts to deal with the problems facing the Church.

When Pope Benedict was first elected, I was a bit concerned. As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which looks for orthodoxy in the writings and teachings of Church leaders and theologians, he was very aggressive. At least that was my impression. He certainly challenged those who were writing new investigations.



However, as pope, he was very different, reaching out to Catholics of the world. Often, his writings as pope brought out the beauty of our faith to the world. He wrote about the love that Catholics should have and live as witnesses to the Lord. His stuff was good. Soon, a new conclave will begin to elect a new pontiff. I remember well the conclave that elected Pope Benedict. It was the first conclave since 1978 - Pope John Paul II had a long pontificate of 27 years.

I do remember how the television was allowed to follow the cardinals as they processed into the Sistine Chapel.

Then all the media was removed - the great doors were closed. All the rest of the conclave was in secret.

Rather unique nowadays as an election goes, a papal conclave has traditions that date back to the earliest days of the Church. No media following each step of the voting - analyzing each vote - trying to

proclaim the winner after - say 2% of the vote. All is in secret!

So it is time to pray that the Holy Spirit will touch those cardinals that they will make a wise and good choice of our Catholic Church.

I suspect - as usual - that the choice will be a surprise. When I was a child the Pope was Pope Pius XII who was Pope until I entered the seminary. Then during my third year in major seminary, Pope John XXIII was elected. That was certainly a surprise - yet, he had such a profound influence on our Church by calling the Second Vatican Council.

Then after Pope Paul VI, Pope

John Paul I was elected and that was a surprise. And then he died in only one month - that was a surprise. Then Pope John Paul II was elected - a Polish Pope - that was a surprise.

So - another conclave will begin soon - and there will certainly be another surprise to our Catholic Church.

Jesus promised that our Church will last until the end of time. Our prayer during this time of transition is that the Holy Spirit will find the right person for us.

I pray to Blessed John XXIII that, if there is to be a surprise, that it will be the right one for our Church and for us all.

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PHOTOS BY MARY LOU KILIAN  
 Bishop Terry R. LaValley and other members of the newly formed diocesan Envisioning Leadership Team are shown during their first meeting Feb. 14 at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg. Over the next 13 months, the team will work to "discern, define and proclaim a *Mutually Shared Vision* for the Diocese of Ogdensburg." At left are James Coughlin, William Amoriell, St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, Deacon Mark Bennett and Father Thomas Higman; above are Cathy Romano, Bishop LaValley, Father Garry Giroux and Barbara Eckert, managing consultant of Catholic Leadership Institute.

# Envisioning Leadership Team convenes

*Group will work with Bishop LaValley to develop diocesan vision, priorities and goals*

By Mary Lou Kilian  
 Editor

**OGDENSBURG** - Bishop Terry R. LaValley has formed an Envisioning Leadership Team to work with him to "discern, define and proclaim a *Mutually Shared Vision* for the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Bishop LaValley explained that "this *Year of Faith* provides a truly graced moment in the history of the Church for us to more formally envision and plan for the future of our diocese."

He adds that, since the day he was consecrated and installed as the shepherd of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, he has come to learn more and more of the tremendous privilege and significant responsibilities he has in serving the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as their bishop.

"Providing clarity to our God-given mission as a diocese and charting the course for us to accomplish that mission is the most basic need we face as a diocese," he said.

The bishop explained that the team will "purposefully and prayerfully engage in

conversation; carefully and respectfully listen to a wide cross-section of our diocesan brothers and sisters; and honestly assess our needs and priorities as a diocese in light of the conversations held."

The Envisioning Leadership Team will hold "Listening Sessions" throughout the diocese to give Catholics across the North Country the opportunity to share their thoughts, hopes and concerns and offer input into the envisioning process. (See *chart on this page*)

"For me," Bishop LaValley said, "this is a time of listening, learning, reflecting and praying about the future God desires for our local Church."

### The process

The 13-month process will take place under the leadership of Bishop LaValley, who has engaged the expert services of the Catholic Leadership Institute. This Philadelphia-based Catholic apostolate has provided extensive leadership training, formation and consultation for Catholic organizations across the country.

Bishop LaValley said that

he has been impressed with all the personnel of Catholic Leadership Institute. "They are extremely talented people who are so proficient in their areas of expertise, but their most impressive quality across the board is their deep faith and love of the Catholic Church," he said. "I am confident they will serve us well".

Bishop LaValley convened the first meeting of Envisioning Leadership Team Feb. 14 at the Bishop's Residence. The bishop expressed his gratitude to the team for their commitment to the demanding task that lies ahead.

He also expressed his confidence in the group, saying "it is exciting to witness the gifts and talents, sense of purpose and faith that the

members offer to our team."

Joining Bishop LaValley as members of the Envisioning Leadership Team are Dr. William Amoriell, Colton; Deacon Mark Bennett, Plattsburgh; Barbara Boyle, Henderson; St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, Watertown; James Coughlin, Malone; Father Garry B. Giroux, Brasher Falls; Father Thomas J. Higman, Malone; Father Douglas J. Lucia, Canton; Patrick Murnane, Plattsburgh; Father Kevin J. O'Brien, Heuvelton; and Cathy Romano, Ogdensburg.

"It is my prayer that (the envisioning team) will help me chart a course that brings clarity of our ecclesial mission and unity of hope, vision and purpose to all the faithful of our North Coun-

try," Bishop LaValley said.

### The focus

The bishop said that the focus of the team's responsibilities throughout this Envisioning Process will be to:

- Develop and maintain a collaborative relationship that enables the team to work effectively and communicate openly and respectfully with one another so that we might operate efficiently in fulfilling our tasks and honoring our commitments.

- Discern and engage in fruitful, creative and open discussion for what "can be" and "should be" our vision for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

## SUMMARY OF LISTENING SESSIONS

	DATE	LOCATION	AUDIENCE (deanery)
1	Tue, May 14, 2013	2pm at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg	Chancery Staff
2	TBD (May 20-23)	Time TBD in Alexandria Bay, NY	Presbyterate
3	Wed, May 29, 2013	at 6:30 pm in Saranac Lake	Permanent Deacons/Wives
4	Thu, May 30, 2013	6:30pm at Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown	Jefferson
5	Wed, June 5, 2013	6:30pm in Lowville	Lewis
6	Thu, June 6, 2013	6:30 pm at St. Mary's School, Canton	St. Lawrence
7	Tue, June 18, 2013	6:30pm either in Port Henry or Ticonderoga	Essex & Hamilton/Herkimer
8	Wed, June 19, 2013	6:30pm in Plattsburgh	Clinton
9	Tue, June 25, 2013	6:30 pm at Holy Name School in Malone	Franklin & Adirondack

# The marvelous mystery that is marriage

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Staff Writer

All unexpectedly, there it was on the screen in front of me. While visiting the genealogy site where my cousin has built a family tree, I clicked on "new document" and something amazing appeared: the marriage record of my maternal great-grandparents. Patrick Kerin and Emma Forst were married February 13, 1890, at St. Michael's Church in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Apart from a few scattered facts, I know very little about this couple - but I would not exist if they had not met and married. So gazing at their marriage record moved me a great deal, and set me thinking about the marvelous mystery that is marriage.

The experience carried strong echoes of the prophet Isaiah. The Lord

who made us and called us precious, the God who created us in his own image and carved our names in the palm of his hand, has foreseen from the beginning all the branches of our family trees.

## A link in the chain of generations

The same loving Providence that watches over us all the days of our lives created each of us from untold generations of men and women whose living and loving made ours possible.

Indeed, as the Catechism (321, 323) reminds us, "Divine providence consists of the dispositions by which God guides all his creatures with wisdom and love to their ultimate end...Divine providence works also through the actions of creatures. To human beings God grants the ability to co-

operate freely with his plans."

We cannot know the mind of God, but we can certainly observe the magnificence of his plan as it unfolds, in stunning variety, in the human family. But marriage makes us more than observers, since it carries the invitation to become co-creators with God of new human persons who will live forever.

When we accept that gift, we become, in the poignant words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "a link in the chain of the generations."

This is true, not only in the obvious biological sense, but even more in a spiritual sense: the life that we receive from our parents and pass on to our children is not limited by the horizons of time. Rather, by grace, we participate in the life of God himself: our being is not limited to the relatively few years we

spend on earth, but stretches beyond time into eternity.

The perspective of faith, which links earth to heaven and guides our feet in right paths, is the best gift we can receive from our parents or give to our children.

Prominent in our Catholic faith is a vision of marriage at once solidly realistic and awe-inspiring. Neither Hollywood glam nor daily drudgery, Catholic marriage is both a vocation and a sacrament - a call from God to serve him in a particular way through marriage and family, and a sacrament through which his grace makes it possible to be faithful to that calling.

"...our Savior encounters Christian spouses through the sacrament of Matrimony. Christ dwells with them, gives them strength to take up their crosses and follow him, to bear one another's burdens, to be subject to

one another out of reverence for Christ and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and faithful love. In the joys of their love and family life he gives them on earth a foretaste of the wedding feast of the Lamb." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1642*)

This is the constant understanding of the Church regarding marriage, and the little I know about my great-grandparents makes me think that perhaps it was their understanding as well.

It is not hard to imagine their crosses. By the time of the 1900 census, 10 years after their marriage, they had suffered the deaths of three of six children, lost to the kind of infectious diseases that used to decimate families; they were later blessed with two more children.

They lived in a semi-rural area just outside of Pitts-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.



"There is a clear link between the crisis in faith and the crisis in marriage."  
Benedict XVI, October 7, 2012, opening of New Evangelization Synod.

In this YEAR OF FAITH  
Strengthen the faith of married couples in your parish.

Two easy to use parish programs:

The BEATITUDES:  
A Couple's Path to  
Greater Joy,  
and



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- BL. POPE JOHN PAUL II

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August 18-21  
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October 7-9



### Marriage Preparation Programs

For more information or to download a registration form go to:

[www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife)

or contact Henry and Dayna Leader at  
dleader@dioogdensburg.org

Natural Family Planning information  
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email: [apietropalio@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:apietropalio@dioogdensburg.org)

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[www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

Special note for anyone who is preparing for marriage or is married please check out the USCCB's web site. The materials and helpful articles are designed for helping build strong marriages. Every marriage matters, because marriage comes from the hand of God.



For more information on these events, please contact Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank at the Family Life Office 315-393-2920 or visit our website at [www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife)



A STORY OF LOVE...A STORY OF FAITH

# With God at the center of our marriage...

By Maeana Cragg  
Contributing writer

I was lost. On the surface, I was the perfect Catholic girl. I never missed Mass and was often a cantor. I said all the right things, dressed the right way, but inside, my faith was barely flickering. I hadn't been to confession since well before college; I couldn't even remember the last time. Despite the fact that my soul was in no state to receive Our Lord, I continued to receive Holy Communion every single Sunday, because perception was more important than reality.

It was then that I met my husband-to-be. He was sitting in my favorite coffee shop, grading papers. Excited to meet another young teacher, I introduced myself. When we ran into each other a few days later, neither of us could stop grinning. That first week, we stayed up talking on the phone every night until three o'clock in the morning. My 6 am wake-up to teach wasn't a problem because I was so energized by this incredible new person in my life.

I soon found that not only was he handsome, he was also smart, thoughtful, kind and hard-working. Whatever he did in life, he did to the absolute best of his ability. When we were dating, he was full of the sweetest, most romantic gestures. I once spent hours searching for twenty separate lines of a poem he had written to me and hidden so that I could put them back together.

Everything he did was with his whole heart. I knew early on that I had found the man I wanted to marry. There was only one problem. He wasn't Catholic.

My faith was weak, but I hadn't given up on it. I knew that marrying someone who didn't share that faith would probably kill it. Just as important to me, my mother and father would never fully approve of me marrying someone who wasn't Catholic. Their one greatest commonality was their Catholic Faith. Without that, the daily struggles of marriage would have been overwhelming.

After many years of marriage, they knew that the glow of new love would begin to fade. The foundation of a shared faith would be the one



Maeana and Eric Cragg on their May 27, 2000 wedding day

thing that would keep that love solid forever, with daily choices and not giddy emotions.

One of the first places we went together was Palm Sunday Mass. He had only been to church once before. There, he told me that he would go to Mass with me every single Sunday, but that he would never become Catholic.

I probably should have worried at that point, but I was just joyful that he was willing to go with me. At a family reunion a few months later, one of his great-aunts beckoned to me. She told me, "Don't you worry dear. You just keep him going, and eventually, he won't be able to resist."

I'm so glad she was right, and that he loved me enough to be open to what was important to me.

We had many heartfelt discussions. For the first time in a long time, I was trying to make someone else understand the truths of my faith. In explaining, I was truly beginning to understand for the first time the importance of the sacraments, the True Presence of Christ in the

Eucharist and the beauty of the Truth taught by the Church, I could feel my own faith growing again.

We were both pretty stubborn, but madly enough in love to talk our way through anything. Eventually, he became more and more open to my way of thinking, and my fiancée was baptized, confirmed, and received his First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil about a month before our wedding. He took Valentine as his saint's name because he was the patron of engaged couples and happy marriages.

As our wedding day approached, he made his first confession ever, and with his encouragement, I made my first confession in over ten years. What joy and peace to be able to begin our life together as a married couple with the weight of sin lifted from our souls.

My husband approached Catholicism the way he did everything else in his life; with his whole heart. For the first time in my life, I started saying the rosary because he wanted us to. He encouraged me to go to confession, even when I didn't necessarily want to go.

Together, we started learning more and more about our Church, and whenever I started to falter in my faith, he would pull me through. My sister gave me CDs filled with amazing Catholic sermons. It was he who listened to them and shared what he learned with me. He still goes to audiosancto.com to listen to every new homily that comes up, and to re-listen to the best of the others.

With the birth of each of our children, our trust in God has grown. He is not some far off being, but an intimate God who knows our needs better than we do. It is our joy to share our ever growing faith with our children, who in return, share their ever growing faith with us.

When I think back to when we first met, I still smile at those intense feelings of finding "the one"; that person which God placed on this earth just for me.

Over 13 years later, and those intense new love feelings have changed and grown into something even better. It is a love we can trust, a love that makes us each better. Most importantly, by putting God at the center of our marriage, it is a love with a solid, never-failing foundation.

## Marvelous

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

burgh, where Patrick made his living as an underpaid but reportedly well-respected editorial writer for the Pittsburgh Leader newspaper.

Together they faced the strenuous chores of life in that time and place, and raised their family while remaining steadfast and sup-

portive of one another.

Together they lived the faith that they professed at Mass each Sunday.

In 1909 Patrick, suffering some unnamed affliction of the lungs and acting on the recommendation of his doctor, departed for Texas. It was hoped that the change of climate would effect an improvement in his health,

and the news that reached his wife and family seemed to indicate that the 45-year-old husband and father was getting better.

As his family prepared for his return to Pennsylvania, Patrick Kerin died in Texas. His grief-stricken widow was left to provide for their five children.

Struggles aplenty; loss;

sickness; death—but also, one can surmise, the strength of faith, the ordinary joys of living, the special delight of babies and children, the satisfaction of working hard at work worth doing.

Patrick and Emma were ordinary enough, and the challenges they faced will, in some measure, confront

us all. But they knew the special blessing of sacramental love and shared in "this grace of Christian marriage [which] is a fruit of Christ's cross, the source of all Christian life." (Catechism 1615)

That vision is a priceless contribution to any family tree.



PHOTOS BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

One of the most popular marriage enrichment programs in the diocese is "Dinner for Two." Holy Family Parish in Watertown sponsored a dinner Feb. 16. Above, Bishop Terry LaValley enjoys a chat with Ed and Marion Kirkland.

## Diocese supports couples in their vocation of marriage

By Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank  
Family Life Directors

How often do couples in today's world stop long enough in their busy lives to reflect on their marriages?

There are great programs that truly make a difference, like Marriage Encounter and others but in our busy lives with children and work and sports and school, Church activities and all the things that have to be done, where do we find time to reflect on

marriage?

Our mission as directors of the Family Life Office is to assist parishes in ways to provide quality opportunities for couples to build stronger marriages, and strong Catholic Families.

In this Year of Faith when we are encouraged to learn more about our faith, why not consider focusing some time on your own marriage.

What you believe about your marriage, and about your spouse, shapes the way you treat your mate.

Ultimately, what you be-

lieve about marriage influences whether you are happy or miserable in your relationship, and whether you stay married or not.

We Christians believe that God intends for marriage to bring joy to the human heart. We are a gift to each other and find fulfillment and happiness together. However, being a gift is not easy.

Fortunately God has given us Christ who shows us how to be a gift and gives us the graces to follow him.

We can help you to discover the gift of each other. The Family Life Office offers programs to assist couples in their vocation of Marriage.

We offer programs such as, "Dinner for Two" parish marriage enrichment and Six Dates for Catholic Couples. These are programs that give couples an opportunity to take some time out of their busy schedules for just a couple of hours that can make a tremendous difference in their marriage.

So in this great Year of Faith, why not resolve to learn more about each other.

"When you build strong marriages you build strong families." Our Church needs more strong Catholic families.

The Family Life Office is made possible by your generous contributions to the Bishops Fund.

# FAITHFULLY YOURS

*Celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality.*

## Discover Natural Family Planning

NFP Program Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 3211 4th St., NE, Washington, DC 20017, 202-541-3240, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org), 866-382-9595, [nlfp@usccb.org](mailto:nlfp@usccb.org). The phrase, "Celebrate and reverence..." taken from *Human Sexuality: The God Perspective*, USCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities (July 25, 1993). Slogan, Theresa Notare, PhD. Design: Lisa Toscani, [toscami@verizon.net](mailto:toscami@verizon.net). Made possible by a grant from the Knights of Columbus. The persons depicted are models used for illustrative purposes only. 1/12/13

### Natural Family Planning • Diocese of Ogdensburg

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[www.dioogdensburg.org/nfp](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/nfp)



Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, diocesan directors of the Family Life Office, led the Dinner for Two program in Watertown.

## A truly 'green' option for family planning

# NFP - healthiest choice for women, the world

**By Suzanne Pietropaoli**  
Diocesan director of Natural Family Planning

You are glad to do what you can to help protect the environment. So in your search for a reliable, healthy, ecological way to plan your family, be sure to take a closer look at Natural Family Planning.

**The couples who choose NFP choose to learn about and cooperate with the gift of their shared fertility, rather than to suppress it with drugs or devices.**

Among family planning methods, NFP is the one truly green option, precisely because it is built on understanding and respecting creation in its most personal dimension.

The couples who choose NFP choose to learn about and cooperate with the gift of their shared fertility, rather than to suppress it with drugs or devices. That choice is not only healthy for them; it is healthy for the environment.

By opting to regulate births naturally, NFP users opt not to pollute: no unnecessary drugs/devices in landfills, no toxic chemicals, no endocrine-disrupting compounds added to streams and water supplies—and no group 1 carcinogenic hormones putting the woman's health at risk.

What's that, you say? If the Pill and its hormonal cousins (rods, patches, rings, injectables) could cause cancer, surely it would be big news? In fact, it has been, repeatedly—but never for long.

For years researchers have noted the link between combined oral contraceptive pills and the development of breast cancer. In 2005, the World Health Organization classified these pills as

"Group One Carcinogens," a group of substances known to cause cancer in human beings.

Other substances in that group include: asbestos, formaldehyde, tobacco smoke, arsenic, and ultraviolet radiation. We are appalled when such dangerous substances appear in the environment, but fail to question the safety of the artificial hormones swallowed daily by women and young girls for the purpose of preventing pregnancy.

Just last week, the London Daily Mail Online (2/13/2013) featured a story on a new Norwegian study which offered up some astounding statistics. The findings, presented at the recent European Breast Cancer Conference in Barcelona, were stark: any woman who has ever taken the Pill is 26 % more likely to develop breast cancer than a woman who has never taken it. The risk increases with age and with the duration of Pill usage.

Despite decades of such studies, women's health has continued to be less important than the profits generated by a multi-billion dollar oral contraceptive industry. Curiously, however, it is the Catholic Church which continues to be labeled as "anti-woman"; one would think that the Church is responsible for subjecting women to the perils of the Pill.

In addition to higher risk of breast cancer, the Pill serves up a stunning array of side effects which include blood clots, hypertension, heart attack, stroke, liver tumors and gallbladder disease. [These side effects do appear on the patient in-

serts for these products. But the print is small and besides, this is just medicine, isn't it?]

In place of the Pill and other chemical contraceptives, the Church would focus our attention on nature—on the way God made us, on that awesome design that allows us to live in harmony with our fertility.

Natural Family Planning educates couples to recognize, record, and interpret the physical signs of fertility so as to identify the fertile window in each cycle.

The couple then uses this knowledge to achieve or to postpone pregnancy according to their family planning intention.

By understanding how the fertility cycle works, couples use a system that is 100% natural, up to 99% effective, and entirely free from harmful side effects.

NFP is a lifestyle that has the potential to enrich couple communication, deepen their love, and strengthen their faith and their families.

Modern methods of Natu-

ral Family Planning have been developed through more than half a century of scientific research. A variety of methodologies offers real choices for couples wanting to learn and live NFP. From online courses to CycleBeads, from CyclePro Charting software to new apps, NFP is more accessible than ever before.

But in any form, it remains the option of choice for couples concerned with respecting nature, one another, and the plan of the Creator.

### 2013 PRE-CANA SCHEDULE

DEANERY	DATES	TIMES	LOCATIONS	AREA COORDINATORS
<b>Adirondack</b>	March 16*	9:00 am to 6:00 pm (limited to 15 couples)	St. Bernard's Grade School 63 River Street Saranac Lake	Chip and Kathy Samperi 72 Vista Drive Saranac Lake, NY 12983 (518) 891-7208
<b>Clinton</b>	April 27* or October 26*	9:00 am to 5:30 pm 9:00 am to 5:30 pm	TBA TBA	Tom and Claudia Sanders 97 Rooney Road West Chazy, NY 12992 (518) 561-3283
<b>Franklin</b>	March 23* or May 4*	8:30 am to 5:30 pm 8:30 am to 5:30 pm	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 N. Bangor	Notre Dame Parish PO Box 547 Malone, NY 12953 (518) 483-1300
<b>Lewis</b>	March 3* or May 1 and 8**	9:00 am to 5:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (dinner provided)	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville	Tom and Linda Yousey 7718 North Shore Road Glenfield, NY 13343 (315) 376-7633
<b>Jefferson</b>	March 7 and 14**  April 10 and 17**  September 11 and September 18**	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm  6:00 pm to 9:30 pm  6:00 pm to 9:30 pm	St. Mary's Church 521 James Street Clayton  St. Anthony's Church 850 Arsenal Street Watertown  Holy Family Church 129 Winthrop Street Watertown	David and Diana Sherman c/o Family Life Office PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920
<b>St. Lawrence</b>	January 19*  March 2*  May 1, 8, and 15**	8:30 am to 5:00 pm  8:30 am to 5:00 pm  6:30 pm to 9:30 pm	St. James School 20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur  St. James School 20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur  St. Mary's School 2 Powers Street Canton	Henry and Dayna Leader c/o Family Life Office PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920

Essex, Hamilton, and Herkimer Please contact the Deanery Coordinator nearest your parish.

Please note: \* Attendance for the entire session is required. Lunch is provided.  
\*\* Attendance for both sessions is required. (3 sessions required in St. Lawrence Deanery in May)



# Planning a Catholic Wedding: ten tips

By Msgr. Rick Hilgartner, executive director  
USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship

Couples should memorize their vows to experience the exchange of consent in a more powerful way, by speaking them from the heart.

## Marriage is a Sacrament!

The celebration of Marriage is not just a religious ceremony. A marriage between two Christians is a sacrament, which means it is an encounter with Jesus Christ. In a particular way, the bride and the groom, in offering their lives to each other (symbolized in their vows), pledge their selfless love for each other. This selfless love embodies and makes present the love of Jesus, who gave himself in love for his people. All who are present at a wedding can look at the bride and groom and see Jesus. More importantly, the bride and the groom look at each other and see Jesus' love.

## The Bride and the Groom are the Ministers of the Sacrament

In some ways, marriage is less about the ceremony or

the sacramental celebration than it is about the daily living of marital life. The priest (or deacon) is not the minister of the sacrament. He merely acts as the official witness of the church and the state (of course if the wedding takes place at Mass, the priest is the celebrant of the Mass). The bride and the groom marry each other, and as such, they are the ministers of the sacrament. The celebration of marriage, then, ought to be a reflection of the couple's faith and love.

## Marriage is a matter of faith

As a sacrament and an action of the Church, marriage both presupposes faith and renews and strengthens faith. The process of preparation for marriage invites couples to reflect on God's presence in their lives. In the Sacrament of Marriage, God "enriches and strengthens" the husband and wife by giving them his special gifts of grace to enable their daily living in marriage "in mutual and lasting fidelity."

## The Scriptures: God's Word to you, and your word to the world

Couples are invited to

choose the readings from the Bible that will be proclaimed at the wedding Liturgy. Normally three readings (one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament letters, and one from the Gospels) are proclaimed.

The Church provides many choices for each, and most parishes provide resources with background on each possible choice. The Scripture is the very Word of God speaking to the Church. Couples should reflect on what they believe God is speaking to them as they enter into Marriage, and they should also consider what they want to communicate about their own faith to those who will gather to celebrate with them on their wedding day.

## Vows: what you say, what you promise, what you live

The heart of the Rite of Marriage is the exchange of consent between the bride and the groom. In this moment, they, as ministers of the sacrament, express their lifelong commitment to love and honor each other, as the priest (or deacon) acts as a witness. It is often suggested that couples memorize their vows not only to experience the exchange of consent in a more powerful way, by speaking them from the heart, rather than repeating them phrase by phrase after the priest. In this they will also spend time pondering what the vows mean, and hopefully remember the words for years to come, as the words take on more and more

meaning in their day-to-day love and care for each other.

## Music: To stir the soul, lift the mind

Music for the celebration of Marriage not only adds beauty and dignity to the ceremony, but it has a more important liturgical function. In addition to music to accompany the procession of the ministers and the bridal party, music is an integral part of the Liturgy itself: the singing of the acclamations and responses by the assembly, hymns and songs at the entrance (gathering) and communion procession are prescribed in the Rite of Marriage. Music should reflect and communicate, above all, the mystery of God's love in Jesus, especially as it pertains to the couple joined together in marriage.

## Procession: Here comes the bride... and the groom!

What the movies depict isn't necessarily what the Church envisions. The bride and the groom enter freely and equally into marriage, and the entrance procession symbolizes that, as the couple approach the altar to stand before the Lord. The Rite of Marriage suggests that the liturgical ministers (priest, deacon, reader, servers) lead the procession, followed by the bride and bridegroom, each escorted by "at least their parents and the witnesses." Perhaps the groom goes first, led by his attendants and escorted by his parents, followed by the bride, led by her attendants and escorted by her parents.

## Ministries: More than bridal party

One of the important tasks couples undertake in planning their wedding is the selection of the bridal party. Couples invite siblings, cousins, and close friends to stand by them as attendants, who show their support by their close presence. They also perform a liturgical function as official witnesses of the marriage rite. There are other liturgical ministries to consider as well: readers to proclaim the readings from Scripture and announce the intentions of the general intercessions, family or friends to present the offertory gifts of bread and wine, or perhaps even servers to assist at the altar and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. All of this preparation takes place as couples work with the officiating priest (or deacon), who provides guidance throughout the process.

## Family + Friends = The Assembly

Couples invite their closest friends and members of their families to be part of their wedding day. That gathering also represents the community of the Church, as they surround the couple with their encouragement and their prayers. Above all, it is an occasion for worship: in celebrating the sacrament, the couple, together with their family and friends, forms a liturgical assembly, who stand before the Lord with hearts open to his loving power.


## Above all, pray!

The wedding liturgy (whether celebrated at Mass or apart from it) is an act of worship. As such, it is a time to offer praise and thanks to God for his gifts, and to seek his continued blessings and help in your lives. In particular, thank God for the gift of your spouse, and pray to the Lord to bless you and guide you together as you become witnesses of his love for each other and for the world.

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## ON THE FEAST OF CHAIR OF ST. PETER



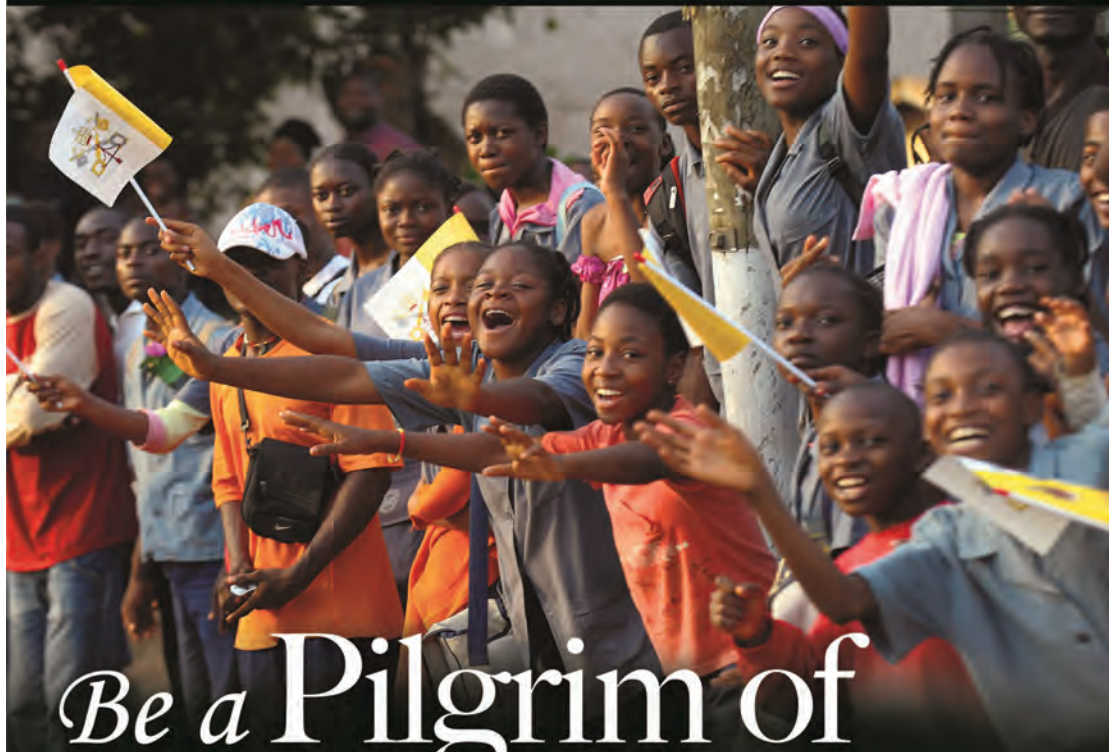
PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE  
 Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses the congregation at the conclusion of a special Mass for Pope Benedict XVI on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter Feb. 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The *North Country Catholic* will publish a papal tribute issue next week to mark Pope Benedict's Feb. 28 retirement.

## MARDI GRAS MADNESS



PHOTO BY LORRAINE TURGEON  
 Alex Larrow and his grandmother Sue Morse were among more than 130 people to attend the second annual Mardi Gras party held by the Catholic Community of Moriah.

# 2013 COLLECTION FOR THE WORKS OF THE HOLY FATHER



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Your generosity allows the Holy Father to bring hope - through timely and effective emergency assistance - to our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world. In solidarity with the Holy Father, we Catholics participate in works of goodness that distinguish us as followers of the Gospel.

**COLLECTION WEEKEND:  
 MARCH 9 & 10**

Wednesday, March 20, 2013 is a significant day for Catholics in New York State. It's the day you can join the Bishops of New York State and over 1,000 Catholics from throughout the state to speak with your legislators in Albany. We urge you to accept this invitation to gather with them in raising your voice for public policies that support the dignity and worth of each person.

Register today at:  
[www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)

Just click on Public Policy Day 2013 at the top of the home page. You will find directions for registering to attend the Public Policy Day. After you register, a representative from Catholic Charities in Ogdensburg will contact you for additional details and information.

**You must be registered to attend**

*The Official Public Policy Voice of the Catholic Church in the Empire State*  
Come to the New York State Catholic Conference's

# 2013 PUBLIC POLICY DAY

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 at the STATE CAPITAL in ALBANY**



## TAKE ACTION

### Put Your Catholic Faith Into Action!

- Demonstrate the strength and unity of the Catholic voice to state lawmakers.
- Learn about and advocate on critical social issues impacting our state.
- Worship at Mass with the State's Catholic Bishop's.
- Meet with Legislators, attend Senate and Assembly Committee meetings, watch your lawmakers in action.

### Issues in brief...

**Oppose Abortion Expansion:**  
Oppose the Abortion Expansion Plan.

**Preserving Catholic Schools:**  
Support accessibility to Catholic schools and equity for all school children.

**Increase Affordable Housing:**  
Support the development of affordable housing for low-income and vulnerable populations.

**Support for Imprisoned:**  
Support humane treatment for incarcerated individuals

**Support Just Health Reform:**  
Ensure that Medicaid redesign provides benefit to consumers and does not diminish quality care.

**Other Issues include:**

- Religious Liberty • Respect Life
- Marriage and Family Life • Human Services
- Criminal Justice • Health Care

## JOIN THE NETWORK!

### LOVE IMPLIES JUSTICE Catholics at the Capital



You are invited to join your voice with those of the Bishops of New York State and over 1,000 Catholics in Albany. Your participation is needed to demonstrate the strength of Catholic convictions to your state lawmakers. The day will include delegations to speak with legislators, workshops on the issues, a special prayer gathering with the Knights of Columbus, and a Rosary Procession from the Convention Center to the Cathedral for Mass. You can find information about the 2013 Legislative Agenda, review the You Tube summary and register at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)

#### Schedule of Events

- 8:30 a.m. Registration Opens (Outside Convention Center)
- 9:00 a.m. Legislative Meetings Begin (Legislative Office Building and State Capitol)  
Some participants will attend pre-scheduled meetings with elected representatives throughout the day.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Youth Workshop (Meeting Room 6, Empire State Plaza)
- 11:00 a.m. - Keynote Address: Kim Daniels Catholic Voices USA National Director (Convention Center)
- 11:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lunch  
Boxed Lunches will be served in the Convention Center where you may sit to dine or take your lunch to Meeting Room 6 to enjoy it there!
- 12:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Rosary/Prayer Rally (Convention Center)  
The New York State Council of the K of C, led by State Deputy Sal Restivo, will be praying the Rosary for all those advocating with lawmakers. Come join them!
- 1:00 p.m. Rosary Procession  
From the Convention Center to the Cathedral led by the Knights of Columbus
- 1:30 p.m. Mass (Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Madison Ave)
- 3:00 p.m. Buses Depart Madison Avenue

#### About Us

The New York State Catholic Conference represents the Bishops of New York State in matters of Public Policy. The role of the Conference is to seek justice, fairness and charity for all, with a particular emphasis on the poor and vulnerable.

Our positions transcend political platforms or ideologies. The Conference is neither Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative. Our positions are based on the principles of Catholic social teaching and recognition of the innate dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God.

The Conference advocates for the agenda of the Bishops as it relates to state government. We seek to work in partnership with the state to fashion public policies that respect the human person from conception until natural death. Our positions and statements are made with malice toward none and charity toward all.

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the New York State Catholic Conference is to identify, formulate and implement the public policy objectives of the Catholic Bishops of New York State. As one body, the Conference provides a unified voice and the means for joint action through which the eight Catholic dioceses in the 63-county state can impact the development of public policies in the areas of health, education, welfare, human and civil rights.

The Conference seeks to fulfill the vision of the Vatican Council II, which called on the Church to be more involved in the world, and the call of Pope John Paul II in Centesimus Annus for Catholics to become personally involved in and committed to transforming the public policy process to better serve the needy and vulnerable.

The primary objective of the Conference is to reaffirm the sacredness of human life, demonstrating that 'the human person is central, the clearest reflection of God among us' (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). Thus the policies pursued by the Conference seek to enhance human dignity, foster the common good, and provide for the fulfillment of individual potential from conception to natural death.

With the Gospels and the social teachings of the Church as its foundation, the New York State Catholic Conference offers a specifically Catholic contribution to state and federal public policy debates. It achieves this by:

- working with the three branches of government to fashion laws, regulations and policies which respect human life, meet human needs, and serve the common good;
- speaking officially for the Church before government bodies and private organizations;
- providing a forum for Church personnel to meet, exchange information, deliberate and recommend policies or actions to the Bishops;
- studying all aspects of pressing social and moral questions and fostering public understanding of the Church's teachings;
- highlighting the moral dimensions of critical public issues;
- encouraging Catholic citizens to communicate with their elected representatives regarding the Church's concerns;
- working in cooperation with other faith groups and advocacy organizations to ensure that the needs of all New Yorkers are met.

**THIS IS IMPORTANT... You want to know about this!**

You are invited to join

**New York State Catholic Conference Public Policy Network**

- ✓ Keep informed of the current issues that are important to the Church. ✓ There is no cost for membership.
- ✓ You will receive Legislative Alerts. ✓ With just a click you can make your voice heard in Albany.

It is easy to join by visiting the New York State Catholic Conference website: [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)

# Funeral held Feb. 21 for Dominican Sister of Hope

OSSINING, N.Y. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Dominican Sister Noella Letourneau, 87, of the Dominican Sisters of Hope was held Feb. 21 at the Chapel at Mariandale Center. She died Feb. 18 at the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

The daughter of the late Louis and Alphonsine Lefrance Letourneau, she was born Dec. 25, 1926 in Fall River, Mass.

Sister Noella entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Fall River on Feb. 2,

1947, made her first profession July 30, 1948, and final profession July 30, 1951. Sister Noella earned her bachelor's degree in history/social sciences from Regis College in Massachusetts and a master's degree in religious education from Providence College.

Sister Noella taught at schools in Massachusetts, New York

and Connecticut including service as a teacher at St. Peter's School in Plattsburgh 1958-59.

From 1961-63, she was formation director for the Dominican novices in North Dartmouth, Mass. She served on the General Council of the Dominican Sisters from 1970-78.

From 1976-87, Sister was director of religious education at St. Thomas More Parish in Narragansett RI; and in 1987, she was appointed pastoral associate of the same parish. She retired from that role in 2003 and moved to the Newburgh Center of Hope in December of that year.

She resided at the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon, NY since 2009.

Sister Noella is survived by her sister Rita Lacroix and nieces and a nephew.

Donations in Sister Noella's memory can be made to The Dominican Sisters of Hope, Development Office, 299 North Highland Avenue, Ossining, New York 10562-2327



Sr. Noella Letourneau



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## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

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Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

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Rosary  
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Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

March



St. Joseph

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more copies write to: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669					BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY 1	REV. JEAN CLAUDE KILUMBU 2
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REV. ROBERT O. LAMITE 10	REV. VICTOR E. LAMORE 11	REV. KRIS C. LAUZON 12	MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER P.A. V.G. 13	REV. PAUL F. LEDERMANN 14	BISHOP EMERITUS BENEDICT 15	REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS 16
REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY 17	REV. JOHN J. LOOBY V.F. 18	REV. DOUGLAS J. LUCIA 19	REV. SHANE M. LYNCH 20	REV. DONALD J. MANFRED 21	RETIRED PRIESTS 22	REV. GEORGE F. MAROUN 23
REV. LAWRENCE E. MARSH 24	MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY 25	MSGR. ROBERT J. MCCARTHY 26	REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN 27	REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS 28	DECEASED PRIESTS 29	REV. BERNARD D. MENARD 30

For more information visit us online at: www.nppapostolate.com  
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocational Society www.myvocation.net

### Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 27 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Feb. 28 – 11 a.m., Council of Priests meeting at Best Western Motel in Saranac Lake

March 1 – 7 p.m., Canon law class for deacon candidates at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 2 – 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 5 – 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

### Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister 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  
March 13 - 6:30 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

### Environmental Stewardship

*It is manifestly unjust that a privileged few should continue to accumulate excess goods, squandering available resources, while masses of people are living in conditions of misery at the very lowest level of subsistence."*

Pope John Paul II.

#### Did you know?

- U.S. comprises 5% of the world's population, but consumes 30% of the world's goods?
- Shop less. Resist the urge to shop as entertainment. Replace recreational shopping with Sabbath time.
- Clean closets. Discover what's forgotten. Donate anything not used for two years.
- Stop junk mail. Visit www.41pounds.org. Less mailbox clutter means less pollution and less waste going to landfills.

Taken from www.lent45.org

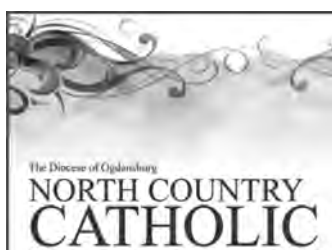
### Rest in Peace

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

- March 1 – Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brazana, 1997
- March 2 – Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952
- March 3 – Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009
- March 4 – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934
- March 5 – Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951

### 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



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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Canonist explains 'rigid, highly formal' rules for electing pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The voting by cardinals to elect the next pope takes place behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, following a highly detailed procedure that underwent major revisions by Blessed John Paul II and a small, but very significant change, by Pope Benedict XVI. Under the rules, secret ballots can be cast once on the first day of the conclave, then normally twice during each subsequent morning and evening session. Except for periodic pauses, the voting continues until a new pontiff is elected with at least two-thirds of the votes. Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, reviewed the rules with reporters at the Vatican Feb. 22. Introducing Bishop Arrieta, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said Pope Benedict at any minute might be signing a document with minor changes to the law, but the changes would make sense only if one knew the general laws for a conclave. Many observers had expected Pope Benedict to clarify that the cardinals have the option of beginning the conclave once all the cardinals are in Rome, even if that occurs sooner than the law's required 15 days after the beginning of the "sede vacante," literally the vacant see, left by the pope's resignation. Bishop Arrieta told reporters that in his opinion the cardinals could make that decision on their own, without a change to the law, since the law was "clearly written with a 'sede vacante' because of death in mind." However, he also said that as the church's supreme legislator, Pope Benedict, before leaving, also could set the date for the conclave, "although I have no information that he would do so."

## Papal biographer: Fixing Vatican bureaucracy a top job for next pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Threats to religious freedom around the world, the human costs of globalization, media transformed by the revolution in information technology -- these are some of the challenges that the next pope is bound to face in leading the church. According to one highly informed observer, the next pope will also have an urgent task at home: reforming the Roman Curia, the church's central administration at the Vatican. "The curia not infrequently caused acute embarrassment to (Pope) Benedict XVI, putting obstacles in the way of his evangelical, catechetical and pastoral efforts, and interfering with the pope's attempts to reframe the global agenda of debate on the crucial issues facing humanity," writes George Weigel in his new book, "Evangelical Catholicism." The author, a biographer of Blessed John Paul II and a well-known commentator on Catholic issues, paints a picture of an inefficient bureaucracy where incompetence often goes unpunished and all too many players serve their own ambition rather than the interests of the church. "Things are in fact worse now, in my view, than they have been in perhaps 40 years," Weigel told Catholic News Service. "Everyone who does not have a vested interest in the status quo understands that a major task in the early going of the next pontificate is going to be not only to change structure but to change attitude

What the church needs now:

# Synod gives clues to cardinals' priorities

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - One task facing the College of Cardinals already has been completed: A job description for the Catholic Church's chief evangelizer already is written.

He must be humble, but firmly grounded in church teaching; joyful and enthusiastic; willing to listen to and dialogue with others; and courageous in defending human rights, including the right to freedom of religion.

Before the cardinals enter the Sistine Chapel to begin voting for a successor to Pope Benedict XVI, they will hold meetings in the Vatican synod hall to discuss the current needs of the church.

Many of them sat in the same room for three weeks in October discussing the same thing, so they won't be starting from scratch.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, and 52 of the 117 cardinals who are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote for a new pope participated in the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization.

While emphases may change when the cardinals meet after Feb. 28, it is unlikely they will try to reinvent the wheel and almost impossible that they will come up with a new topic for discussion.

The synod discussions covered the most crucial issues facing the church around the world: proclaiming the Gospel; catechesis; the meaning and role of the family; parish life; the role of new movements; liturgy and the sacraments; the clerical sexual abuse crisis; relations with other Christians; dialogue with other religions; challenges to religious freedom; the message of the Sec-

ond Vatican Council; the challenges and opportunities raised by science and technology; and dialogue with nonbelievers.

The topics were seen as key elements in living the Catholic faith today.

And while no one gave a speech dedicated specifically to the administrative working of the Vatican bureaucracy and consternation caused by the "VatiLeaks" scandal that led to the arrest and conviction of Pope Benedict's butler, synod members did discuss the values that must inspire the way the church works in the world.

The new pope will have to be the Catholic Church's chief evangelist and, discussing the qualities an evangelist must have, synod members focused on humility, prayerfulness and a willingness to listen.

Of course, they added other qualities as well, including a thorough knowledge of Scripture and theology and an ability to communicate, whether through languages or the new media -- qualities that also are on most people's check list for a new pope.

Cardinal Luis Tagle of Manila, Philippines, told the synod that evangelizers must imitate the humility of Jesus -- who was willing to become human, to suffer and to die for humanity -- and the love of Jesus, particularly for "those neglected and despised by the world."

Being humble also means recognizing when the church does not have all the answers, and therefore being willing to remain silent, he said, adding that "a church at home with silence will make the voiceless believe they are not alone."

Polish Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the Congregation for Catholic

Education, told the synod that the greatest obstacle a priest or theologian faces in becoming an effective evangelizer "is without a doubt pride, along with its natural ally, selfishness. The obsession with becoming great, original (and) important reduces more than a few to being 'pastors who shepherd themselves and not their flocks,'" as St. Augustine once said.

Synod members also called for church leaders who radiate joy and enthusiasm and who are not afraid to use new media and new structures "to move from a pastoral strategy of maintenance to a pastoral position that is truly missionary."

As Australian Cardinal George Pell told reporters during the synod, church meetings can be well-planned and faith-filled, "but we need fire, energy -- that's what the new evangelization is all about."

"We're in the midst of an enormous struggle between good and evil, faith and fear on a supernatural as well as a natural level," he said. "We could do with a bit more bite."

Before the conclave, the cardinals obviously will discuss the serious problems and challenges facing the church today. But if they follow the synod's prescription, they will look for a leader who chooses optimism over gloom.

The synod's final message said, "We are not intimidated by the circumstances of the times in which we live. Our world is full of contradictions and challenges, but it remains God's creation. The world is wounded by evil, but God loves it still. It is his field in which the sowing of the Word can be renewed so that it would bear fruit once more."

*As cardinals from around the world gather in Rome*

# Twelve to watch

By Cindy Wooden and Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** - Wherever journalists and bookmakers may be getting the names on their lists of top candidates for the next pope, it's not from the cardinals who will actually vote in the election. Both custom and canon law forbid the cardinals to discuss the matter in such detail with outsiders.

Moreover, the true "papa-bili" -- literally, pope-ables -- are likely to emerge only after all the worlds' cardinals -- not just the 117 who will be under 80 and eligible to vote -- begin meeting at the Vatican in the coming days.

One thing is already clear, however: because of their experience and the esteem they enjoy among their peers, certain cardinals are likely to serve as trusted advisers to the rest in the discussions and election.

Here, in alphabetical order, are 12 cardinals expected to have a major voice in the deliberations:

## **An American**

Conventional wisdom has long held that the cardinals will never elect an American pope, lest the leadership of the church appear to be linked with the United States' economic and geopolitical dominance.

But the extroverted and jocular Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, 63, charmed and impressed many in the College of Cardinals in February 2012 when he delivered the main presentation at a meeting Pope Benedict XVI had called to discuss the new evangelization.

Pope Benedict himself praised the New York archbishop's presentation on how to revive the faith in increasingly secular societies as "enthusiastic, joyful and profound."

## **Major figure in Europe**

Although not a familiar name in the press, Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, 60, is a major figure among his peers in Europe, the church's traditional heartland and the region of more than half the cardinal electors. He was elected to a second five-year term as president of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences in 2011.

## **Cardinal from Quebec**

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, 68, is a member of the Society of St. Sulpice, whose members are, strictly speaking, diocesan priests but which is normally considered a religious order. Hence he is one of only 19 members of religious orders among the cardinal electors, who are overwhelmingly diocesan clergy.

He is prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, which coordinates the nomination of bishops in Latin-rite dioceses around the world, so his work has brought him into frequent contact with most of his fellow cardinal-electors.

As president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, he is well acquainted with one of the church's largest and fastest-growing regions. The former archbishop of Quebec, who taught at the John Paul II Institute at Rome's Pontifical Lateran University, is also a well-respected theologian.

## **Papal retreat leader**

Italian Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, 70, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, was the prelate chosen by Pope Benedict to lead his 2013 Lenten retreat, which will make him a prominent voice at the Vatican in the run-up to the election.

The cardinal, a scholar with little direct pastoral experience, has been leading

the universal church's efforts to develop a nonconfrontational dialogue with nonbelievers, trying to make Christianity intelligible to the modern mind and build a reason-based consensus on key moral issues.

## **President of Caritas International**

Another religious, a Salesian, Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, 70, is president of Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella group of national Catholic charities around the world. As a result, many of his peers have come to know the multilingual cardinal as the person spearheading assistance to the neediest of their people.

He aroused controversy in 2002 with remarks about clergy sex abuse that struck some as overly defensive of accused priests and the church's past policies. But he was already widely mentioned as a possible pope before the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict.

## **Prefect for Eastern churches**

Argentine Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, 69, was born to parents of Italian descent and has maintained strong ties with both Italy and Argentina. As prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, he is familiar with the challenges facing Eastern Catholics and the pastoral concerns of the church in the Middle East.

He has worked in the Vatican for more than a dozen years, and previously served as nuncio to Venezuela and then Mexico. His only experience in a parish was a brief assignment shortly after his ordination as a priest.

## **Voice for charity**

Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah, 67, is president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which promotes Catholic

charitable giving. He has used his leadership to emphasize Pope Benedict's teaching that Catholic charitable activity must not be simple philanthropy, but an expression of faith, rooted in prayer and Catholic identity. A scripture scholar and former diocesan bishop, he served nine years as secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

## **A South American leader**

Another leading voice of the South American church is 63-year-old Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer of Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest diocese. The son of German immigrants, he also has strong ties to Rome. He studied philosophy and theology at Rome's Pontifical Brazilian College and Pontifical Gregorian University and worked as an official of the Congregation for Bishops from 1994 to 2001.

## **Editor of the Catechism**

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn, 68, has known Pope Benedict for almost 40 years, having studied under him at the University of Regensburg, Germany.

Even before his former professor became pope, the cardinal was well known at the Vatican and in wider church circles.

He was invited in 1996 to preach Blessed John Paul II's Lenten retreat and was the main editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, published in 1992.

As the church in Austria has struggled with declining attendance and calls for change in some of its most basic disciplines, Cardinal Schonborn's response has received increasing attention, with some praising his prudence and pastoral sensitivity, and others calling for more decisive action.

## **Archbishop of Milan**

Italian Cardinal Angelo Scola, 71, is the archbishop of Milan, the archdiocese led by both Popes Pius XI and Paul VI when they were elected. He previously served as patriarch of Venice, once the see of Blessed John XXIII. The cardinal, a respected academic theologian rather than a popular preacher, has longstanding ties to one of the new church movements, Communion and Liberation, which is based in his archdiocese.

## **Young Philippine**

Philippine Cardinal Luis Tagle of Manila, 55, is one of the youngest and newest members of the College of Cardinals. Although he did not receive his red hat until November 2012, he had already made a name for himself at the world Synod of Bishops on the Word of God in 2008.

This leader of one of the world's fastest-growing churches is a popular speaker with a doctorate in systematic theology and has served on the International Theological Commission, an advisory body to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

## **African biblical scholar**

Cardinal Peter Turkson is the 64-year-old former archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana, and current president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The cardinal, a biblical scholar who was active in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue, has frequently appeared on lists of possible popes. He aroused controversy in 2011 with a proposal for a "world central bank" to regulate the global financial industry, and then in October 2012 when he showed bishops at the Vatican a video warning about the growth of Muslim populations in Europe.

# To evangelize youths who have drifted from church

By David Gouger  
Catholic News Service

OMAHA, NEB. (CNS) -- Todd Christensen can't really pinpoint when he started to drift away from the Catholic Church.

Growing up, the 27-year-old attended Mass with his family and religious education classes at St. Leo the Great Parish in Omaha.

But like so many young adult Catholics, that changed after high school when Christensen moved to Lincoln for college. Mass became an afterthought and soon he was attending only on special occasions such as Christmas.

About a third of the nation's 96.5 million baptized Catholics have left the faith at some point in their lives, often in their teens and early 20s, surveys indicate.

And, like Christensen, it's usually not an earthshaking development that causes a

break from the church.

Many former Catholics say they just fall away from the faith rather than cite any one specific reason for leaving, said Mark Gray, director of Catholic polls and a research associate at Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

During this Year of Faith and the church's emphasis on a new evangelization, there are renewed efforts to prevent that disconnect -- and to bring young Catholics back -- that include personal invitations to the faith; use of the sacraments, including reconciliation; and religious education programs that involve the entire family.

Christensen's personal invitation came from his mother, who referred him to a Catholic psychologist when he was going through a difficult breakup with a girlfriend.

Meeting on and off with

the counselor for about a year, Christensen said he realized he missed his faith.

## Go 'where they are'

Now, he's a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Omaha and appreciates practicing his faith and sharing in the parish community.

"Having faith makes you feel that you're not quite as alone and gives you a sense of direction and purpose," he told the Catholic Voice, newspaper of the Omaha Archdiocese.

Peers also can encourage a return to the faith. For example, personal invitations to Mass and the sacrament of reconciliation are offered through the campus ministry program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said Father Paul Hoelsing, director of vocations and the archdiocese's liaison with college ministry at UNO and Wayne

State College in Wayne.

When school is in session, Father Hoelsing celebrates a Mass for college students and hears confession on Sunday nights at St. Margaret Mary Church in Omaha. He began offering the Mass more than three years ago and added confession a year later. The crowds have grown so large he often hears confessions for about an hour and Father James Weeder, associate pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, sometimes helps out, Father Hoelsing said.

College-age students sometimes drift away from the church because of newfound freedoms, they don't know enough about the faith or they encounter worldly distractions, Father Hoelsing said. Mass and confession can draw young adults back, he said, with peers inviting them and sharing their faith experiences while building a

relationship with Christ.

"Someone in that circle is practicing their faith and invited someone," he told the Catholic Voice. "That's the lifeline."

While various strategies can invite people back, helping youths develop a strong relationship with Christ through their families and the community can help prevent drift in the first place, said Bill Beckman, director of the archdiocese's Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

From retreats and rallies to parish youth ministries and faith-formation programs and organizations, the archdiocese tries to reach young people from elementary school into college and beyond, he said.

"The sooner people meet Christ at that level and say 'yes' from within, the more likely it is that they won't be leaving the church," he said.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC



'As the *Year of Faith* continues through 2013, I hope that we will all proclaim, even more boldly, the gift of our precious Catholic faith. Our diocesan newspaper, the *North Country Catholic* is a vital means that we have to help us embrace this lifelong mission.'

~Bishop Terry R. LaValley



Photo by Betty Steele

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## It's time to get rid of sinfulness in our lives

One of the last homilies of our recent Holy Father, Pope

Benedict XVI, emphasizes how intimately our Church is connected to Sacred Scripture and must always preach the Word,

It is so important for every Catholic to hear God speaking personally in the readings we hear at Mass.

The first reading this Sunday narrates God's call to Moses. Up to this point, Moses had been just a lowly shepherd "on the run" for murdering an Egyptian.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

He is about to become a man with a mission. As he is tending the sheep one day, his attention is drawn to a bush on fire—and the bush is not destroyed.

As he approaches, he hears a divine command to take off his sandals. Then, in shock, He hears God calling him to free his own people, the Israelites, from slavery.

He gives God excuse after excuse in protest, but to no avail. God then reveals His name to Moses: "I am who Am--Yahweh! In fear and trembling, Moses goes back to Egypt to announce God's

decision to the elders.

He's armed with the power of God's name, never revealed before. He is a God who is always present to His world - "I am who Am".

On our Christian journey through Lent, we, too, like Moses are often reluctant to carry out the work God called us to at our Baptism.

That mission is to be Christ-bearers to the world, preaching the Gospel by the example of our lives.

In Lent especially, we do this through daily prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, as well as through love and service to our neighbor.

Should we stick to our comfort zone this Sunday as

## MARCH 3

## Third Sunday of Lent

## READINGS

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15  
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
Luke 13:1-9

we hear Jesus struggle to convince his "righteous" hearers that it's time for action, time for them to repent of their sins and change their ways before God's grows tired, and brings them to final justice?

Toward the end of the Gospel, Jesus tells them about the owner of the vineyard who wants to cut down his barren fig tree. Year

after year, he's waited. Now he's tired of waiting. Fortunately, he's persuaded to wait just one more year... just one more year!

That fig tree is a symbol of each one of us today.

In what way have we perhaps exhausted God's patience? Lent is the time for some action on our part that will remedy that.

St. Paul, in his exhortation to the Corinthians, is urging them not to be complacent with all the good they have done, but to make sure they have gotten rid of any sinfulness in their lives.

The message this week is a serious one. The time for God's patience ends with Judgment Day.

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

## Debating birth control in the public square

Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, in his Dec. 13, 2012 op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal*, argues that the cost of birth control could be reduced by eliminating the required doctor's visit to get a prescription — making contraception available "over the counter."

If it were made available this way, it would no longer be reimbursable by health insurance, and people could simply purchase it on their own.

Jindal posits that this approach would result in "the end of birth control politics." He relies on several simplistic assumptions and inadequate moral judgments, however, as he tries to advance this argument.

First, he misconstrues the objective. The goal should not be to remove birth control from political debate, but rather to arrive at rea-

sonable medical, ethical and constitutional judgments about birth control and public policy.

Contraception is an important topic for public discussion because it touches on basic human and social goods, such as children, family, and sexual fidelity.

Indeed, laws about contraception have always been based upon concerns for the public good and public order, as in the case of the State of Connecticut, which in 1879 enacted strong legislation outlawing contraception, specified as the use of "any drug, medicinal article or instrument for the purpose of preventing conception."

This law, similar to the anti-contraception laws of many other states, was in effect for nearly 90 years before it was reversed in 1965.

These laws codified the longstanding public judgment that contraception was harmful to society because it promoted promiscuity, adultery and other evils.

It relied on the nearly universal conviction that children should be seen as a gift and a blessing to society, and that, in the words of one social commentator, "a healthy society, however tolerant at the margins, must be based on the perception that sex is essentially procreative, with its proper locus in a loving family."

Yet Gov. Jindal fails to engage these core concerns, and instead retreats behind a common cultural cliché when he goes on to say: "Contraception is a personal matter—the government shouldn't be in the business of banning it or requiring a woman's employer to keep tabs on her use of it."

If it is true that contraception is often harmful to individuals and families, to marriage and to women's health, then it clearly has broader public policy implications, and is, objectively speaking, not merely a "per-

sonal matter".

Consider just a few of the health issues: contracepting women have increased rates of cardiovascular and

thromboembolic events, including increased deep vein thrombosis, strokes, pulmonary emboli (blood clots in the lungs), and heart attacks.

Newer 3rd and 4th generation combination birth control pills, which were supposed to lower cardiovascular risks, may actu-

ally increase those risks, and recently there have been class action lawsuits brought against the manufacturers of Yaz, Yasmin and Ocella, because women have died from such events.

In seeking to serve the public interest, the government may determine to become involved in such matters, as it did back in 1879, through specific legislative initiatives or through other forms of reg-

ulatory oversight.

Indeed, the recent deployment of the HHS contraceptive mandate, as a component of ObamaCare, reflects an awareness of the public ramifications of this issue, even though the mandate itself is profoundly flawed and ultimately subverts the public interest.

It compels Americans, unbelievably, to pay for the sexual proclivities of their neighbors, not only by requiring employers to cover costs for the Pill in their health plans, but also to pay for other morally objectionable procedures, including direct surgical sterilizations and potential abortion-causing drugs like the "morning-after" pill.

Gov. Jindal goes on to argue, "As an unapologetic pro-life Republican, I also believe that every adult (18 years old and over) who wants contraception should be able to purchase it."

Yet Gov. Jindal is really quite apologetic (and inconsistent) in his pro-life stance by arguing in this fashion.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.  
E-mail [cward@diogdensburg.org](mailto:cward@diogdensburg.org)  
to sign up today.

## AT THE MOVIES

## A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD

By Adam Shaw  
Catholic News Service

The quarter-century-old action franchise that started with 1988's "Die Hard" seems to have reached its own death throes with "A Good Day to Die Hard" (Fox). This fifth installment rests on the premise that killing can be an awful lot of fun.

New York detective and series protagonist John McClane (Bruce Willis) is on the trail of his son Jack (Jai Courtney) who appears to have gotten in with the wrong crowd in Moscow. Things in Mother Russia are not what they seem, however, and an explosives-ridden car chase reveals that the elder McClane has un-

derestimated his offspring. Mostly reconciled, despite some lingering resentment, Dad and Junior team up to protect a government whistleblower named Komarov (Sebastian Koch) from a variety of villains. In the process, of course, they kick up just the kind of carnage that made the quartet of earlier flicks box-office gold.

In a misguided attempt to keep the proceedings light-hearted, director John Moore presents a jaunty view of bloodletting. And, on occasion, he invites the audience to revel in the mayhem; slow-motion death scenes make an obvious appeal to moviegoers' basest, most visceral instincts.

he rudimentary efforts at

character development in Skip Woods' screenplay, meanwhile, are drowned amidst a murky tide of run-and-gun action.

The film contains constant violence, some of it

gory, occasional profanity, frequent rough and crude language and two obscene gestures. 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/FOX

Jai Courtney and Bruce Willis star in a scene from the movie "A Good Day to Die Hard."

## Debating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Contraception can never be pro-life. It regularly serves as a gateway to abortion, with abortion functioning as the "backup" to failed contraception for countless women and their partners.

Abortion and contraception are two fruits of the same tree, being anti-child and therefore anti-life at the root. Certain "emergency" contraceptives (like Plan B and the new morning-after pill known as EllaOne) also appear able to function directly as abortifacients. IUD's can function similarly, making the uterine lining hostile for an arriving human embryo, and forcing a loss of life to occur through a failure to implant.

Gov. Jindal, a committed Catholic, should not be minimizing the medical and moral risks associated with promoting contraceptive use, nor lessening social vigilance by promoting "over the counter" availability. Committed Catholics and politicians of con-

science can better advance the public discourse surrounding contraception by avoiding such forms of circumlocution, and instead, directly addressing the medical and ethical evils of contraception and the unacceptability of the coercive HHS mandate itself.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)



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## CLINTON

## LENTE PARISH MISSION

**Chazy** – Sacred Heart Church will be hosting a Lenten Parish Mission entitled "The Journey of Life."

**Schedule:** All weekend Masses March 2-3; March 4-6 at 7 p.m.

**Speaker:** Msgr. Leeward Poissant

**Topics:** Weekend Masses – "Packing for the Trip"; Mon. Night – "Which Road Should I Be On?"; Tues. Night – "What If I Make A Wrong Turn"; Wed. Night – "Where Do I Go From Here?"

## SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**Mooers Forks** – St. Ann's will be having their annual Sunday breakfast including cinnamon buns.

**Date:** March 3

**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** St. Ann's Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Seniors 65 and over, \$7; Children 6-10, \$3; under 5, Free

## FISH FRY

**Chazy** – Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring their all you can eat Annual Fish Fry.

**Date:** March 8

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

**Cost:** Adults and all take-outs, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5

**Features:** Fried perch, macaroni and cheese, tater tots, cole slaw, dessert.

## LENTE ADORATION

**Plattsburgh** – St. Peter's Church will offer weekday adoration during Lent through 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.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** March 3

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

## CORNED BEEF DINNER

**Peru** – Court St. Monica of St. Augustine's is having its annual Corned Beef Dinner.

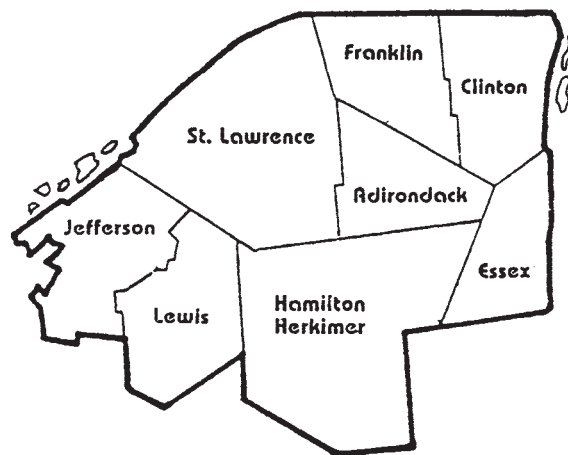
**Date:** March 16

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

**Place:** St. Augustine Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 4-12, \$4

**Entertainment:** Don-Yo DJ Service



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.

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

**Plattsburgh** – The Elizabeth Seton Chapter of the National Honor Society will host a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

**Date:** March 23

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

**Place:** Seton Academy

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; children under 12, \$5

**Features:** All profits will go toward the Seton Catholic "40 Days of Hope" project.

## SOUP-SALAD-BREAD

**Altona** – Holy Angels will hold Soup-Salad-Bread Wednesdays during Lent.

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Time:** 5:15 p.m. to 6:30; 6:30-7 pray before the Blessed Sacrament with Stations of the Cross; 7 p.m. Celebrate Mass.

**Contact:** Sandy or Fr. Gilbert, 236-5848

## 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

## LENTE BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

**Ellenburg Center** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a

Lenten Bible Study Program.

**Dates:** 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 toolaprayhouse@gmail.com

## LENTE 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 olaprayhouse@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.

**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

## ESSEX

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

**Elizabethtown** – St. Elizabeth's will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner.

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 6

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$11; children under 12, \$5  
**Features:** Corned Beef or Ham, cabbage, carrots, potatoes with drink and dessert. Take-out available after 1:30 p.m. Tickets for a cash raffle and other items

## 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.

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

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

## FRANKLIN

## LENTE MISSION

**Chateaugay** – Father Ray Moreau will lead a Lenten Mission

**Dates:** March 9-13

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

**Schedule:** Weekend Masses 4 p.m., 11 a.m. (St. Patrick) and 9 a.m. (St. George), each evening at 7 p.m.

**Topics:** Exploring our relationship with God: "Our Journey to God"; "The Yellow Brick Road"; "The Potholes in the Road" and "The Eternal City".

## 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

## LENTE 4.5 PROGRAM

**Watertown** – "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus, embracing Christian Simplicity", this six week program explores ways of living in harmony with Creation, God and the whole human family.

**Date:** March 7, 14, 21; April 10, 17, 24

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 11 OR 6:30 p.m. to 8.

**Place:** Hearthside Hospitality Center at Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse

**Cost:** \$5 per session for materials and light refreshments

**Contact:** 324-5718 or 782-3460; www.lent45.org for more information

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

**Evans Mills** – A spaghetti and meatball dinner will be held to benefit Indian River Knights of Columbus

**Date:** March 9

**Time:** Serving starts at 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Prices:** \$7, adults; \$6, senior citizens; \$5, under 12; and free, children under 5.

## HOOF AND FEATHER DINNER

**Evans Mills** – The Indian River K of C will have a Hoof and Feather Dinner, featuring beef stew and /or chicken & biscuit

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Date:** March 2

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Cost:** \$5 per person

## 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** – "Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith" to be shown.

**Dates:** 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

## 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.



## 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

# Young girl who gave of herself

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

Pauline Marie Jaricot was *only a girl*, a very young girl, who lived a long time ago. However, she set something in motion that 190 years later is still doing a marvelous amount of good in the world.

She cared and she gave of herself. Any one, girl or boy, man or woman can do this much.

### PAULINE MARIE JARICOT - A PRAYER

*Lord, You inspired Pauline Marie Jaricot to found the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Living Rosary.*

*You gave her a total commitment to the welfare of the poor.*

*May her example lead a greater number of Christians to devote themselves to spreading the good news of the Gospel*

*so that all nations and peoples may discover your infinite love revealed to the world*

*in Jesus Christ, our Lord*  
*Amen*

Today, the task of the Pontifical Mission Societies is to kindle this renewed missionary "flame" in every member of the faithful and encourage awareness and collaboration between peoples and Dioceses especially towards the needs of those regions of great need and of first evangelization.

The recitation of the Rosary, a prayer recommended by the Pope and dear to our foundress, Pauline Marie Jaricot "will accompany the work of evangelizing the world and, for many of the baptized to rediscover and deepen the faith".

*If you are interested in a World Mission Rosary, please contact the Mission Office at 315-393-2920 and we would be happy to forward them to you as long as supplies last.*

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

Visit our website

[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!



## OBITUARIES

**Adams** – Charles David Hudson, 72; Funeral Feb. 21, 2013 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Ellisburg Cemetery.

**Canton** – Irene I. (Burnham) Jenne, 91; Funeral Feb. 22, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – James C. Clark, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 23, 2013 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Kenneth M. Barbarito, 53; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2013 at Scanlon Funeral Home.

**Keeseville** – Henriette (Pinard) Bourdeau, 71; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Elizabeth L. Benware, 99; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2013 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Marion M. (Laraby) Lucy, 95; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Massena** – Romse Marie (Olsufka) Brown, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Mineville** – Jerome "Jerry" F. Brassard, 64; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2013 at All Saints Church.

**Mineville** – Beverly Ann Baldwin DeZalia, 68; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2013 at All Saints Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Moers** – Shirley V. (Neverett) Manor, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Shirley Hope (LaVallee) Tourville, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Norfolk** – Jeannine C. (LeGault) LaShomb, 76; Funeral Services March 1, 2013 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Gary A. LaRock, 52; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2013 at Allen-Nichols Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Peru** – Carol A. Barcomb-Reno, 53; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2013 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

**Plattsburgh** – Shirley M. Tripp Conners, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2013 at Our

Lady of Victory Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Mausoleum.

**Plattsburgh** – Donald G. Peets, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2013 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery, Ellenburg.

**Saranac Lake** – Gloria M. (Lavery) Brown, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Thomas Vagnarelli, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Tupper Lake** – Harlan W. LaFave, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2013 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** – George J. "Red" Riley, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2013 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*



## Order your 2013 Diocesan Directory!



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The Official 2013 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.  
Order online at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

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# Envisioning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- Understand and implement the criteria and expectations that come with the envisioning process so as to facilitate diocesan focus and three priorities of ministry.

- Work with the intent to share our process and procedures in order to strengthen collaborative relationships and ensure that our work complements guides and supports the leadership and skills of our priests, deacons,

religious and laity throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

- Prepare and support the execution plan to implement the Vision once we define it so as to inspire discipleship in parishes throughout our diocese.

## Expected outcomes

Bishop LaValley listed the outcomes he expects to be achieved in this process:

- To articulate, share and

pursue a *Mutually Shared Vision* (diocesan purpose, values, five year vision, and key priorities) for the Diocese of Ogdensburg by March of 2014.

- To host a series of "listening sessions" throughout the diocese to assist us in discerning what the People of God in Ogdensburg desire in terms of priorities in ministry and service.

- To assist Bishop LaValley in writing and publishing a

pastoral letter that addresses the purpose of the Mutually Shared Vision and our evolving diocesan priorities.

- To educate and inform at least three-four key consulting bodies, per quarter, as to our progress and to develop a communication plan for clarity as we promote and implement our diocesan priorities.

## Clear vision of Jesus' invitation

"I am truly excited as we

undertake this challenging and wonderful pursuit for clarity, unity and renewed energy in our shared vision to build up the local church," Bishop LaValley said.

"Through this process we gain clearer vision of Jesus' invitation to 'follow me,' the bishop said, "May we gain a renewed commitment to set aside everything so that we might respond wholeheartedly to his invitation."

# Around the diocese

## LEWIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

### DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

**Houseville** – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March to be held.

**Date:** March 3

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer). Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 348-6260

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

**Harrisville** – St. Francis Solanus Church will be having a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Date:** March 9

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 12-5, \$6; under 5, Free

**Features:** Baked Ham, mashed potatoes with ham milk gravy, cabbage salad, glazed carrots, rolls, beverage and homemade dessert. "Fraser Family and Friends" will be there to entertain with Irish music. Take-outs available after 4

### PARISH MISSION

**Lowville** – St. Peter's Church will be hosting a Parish Mission, "Renewing our Baptism to Jesus through Mary."

**Dates:** March 11-13

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Speaker:** Fr. Roy Tvrđik, SMM

## ST. LAWRENCE

### IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

**Heuvelton** – IHC Mystery Players will present a Mystery Play on the Stations of the Cross.

**Date:** March 24

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

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

### VIRTUAL TOUR OF ST. PETER'S

**Ogdensburg** – Father Bryan Stitt will lead a virtual tour of the Basilica of St. Peter

**Date:** March 14

**Time:** 7p.m.

**Place:** Bishop Brzana Memorial Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Program:** This "Virtual Tour" is offered as part of the Year of Faith to help people taste again for the first time the joy of Pilgrimage. Father Stitt, who currently serves as diocesan vocation director work as a tour guide at St. Peter's Tour guide from 1999 to 2001.

### K OF C BRUNCH

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

**Date:** March 10

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs

### LENENT PARISH MISSION

**Massena** – The Catholic Community of Massena/Louisville will host a Lenten Parish Mission.

**Schedule:** March 11 – New Evangelization, the Power of God's Word with Mass at St. Mary's Church; March 12 – Driving into God's Healing Presence, Mass with Communal Anointing for the Sick at Sacred Heart Church; March 13 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me: Renewing your contract to do God's Work, Mass at St. Mary's Church.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Features:** Fr. Doug Lucia Will speak on the theme "Tools for Beginning A New Life."

**Contact:** St. Mary's Parish Office at 315-764-0239 or Sacred Heart Parish at 315-769-2469

### FISH & SHRIMP FRY

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

**Date:** through 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

### LENENT 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

### CATHOLICISM SERIES

**Norfolk** – The Church of the Visitation's Catholicism program has begun for the

Lent and Easter season.

**Schedule:** Tuesday mornings – 9 a.m. Mass followed by a light social; 9:45 a.m. DVD presentation by discussion.

Wednesday evenings – 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by a light social; 6:30 p.m. DVD presentation followed by discussion.

**Contact:** 315-384-4242

### FISH DINNERS DURING LENT

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

**Date:** through March 22

**Time:** 5 p.m.

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

**Features:** Deep fried or oven baked. 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:** 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:** 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., 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

### 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. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus Charities

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, free; desserts, \$1 and cash bar

### 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

### 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 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.