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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 13, 2013

Conclave begins on Tuesday

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Cardinal electors assembled in Rome will begin voting for the next pope March 12. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, announced the date for the start of the

election, known as a conclave, in a message to reporters March 8.

The first session of voting inside the Sistine Chapel will begin in the afternoon, following a morning Mass "Pro eligendo Summo Pontifice" ("for the election of the supreme pontiff") in St. Peter's Basilica.

Rules governing papal elections state that a conclave must start between 15 and 20 days after the Holy See falls vacant; but shortly before his resignation Feb. 28, Pope Benedict XVI issued a decree allowing cardinal to move up the start date if they choose.

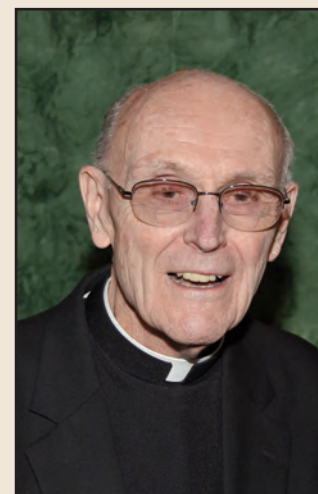
The College of Cardinals

decided the date on the fifth day of its pre-conclave meetings, after waiting for the 115 cardinals eligible and expected to vote.

The last to arrive in Rome was Cardinal Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, who joined the others in Rome March 7.

VICAR GENERAL RETIRES

Msgr. Lawler has served four bishops



Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced the retirement of Msgr. Robert L. Lawler from his position as Vicar General, effective Easter Sunday, March 31. Msgr. Lawler, 82, retired as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Waddington and St. John the Baptist in Madrid, in June 2012. He has held the position of Vicar General under four bishops, first appointed by Bishop Paul S. Loverde in 1994 and then re-appointed by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham and Bishop LaValley. Bishop LaValley also announced the new Vicar General will be Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Report of special funds in diocese

Michael J. Tooley, diocesan fiscal officer, presents the annual Special Funds Report in this week's *North Country Catholic*.

Special funds are monies that the diocese holds for particular purposes such as disability insurance, mission projects, priests retirement, lay employee retirement and unemployment insurance.

The report also includes an accounting of the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit and Loan Account as well as messages about the report from Tooley and Bishop LaValley.

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Rest in Peace, Father, Deacon and Sister

Rites held for Fr. Paschal Rys, Deacon

Donald Dashnaw, Sr. Michele Guerin

FULL STORIES, PAGES 4, 6

CARDINALS IN PRAYER



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago prays the rosary before a prayer service with eucharistic adoration in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 6. Also pictured is Cardinal Thomas C. Collins of Toronto, right. More than 100 cardinals gathered in front of Bernini's statue, "The Chair of St. Peter," for the evening service. The cardinals are scheduled to meet in the Sistine Chapel March 12 to begin to vote for the next pope.

YEAR OF FAITH VIDEO CONTEST: Win a week at Camp Guggenheim... p. 17

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Waiting, waiting and giving thanks

The calendar may show it's Lent, but it sure feels like Advent in our house.

Everywhere we turn we are *waiting*.

We're waiting for the announcement of a new pope, we're waiting for the arrival of a new granddaughter and we're waiting for the appearance of spring.

It's hard to be patient – on all counts.

We can be assured, of course, that everything will happen in

its own time. Perhaps by the time you read this, our baby will have been born and the papal voting will have begun.

Spring's arrival will require more waiting, but signs are there for that as well.

In the meantime, we still have Lent.

We still have the opportunity to join in prayer for our church as the cardinals cast their votes in the Sistine Chapel.

And we have time to pray for our families with all their joys

and worries

In our diocesan family, this is a perfect time to pray in thanksgiving for our beloved Msgr. Lawler who is finally able to be free of administrative concerns that have marked his priesthood since the first day he stepped into a Catholic Charities office.

This week's *NCC* also shows how much we can be grateful for those who are still guarding the administration of our diocese.

Those of us who work for the Catholic Church in the North Country understand that none

of our ministry could be accomplished without adequate resources.

We also understand that it's critical to have talented and dedicated staff people to safeguard all the donations from the hard-working generous parishioners in our diocese.

For the past ten years we have been blessed to have Michael Tooley, the diocesan fiscal officer, and his excellent staff watch every penny for us.

We may still be waiting for more blessings in our lives but we are certainly grateful for those we have now!

Mary Lou
Kilian

FR. BILL SAYS

Dear Holy Father...a letter for next pope

This morning at Mass, the Old Testament reading was from the Book of Daniel; the reading was a prayer spoken by one of the men in the fiery furnace.

The prayer expressed in many ways my own prayer for our Catholic Church as the College of Cardinals meets preparing to elect our new Pope.

In the Scripture reading, the prayer is that God will protect his people and not forget his covenant with them.

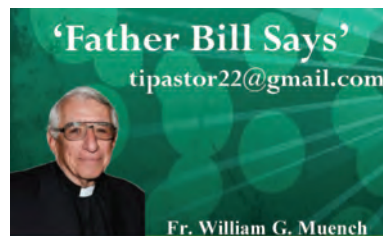
Azariah prays, "We are reduced, O Lord, beyond all other nations, brought low everywhere in the world this day because of our sins. We have in our day no prince, oblation, or leader."

I have decided to write a letter to the new Pope. I suspect I will not be the only one.

As I write this, the conclave has not begun but the election may be completed by the time that this gets to you – either way here I go.

Holy Father, I am praying for you. You will be remembered each and every time I celebrate Mass. You have accepted a very heavy cross and we are grateful for you. Our expectations are high, but you can be confident that the Holy Spirit will bless your Papacy.

You can and must make a dif-



ference. Our Catholic Church needs you to step into the papacy with boldness, with a spirit of love and concern for all of us.

Be unafraid to do all that is needed to bring new life to our Church as the Vicar of Christ, the Christ who will always be with you. I guarantee that you will find the support of the People of God always praying for you – you will not fail.

May God the Father give you the confidence to create new life in our Church. May Jesus – our Lord and Savior who lived and died for us – give you a truly missionary spirit to reach out to all peoples with the message of our Savior.

Your ministry has suddenly broadened but Jesus will always be walking with you. May the Holy Spirit give you the wisdom to oversee this Church with love and that boldness.

Catholics throughout the world need your leadership – a bold leadership, rooted in faith, hope and love.

We have prayed hard for you. During the conclave, our prayer was that all the Cardinal electors would chose the perfect leader for our Church. So, we believe that you are that one, the Pope for our time. We are confident that you will make a difference in our Church and in the world – to heal the Church where it is wounded, to bring new life into the Church where it is dying, to boldly challenge us Catholics to action, to be unafraid to change what must be changed.

I pray that you realize how

important you are to us, the People of God. You will be watched. What you do will be analyzed by many. I believe that God will inspire you to be that perfect leader, that perfect guide for our Church.

In the Spirit of Our Savior, may you become the Good Shepherd, always ready to make our Church better and better – a Church always ready to make the world better and better – a Church alive in the daring spirit of St. Peter and St. Paul. We are prepared to be united in all things with you, Our Holy Father.

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Msgr. Lawler to retire as Vicar General

Ogdensburg – Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced the retirement of Msgr. Robert L. Lawler from his position as Vicar General, effective Easter Sunday, March 31.

Msgr. Lawler, 82, retired as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Waddington and St. John the Baptist in Madrid, in June 2012.

He has held the position of Vicar General under four bishops, first appointed by Bishop Paul S. Loverde in 1994 and then re-appointed by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham and Bishop LaValley.

Bishop LaValley also announced the new Vicar General will be Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral and Defender of the Bond for the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

About Msgr. Lawler

Msgr. Lawler was born in Oneonta, NY, Nov. 9, 1930 and studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary College and Catholic University of America.

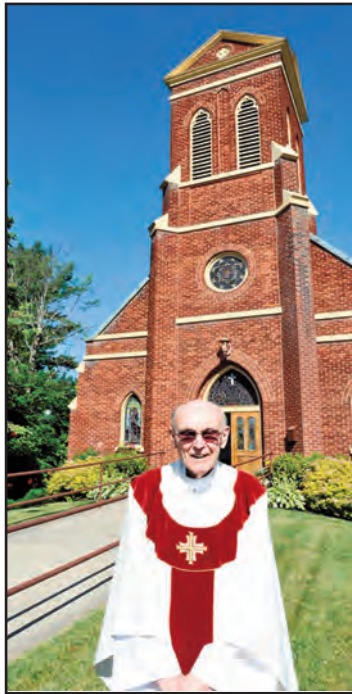
He was ordained to the priesthood May 19, 1956, and immediately began a 30 year association with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Father Lawler was named assistant secretary of Catholic Charities in 1956, director of the Watertown Catholic Charities office in 1957 and executive secretary of the agency in 1959.

He also served as an assistant pastor at Holy Family in Watertown from 1957 to 1959.

The priest continued to direct Catholic Charities until 1986 when he was named pastor in Brownville and Dexter.

During his tenure with Catholic Charities he served as diocesan coordinator of



HENDRICK PHOTO
Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, who is leaving his position as Vicar General on Easter Sunday, is shown after his final Mass as pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid in June of 2012.

the Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services and health affairs. He was also appointed to numerous local and state organizations serving mental health and social welfare needs.

In 1989, Msgr. Lawler was appointed chairman of the Diocesan Planning Committee, and pastor in Canton in 1995.

In 1967, he was named Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor. He was also honored in 1986 with Catholic Charities Caritas Award, given annually to an individual who exemplifies a spirit of love and charity.

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

With the announcement of the retirement of Monsignor Robert Lawler as the Vicar General of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I thought it an opportune moment to reflect with you on the tremendous debt of gratitude that the Church of Ogdensburg and I owe to this devoted priest of God.

The *North Country Catholic* placed before us the biography of a man who continues to have a powerful impact on the Church we love. Serving as the Vicar General of our Diocese, Monsignor Lawler has been the closest advisor and confidante of four bishops. His thoughtful and wise counsel, always flavored with great pastoral sensitivity, has aided bishops in making difficult decisions.

The tremendous love and respect that the priests of our Diocese have for Monsignor was evidenced when, not once, but twice, he was elected to lead our diocese as diocesan administrator when we bishop-less.

This special service to the bishops and diocese all developed after thirty years of rendering remarkable ministry to the vulnerable in our North Country through his

In 1977, Bishop Brzana recommended to Pope Paul VI that Msgr. Lawler be named a Prelate of Honor. Msgr. Lawler was named a Protonotary Apostolic June 17, 1995 the highest honor that can be

given to a monsignor. On two separate occasions - when Bishop Loverde was named bishop of Arlington, Va., diocese and when Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito was named to the West Palm

Beach diocese - the diocesan Board of Consultors appointed Msgr. Lawler as the administrator of the Ogdensburg diocese until a new bishop was named by the pope.

FOLLOW ME

'How do you say 'thank you' for such selfless giving?'

service and leadership at Catholic Charities. I am particularly reminded of the many couples who were blessed with children through Monsignor's loving assistance in the adoption process. Of course, this was all in addition to his ministry as pastor in several parishes over the years.

How much more can one man give? How do you say "thank you" for such selfless giving?

With his retirement as Vicar General, Monsignor can now stop adding to the hundreds of board meetings he has attended over the years. While the meetings may come to an end, his priestly work doesn't! I am so grateful for his valued ministry at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg. We all continue to seek his wise counsel and cherish his friendship.

Join me in thanking Monsignor Robert Lawler for being such a kind, caring priest. His genuine care for the most vulnerable among us leaves us with much to admire and imitate.

We pray that God bless him with good health. During this time of transition in the Church universal and locally, we thank God for leaders such as Monsignor Lawler whose love of Jesus and service in His Name continues to inspire our own faith journeys.



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Rites held for Father Paschal Rys, OFM Conv.

CHICOPEE, MASS. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Conventual Franciscan Father Paschal Rys, 89 was held March 9 at St. Stanislaus Basilica.

Father Rys, who served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg from 1979 to 2002, died March 5 at St. Hyacinth Residence.

Burial followed in St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

Born John Rys in Chicopee Falls, on July 14, 1923, the son of Stanley and Mary (Kusmierz) Rys, he took the name Paschal upon entry into the novitiate of the Franciscan Friars Conventual order.

He completed his novitiate at St. Joseph Cupertino Friary, in Ellicott City, MD, 1941-42, professed simple vows as a Franciscan Friar Aug. 15, 1942, and solemn vows on Aug. 15, 1946.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 16, 1951, by Bishop Christopher J. Weldon, in St. Michael Cathedral, Springfield, Mass.

Father Paschal spent the first 31 years of his priesthood at St. Francis Parish, Bessemer, Alabama where he was associate pastor from 1951-1970 and pastor from 1970-1979.

During the years of 1970-1973 he also served as campus minister of Livingston University and the University of Alabama where he became a friend of Coach "Bear" Bryant. During this time he also ministered to the mission churches in Eutaw and Reform, AL. He also became the Catholic campus minister at Southern Baptist College in Birmingham, AL from 1977-1979.

During the years he served in Bessemer, Father Paschal was active in the civil rights movement and became friends with Dr. Martin Luther King. He ac-



Fr. Paschal Rys

companied Dr. King on the March to Selma and participated with Robert Kennedy in the effort to integrate the University of Alabama.

Father Paschal changed the direction of his life entirely when, in 1979, he was asked to move to the Diocese of Ogdensburg where he became the Pastor of St. Hedwig Parish, Houseville and St. Mary Parish in Constableville

Father Paschal shared his love of music, and his love of decorating (he had been a window dresser at Macy's when he was a student at Boston College) with his parishioners. He is remembered as a gifted

story-teller, with a dramatic flair who was known for dressing up as a clown, a fireman, St. Francis, or Santa Claus for community events

Father Paschal returned to his hometown in 2002 when he was assigned to the St. Hyacinth Senior Friars Residence.

He is survived by two brothers, Henry and Edward Rys, and several family members. His parents and four brothers, Walter, Albert, Stanley, and Stephen died previously.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Franciscan Education Burse, 12300 Folly Quarter Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Funeral held in S. C. for Deacon Donald R. Dashnaw

HANAHAN, S.C. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon Donald R. Dashnaw, 81, a native of Morrisonville, was held March 6 at Divine Redeemer Catholic Church.

He died Feb. 28; burial was Carolina Memorial Park, North Charleston, South Carolina.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana ordained Deacon Dashnaw to the permanent diaconate Oct. 5, 1985 in St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, he served as a deacon assistant St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville and as a chaplain at Dannemora Correctional Facility. Upon his move to South Carolina he continued diaconal service at Divine Redeemer Catholic Church and school in Hanahan, S.C.

Deacon Dashnaw is survived by his wife, Leona; daughters Donna Shelters and husband Dennis and Debbie Holbrook and husband Tom, all of North Charleston; six sons, Richard Dashnaw and wife Susan from Florida; Paul Dashnaw and wife Linda; Edward Dashnaw and wife Holly of North Charleston; Thomas



Deacon Donald Dashnaw

Dashnaw and wife Linda of Potsdam, Alfred Dashnaw and wife Jeannie of Ridgeville; Peter Dashnaw and wife Cheryl of Summerville, S.C. Deacon Dashnaw's surviving siblings are brother, Roland and wife Carolyn Dashnaw and sister, Doris and husband Raymond Turbide, all of Plattsburgh. He is also survived by 22 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

He was pre-deceased by daughter Elizabeth Winsor of Summerville, S.C.

Raised in Morrisonville, the son of Raymond and Mary Dashnaw of Morrisonville,

Deacon Dashnaw was a Korean War veteran where he served with the United States Army. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Plattsburgh State University, continued on to his studies at Albany State University and on to Clarkson University to receive his degree in Chemistry.

After moving to Charleston for retirement, earned a Doctorate in Education from Kennedy Western.

He was employed by Ayerst Labs in Rouses Point, as a chemistry teacher at Peru Central School and as a part-time teacher at Clinton Community College in Plattsburgh and Trident Technical College in Charleston, S.C. For many years, he also sold life and health insurance for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Plattsburgh.

Donations may be made in his honor to Divine Redeemer Catholic Church, 1106 Fort Drive, Hanahan, SC 29406, or to Piedmont Hospice, 501A DeAnna Lane, Charleston, SC 29492. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.carolinanamemorial.com.

State Charities directors to honor Msgr. Dennis Duprey

ALBANY - The New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors will present its 2013 Vincenza DeFazio Award to Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey.

He will be honored March 19 at the annual Convening of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors at the Desmond Hotel and Convention Center.

The Vincenza DeFazio Award was established by the Council of Catholic Charities Directors in 1992 "to recognize the contributions of a Catholic Charities staff member who has con-

tributed to the work of the Council and exemplifies the quiet leadership exhibited by Vinnie DeFazio."

Msgr. Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, has served on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee since 1986 and has been chair of that committee on different occasions. He guided that committee from its role as an advisory committee for the NYS Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee to its current role as a committee of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

Msgr. Duprey's "steady hand and wise counsel has made the transition smooth and productive, said Earl Eichelberger, Director for Catholic Charities NYS Catholic Conference.

"(He is) currently once again chair of the committee and can be looked to for well-reasoned and thoughtful direction. (His) commitment to the work of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and in the State of New York has truly been exceptional and is worthy of recognition," Eichelberger said.

Early mornings on the mountain top

By Robert G. Main, Jr.
Parishioner, Malone Catholic Parishes

Putting into words just what draws me to 6:45 Mass each weekday morning has been more daunting than I thought it might be. But, as often happens, waiting a bit before putting pen to paper – or, more accurately, fingers to keyboard – can be helpful.

Each Second Sunday of Lent we hear a Transfiguration Gospel. This year it was St. Luke's account. After listening to the familiar story of Jesus' transfiguration at the top of Mount Tabor, in the presence of the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament disciples, I was glad I waited.

I have always liked mountain tops and mountain top experiences, and going to Mass each morning helps me to start each day with a mountain top experience. It has been said that Catholics are a Eucharistic people, and the Eucharist is, after all, the source and summit of our life of faith.

I am a morning person; I always have been. The habit of getting up early was ingrained a long time ago. I guess, in part, that it was as a result of the work of a long departed and well loved Ursuline sister. Back then we called her Mother Antonia. She was jolly and resolute. In

her spare time, after school, she taught fourth grade boys how to serve Mass at Notre Dame Church in Malone.

A personal reflection on attending morning Mass

Once our Latin satisfied her, and once she was convinced that we knew and understood the rubrics and the gestures, we were added to the roster of "altar boys" at our parish. New boys served early, so turns at the two early morning weekday Masses became routine. I've been getting up early ever since. For me, it is the best part of the day.

Daily Mass during Lent was often, though not always, a part of my Lenten journey. And daily Mass, occasionally, was a part of my life during the rest of the year. Early on, it was at Notre Dame. Then, as schedules changed to accommodate the declining number of priests, it was most often at the chapel of the Ursuline sisters' convent in Malone which had been my family's home for decades until the mid-sixties. I guess you could say that I was being drawn in by the bonds of faith and family.

Some years ago, having attended 6:45 a.m. Mass throughout Lent, I simply decided "why stop?" By this time the convent had closed, and the early Mass was across the village at St.

Joseph's. But the natives were friendly and welcoming, and this French boy felt very comfortable in the Irish parish! And, after all, by then we were all part of the Malone Catholic Parishes.

But back to that mountain top. That's what each celebration of the Mass is for me. It certainly doesn't matter the time of day, but, for me, there is no better way to start the day than with that ascent.

As Catholics we are called up the mountain all the time, called to acknowledge the transfigured Jesus, as truly God, truly man. And while the three Apostles were given a real glimpse of the Lord's coming glory, it did not last long and it was not repeated.

But today, we are the beneficiaries of the gift of the Eucharist, which makes Jesus just as really present to us, as disciples, as he was to the Apostles on Mount Tabor.

While most mountaintop experiences do not last forever, the return to the valley of life is immeasurably enhanced, and made easier, by the gift and grace of the Eucharist, a gift and grace that makes the choices and challenges which each day presents easier to accept and confront.

It is the gift that surpasses all others, the true presence of Jesus, not on a mountain top, but as food for our journey.

And not just once. As often as we climb the mountain!

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Funeral held for Sr. Michelle

NEW ROCHELLE, NY - A Mass of Christian Burial for Ursuline Sister Michelle Guerin, 97, a former social worker for Catholic Charities in Malone, was held March 5 at the Chapel of the Ursuline Provincialate.

She died March 2 at Andrus on Hudson. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sister Michelle, the daughter of Michael and Annie McCormick Guerin, was born

Jan. 17, 1916 in Boston. She entered the Ursuline Order in 1937 and made her final vows on January 4, 1943.

She taught at schools in the Bronx between 1941 and 1958. She then went to Mexico City as principal and English language coordinator at Merici Academy until 1966; she then taught at the University of the Americas until 1973. She returned to the U.S. and did social work for

Catholic Charities in Malone, and later in the Bronx she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) and did parish ministry. In 1990 Michelle retired but remained active in prison ministry in the North Country of New York from 1992 to 2002.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Ursuline Retirement Fund, at the Ursuline Provincialate, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804.

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Bishop's Schedule

March 13 – 7p.m., Plattsburgh Lenten Parish Mission at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

March 14 – 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Envisioning Team Meeting with the Catholic Leadership Institute at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

March 15 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

March 16 – 11 a.m., Mass for St. Joseph's Day at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

March 17 – 11a.m., Mass and Installation of Acolytes at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 18 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 19-20 - Public Policy Day in Albany

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 13 – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

March 14 – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

March 15 – Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984

March 16 – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

March 17 – Rev. Francis Parisian, 1955

March 18 – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

March 19 – Rev. Andronique Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009

Environmental Stewardship

ENERGY

"To be sure, among the basic problems the international community has to address is that of energy resources...technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles, while reducing their consumption and improving its efficiency."

Pope Benedict XVI

- Use the shortest wash that will get the job done for dishwashing, laundry, and showers. Heating water is an energy guzzler.
- Use energy-saving settings on the big four: refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer.
- When replacing appliances, go with Energy star models

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.

March 13 - 6:30 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

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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Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Friends in Christ:



I am pleased to provide this introduction to *the Report of Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012. As is our custom, each year this report is presented to you and completes our accounting of all those funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. These particular monies are set aside for special purposes and investments.

Your generous giving provides essential resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Gospel and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Through economic distress and uncertain financial times, the people of the North Country continue to support generously our Church's various ministries.

I especially wish to thank Michael J. Tooley, our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, and his excellent staff for the careful manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and Investment Advisory Committee who meet regularly and offer their good counsel in service to the Church of the North Country.

Please know of my prayerful appreciation to all the members of our Diocesan family. Particularly during this Year of Faith, may Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, our Diocesan Patroness, help us all to follow her Son as a people richly blessed.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2012, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests Retirement, Lay Employees Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. All of the Special Funds statements for 2011-12 presented herein have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 28, 2012 issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The Report of Special Funds is presented here to provide the reader with the status of each of the special funds as of June 30, 2012, compared to other recent years.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2012, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of \$22,940,592 and a market value of \$24,251,606. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 1.6% in 2011-12. In the first six months of the 2012-13 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a rate of return of 7%, bringing its market value to \$25,880,672 as of December 31, 2012. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of \$500,000 during the fiscal year, but the return to investors is limited by NYS law as some investments in the fund have a market value below cost at this time. The rate of return to investors is currently 2%.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund increased its net assets by \$286,538 in 2011-12, to \$3,928,583. The interest rate to depositors is 3%, and the interest rate on loans is 4%. In the first six months of 2012-13 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets increased by \$574,393. In comparison to Deposit & Loan Fund programs of other dioceses in the United States:

- 1) The Fund's deposit ratio (value of loans divided by value of deposits) is 17.3%, national average is 46.5%.
- 2) The Fund's interest rate of 3% on deposits exceeds the national average of 1.68%, and is near the high of 4%.
- 3) The Fund's interest rate on loans of 4% is slightly above the national average of 3.6%, and below the high of 6%.
- 4) The Fund's spread (the difference between its interest rate on loans and the interest rate on deposits) of 1% is below the national average of 1.94%, and below the high of 4.59%.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Revenue exceeded expenses in the Protected Self Insurance Program by \$203,632 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. This program remains financially sound with a fund balance as of June 30, 2012 of \$2,787,299, as well as a reserve for claims of \$740,979. One primary reason for the long term success of the program is the cooperation between diocesan parishes and schools and the diocese's Insurance Office in correcting areas of exposure discovered when conducting risk inspections.

LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

The Lay Employees' Retirement Fund had a net decrease in fund balance of \$837,815 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, bringing its fund balance to \$24,095,918. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 1.36% in 2011-12. During the first six months of fiscal year 2012-13 fund investments saw a rate of return of 7.6%, bringing its market value to \$25,770,418. The Fund's July 1, 2012 actuarial valuation determined the Fund remains underfunded, declining due to underperformance in its investment return for the year from 87% to 80% of projected future liabilities. The Plan is well overfunded as it

relates to covering obligations to current retirees, but in the long term the diocese will be challenged to maintain a defined benefit retirement plan for its current and future employees.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had a decrease in net assets of \$3,609 for the year ended June 30, 2012. There was an increase in claims in 2011-12, as \$151,871 was paid for benefits as compared to \$126,862 in the prior fiscal year. Claims to date are trending lower in the first six months of the 2012-13 fiscal year.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had an increase in net assets in the amount of \$10,720 for the year ended June 30, 2012, bringing its fund balance as of that date to \$99,077. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate. Moneys are also given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a gain for the year ended June 30, 2012, before distributions to other funds, in the amount of \$41,339. As net assets of the Fund were significantly high and more than needed as a safety net, Bishop LaValley approved transfers of net assets from the Fund in 2011-12 as follows: (a) \$50,000 to Unemployment Insurance Fund; (b) \$70,000 to establish a fund designated to support Special Care of Priests; (c) \$50,000 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. In 2011-12 the Diocese of Ogdensburg funded 10% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests of the diocese in this fund (the remaining 90% is funded by the Priests' Retirement Fund). The fund balance of this fund as of June 30, 2012 is \$102,114.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND

The net assets of the Priests' Retirement Fund decreased by \$403,955 in the year ended June 30, 2012. The Fund had losses on investments in the amount of \$69,860 in the fiscal year, and support from Christmas collections fell short of budget by \$83,335. However, in anticipation of significant monies from residual of Charitable Gift Annuities dedicated to support the Fund Bishop LaValley approved the recommendation of diocesan administration to pre-fund these expected gifts in the amount of \$1 million during the year. Making this decision provides the diocese the ability to maintain stability in its new funding formula for the program, allows the fund to increase its share of retired priests' health insurance premiums from 90% to 95% beginning in 2012-13, and positions the Fund to provide annual ad-hoc pension increases to current retirees for the near future. The monies were fronted from the diocese's Deposit & Loan Fund, and will be repaid upon receipt of the residual from the Charitable Gift Annuities referenced earlier.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions that may arise as a result of a review of the Report of Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 393-2920, ext. 210, email at mtooley@dioogdensburg.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.



Michael J. Tooley

Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

Diocesan Trust Fund Principal

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2012

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2010	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2012
Opening Balance	\$0.00	\$20,121,415.24	\$21,624,945.97	\$0.00
Net Deposits	15,093,232.84	(104,290.51)	(74,365.03)	14,914,577.30
Net Realized Gain on Sales	12,411,585.89	1,383,250.74	661,895.00	14,456,731.63
Fees [Custody/Management]	(1,322,691.44)	(138,104.88)	(150,477.21)	(1,611,273.53)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(7,152,945.52)	(501,232.03)	(501,316.90)	(8,155,494.45)
Net Adjustments*	<u>1,092,233.47</u>	<u>863,907.41</u>	<u>1,379,909.85</u>	<u>3,336,050.73</u>
Closing Balance [Book]	<u>\$20,121,415.24</u>	<u>\$21,624,945.97</u>	<u>\$22,940,591.68</u>	<u>\$22,940,591.68</u>
Market Value	<u>\$19,903,112.53</u>	<u>\$23,930,353.82</u>	<u>\$24,251,605.84</u>	<u>\$24,251,605.84</u>

* includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.

** Assets June 30, 2009 at NBT Bank, Commonfund Realty, Inc., Dimensional Fund Advisors & The Investment Fund for Foundations.

NBT BANK INVESTMENTS

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>% Yield (Book)</u>	<u>% Yield (Market)</u>
Bonds	\$3,456,496.74	\$3,481,442.36	4.11%	5.07%
Equities & Equity Funds	14,506,152.10	15,572,935.46	1.18%	1.07%
Money Market	<u>732,941.88</u>	<u>732,941.88</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS	<u>\$18,695,590.72</u>	<u>\$19,787,319.70</u>	<u>2.29%</u>	<u>2.60%</u>

COMMONFUND REALTY INVESTMENT

	<u>\$181,820.96</u>	<u>\$181,820.96</u>
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DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS

	<u>\$626,000.00</u>	<u>\$483,316.37</u>
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THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS

	<u>\$3,437,180.00</u>	<u>\$3,799,148.81</u>
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TOTAL INVESTMENTS

	<u>\$22,940,591.68</u>	<u>\$24,251,605.84</u>
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Deposit & Loan Fund

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012

Balance Sheet

	<u>June 30, 2012</u>	<u>June 30, 2011</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$819,868.44	\$287,581.54
Interest Receivable	143,600.60	135,779.86
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	3,527,441.76	3,868,832.68
Reserve	(578,658.00)	(682,224.00)
Investments	16,891,129.26	16,368,332.01
Investment - Diocesan Trust Fund	525,106.05	532,922.76
Due From Operating Fund	1,977,266.00	275,179.06
Real Estate	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$23,305,754.11</u>	<u>\$20,786,403.91</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>		
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$19,377,171.04	\$17,144,359.23
Accrued Interest Payable	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>3,928,583.07</u>	<u>3,642,044.68</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>\$23,305,754.11</u>	<u>\$20,786,403.91</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	<u>July 1, 2011</u> <u>June 30, 2012</u>	<u>July 1, 2010</u> <u>June 30, 2011</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest on Notes Receivable	\$136,146.41	\$173,630.76
Investment Income	648,025.03	635,449.45
Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	(182,618.56)	538,892.73
Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	<u>340,260.28</u>	<u>727,214.59</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$941,813.16</u>	<u>\$2,075,187.53</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Interest on Notes Payable	\$601,697.79	\$582,381.82
Investment Management Fees	84,053.19	81,239.57
Fiscal Office Administration	64,121.00	51,481.00
Office Supplies and Bank Fees	471.95	417.97
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Increase in Reserves	(103,566.00)	44,502.00
Loans Forgiven	<u>8,496.84</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>\$655,274.77</u>	<u>\$760,022.36</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>\$286,538.39</u>	<u>\$1,315,165.17</u>

Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2012

	<u>June 30, 2009</u>	<u>June 30, 2010</u>	<u>June 30, 2011</u>	<u>June 30, 2012</u>
ASSETS				
Investments	\$590,632.60	\$642,664.05	\$775,151.02	\$763,781.40
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,371.04	4,371.04	\$4,400.04	4,400.04
Notes Receivable	2,030,385.73	2,533,994.55	\$1,300,000.00	800,000.00
Accounts Receivable	110,584.62	120,639.01	\$132,841.20	151,287.64
Prepaid Insurance	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	14,131.01
Due From Operating Fund	43,068.38	(209,189.53)	\$1,008,339.41	1,524,263.27
BPIC Member Share	114,241.00	128,862.00	\$152,507.00	155,167.00
Stock in NCRRG	<u>132,247.84</u>	<u>132,247.84</u>	<u>\$132,247.84</u>	<u>132,247.84</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$3,025,531.21</u>	<u>\$3,353,588.96</u>	<u>\$3,505,486.51</u>	<u>\$3,545,278.20</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE				
Note Payable - BPIC	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
Reserves For Claims	978,145.48	750,562.93	\$904,819.55	740,979.22
Fund Balance	<u>2,030,385.73</u>	<u>2,586,026.03</u>	<u>\$2,583,666.96</u>	<u>2,787,298.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$3,025,531.21</u>	<u>\$3,353,588.96</u>	<u>\$3,505,486.51</u>	<u>\$3,545,278.20</u>
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE				
	July 1, 2008 <u>June 30, 2009</u>	July 1, 2009 <u>June 30, 2010</u>	July 1, 2010 <u>June 30, 2011</u>	July 1, 2011 <u>June 30, 2012</u>
INCOME				
Earned Premiums	\$1,395,042.20	\$1,482,997.18	\$1,462,086.88	\$1,539,402.53
Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) On Investments (Net)	(111,495.22)	66,652.45	156,131.97	(8,709.62)
Investment Income	<u>86,073.50</u>	<u>62,062.78</u>	<u>73,850.56</u>	<u>51,429.10</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$1,369,620.48</u>	<u>\$1,611,712.41</u>	<u>\$1,692,069.41</u>	<u>\$1,582,122.01</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds	\$703,130.63	\$724,790.34	\$732,682.72	\$740,652.17
Professional Services	19,351.04	10,982.42	30,597.63	19,085.49
Gallagher Bassett Service Fee	22,364.00	22,569.00	21,151.00	22,304.00
Adjustment in Reserves	(143,338.56)	(227,582.55)	154,256.59	(163,840.33)
Self Insured Claims	687,908.72	321,099.70	371,579.09	423,908.56
NYS Compensation Board Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00	130,574.65
Department Grants	44,486.16	49,316.78	211,696.86	39,802.13
Diocesan Administration	<u>178,213.76</u>	<u>154,896.42</u>	<u>172,464.59</u>	<u>166,003.32</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$1,512,115.75</u>	<u>\$1,056,072.11</u>	<u>\$1,694,428.48</u>	<u>\$1,378,489.99</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>(\$142,495.27)</u>	<u>\$555,640.30</u>	<u>(\$2,359.07)</u>	<u>\$203,632.02</u>

Diocesan Lay Employee's Retirement Fund
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2012

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2011
ASSETS		
Accrued Income	\$23,392.00	\$28,836.48
Accounts Receivable	\$56,781.98	\$91,994.76
Investments	\$24,490,220.68	\$25,259,932.71
TOTAL ASSETS	\$24,570,394.66	\$25,380,763.95
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Due for Office Expense	\$98,986.28	\$269,926.85
Deferred Revenue	\$375,490.16	\$177,104.34
Fund Balance	\$24,095,918.22	\$24,933,732.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$24,570,394.66	\$25,380,763.95

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	Sept 1, 1967 - June 30, 2012
ADDITIONS			
Employer Contributions	\$908,939.98	\$1,411,318.64	\$18,846,642.19
Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)	(198,204.90)	3,976,081.09	13,016,678.42
Investment Income	574,565.92	621,232.53	15,787,121.67
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$1,285,301.00	\$6,008,632.26	\$47,650,442.28
DEDUCTIONS			
Benefit Payments	\$1,939,052.86	\$1,764,123.31	\$19,301,919.93
Administration Expense	184,052.68	196,653.33	4,252,193.51
Loss on Security Deposit	0.00	0.00	410.62
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$2,123,115.54	\$1,960,776.64	\$23,554,524.06
NET (ADDITIONS MINUS DEDUCTIONS)	(\$837,814.54)	\$4,047,855.62	\$24,095,918.22
INVESTMENTS	Book Value	Market Value	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$610,245.97	\$610,245.97	
U.S. Government & Agency Obligations	\$2,898,450.16	\$2,894,220.70	
Corporate Obligations	81,925.55	100,702.05	
Equities	6,544,418.59	7,054,769.32	
Manning & Napier Advisors Investment Funds	7,658,693.03	8,230,512.95	
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets	1,034,250.00	822,335.72	
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Multi-Asset Fund	3,795,925.00	4,336,214.11	
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund	249,120.00	239,491.00	
Commonfund Realty	201,728.86	201,728.86	
TOTALS	\$23,074,757.16	\$24,490,220.68	

Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012

	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$88,357.05	\$66,801.98
RECEIPTS		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$48,666.28	\$37,459.59
Missionary Coop Collection	4,555.59	10,487.70
Parish OPA Donations	0.00	0.00
Interest	2,688.04	2,034.05
Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
General Donations	2,265.73	2,782.20
Bequests	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	58,175.64	52,763.54
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$146,532.69	\$119,565.52
EXPENDITURES		
Office Supplies	\$1,520.53	\$1,065.08
Advertising	779.75	1,420.00
Budget Grants and Donations	45,155.00	28,723.39
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	47,455.28	31,208.47
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30-	\$99,077.41	\$88,357.05

Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2011
ASSETS		
Money Market Investments (DTF)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Due From Operating Fund	345,984.98	351,135.30
Accrued Interest Receivable	(249,302.33)	(250,843.83)
	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$96,682.65	\$100,291.47
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserve For Claims*	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	96,682.65	100,291.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$96,682.65	\$100,291.47

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2011 June 30, 2012	July 1, 2010 June 30, 2011
INCOME		
Unemployment Premiums	\$115,344.44	\$134,374.38
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	(5,150.32)	60,015.21
Investment Income	7,275.92	7,333.32
Transfer from Other Funds	50,000.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$167,470.04	\$201,722.91
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$151,871.27	\$126,861.72
Consultant	6,270.00	6,270.00
Diocesan Administration	12,937.59	12,046.72
Transfer to Other Funds	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$171,078.86	\$145,178.44
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	(\$3,608.82)	\$56,544.47

*Reserve for Claims was closed to Fund Balance in 2010-11.

Diocesan Health*/Disability Benefits Program
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2011
ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable	\$1,648.00	\$538.00
Cash & Money Market Funds	5,235.06	5,235.06
Investment in Deposit & Loan Fund	97,218.09	230,775.38
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$104,101.15	\$236,548.44
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Reserve for Claims**	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	2,859.56	1,983.56
Due To Operating Funds	(872.41)	3,789.50
Fund Balance	102,114.00	230,775.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$104,101.15	\$236,548.44

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

	July 1, 2011 June 30, 2012	July 1, 2010 June 30, 2011
INCOME		
Premiums	\$118,932.00	\$118,836.00
Retiree Drug Subsidy	0.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	0.00	0.00
Investment Income	6,942.22	4,181.70
TOTAL INCOME	\$125,874.22	\$123,017.70
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$34,369.59	\$48,475.04
Administrative Fees	0.00	9,782.40
Health Insurance - Retired Priests	22,057.10	26,281.26
Fiscal Office Administration	28,108.91	17,093.44
Transfers to Other Programs	170,000.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$254,535.60	\$101,632.14
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	(\$128,661.38)	\$21,385.56

*Self Insured health insurance program was terminated August 31, 1997

** Reserve for Claims closed to fund balance at June 30, 2011.

Priests' Retirement Fund

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2010-June 30, 2012

<u>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</u>	<u>July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012</u>	<u>July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011</u>	
	\$9,590,994.69		\$8,239,860.19
ADDITIONS			
Share of Christmas Collection	\$316,665.20	\$252,226.76	
Assessment Per Priest	0.00	33,750.00	
Diocesan Assessment	74,753.44	0.00	
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	3,956.00	6,956.00	
Bequests and Donations	51,945.54	75,897.13	
Departmental Grant	0.00	90,000.00	
Investment Income	225,433.39	239,795.64	
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	<u>(69,860.18)</u>	<u>1,635,046.55</u>	
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>602,893.39</u>		<u>2,333,672.08</u>
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS	\$10,193,888.08		\$10,573,532.27
DEDUCTIONS			
Payments to Retired Priests	\$737,249.00	\$728,364.00	
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	168,297.65	157,365.01	
Diocesan Administration	<u>101,301.96</u>	<u>96,808.57</u>	
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>1,006,848.61</u>		<u>982,537.58</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30</u>	<u>\$9,187,039.47</u>		<u>\$9,590,994.69</u>

FORTY-FOUR YEAR SUMMARY		PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS		
	<u>1968-2012</u>		<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
ADDITIONS				
Share of Christmas Collection	\$6,532,301.85	Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$191,707.46	\$191,707.46
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,279.70	Accounts Receivable	\$6,667.85	\$6,667.85
Diocesan Assessment	74,753.44	Due to Operating Fund	(760,523.30)	(760,523.30)
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	348,290.37	Interest Receivable	8,405.00	8,405.00
Bequests and Donations	2,397,138.90	Stocks	2,720,351.50	2,896,564.72
Investment Income	5,799,620.99	Bonds	1,383,948.68	1,401,703.84
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	8,238,086.10	Manning & Napier Funds	3,262,924.85	3,411,531.84
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000.00	The Investment Fund for Foundations: Multi-Asset Fund	1,417,875.00	1,581,939.12
Loan Account Interest	119,838.70	The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund	97,200.00	93,443.00
Loan Account Grant	<u>30,000.00</u>	Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities	354,750.00	284,532.00
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$25,117,310.05	Commonfund Realty	<u>71,667.94</u>	<u>71,667.94</u>
DEDUCTIONS				
Payments to Retired Priests	\$12,994,036.34	TOTAL ASSETS - JUNE 30, 2012	<u>\$ 8,764,974.98</u>	<u>\$ 9,187,639.47</u>
Retired Priests Health Insurance	1,740,179.23			
Diocesan Administration	<u>1,196,055.01</u>			
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>15,930,270.58</u>			
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2012	<u>\$9,187,039.47</u>			

U.S. Catholics give Pope Benedict high marks

NEW HAVEN, CONN. (CNS) - A telephone survey commissioned by the Knights of Columbus found that U.S. Catholics think favorably of Pope Benedict XVI, who retired in February.

The Marist poll, taken March 2-5 - the week after Pope Benedict's Feb. 28 retirement took effect - found that Catholics held favorable impressions of the retired pontiff's tenure, his impact on their lives and the direction of both the church and the world.

In the poll, 77 percent of all U.S. Catholics, and 82 percent of practicing Catholics, said they had either a "positive" or "very positive" impression of the retired pope's pontificate.

Asked about the outgoing pope himself, 69 percent of Catholics and 75 percent of practicing Catholics had a "positive" or "very positive"

view of him.

Similarly, 68 percent of Catholics and 77 percent of practicing Catholics said he had a "positive" or "very positive" impact on their life.

Seventy percent of Catholics and 75 percent of practicing Catholics said the pope had a "positive" or "very positive" impact on the church's direction, while 65 percent of Catholics and 69 percent of practicing Catholics said in the poll he had a "positive" or "very positive" impact on the moral direction of the world.

Poll respondents were asked, "Pope Benedict XVI served as pope during the social media age and used Twitter to communicate. Do you like the idea or not like the idea of the pope tweeting to communicate?"

In their responses, 67 percent of Catholics and 66 percent of practicing Catholics

said they liked the idea, while 25 percent of each group said they did not -- the highest negative marks given to any question in the poll.

"The data indicates clearly that American Catholics have a deep respect for Pope Benedict XVI and a great appreciation for his pontificate," said a March 6 statement by Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

"That so many felt he had a positive impact on their lives, their church and their world speaks volumes to the good that he was able to do as pope," Anderson said.

The poll, conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., interviewed 2,000 American adults on both land lines and cellphones.

Among that number were 515 Catholics.



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston exchanges greetings with Pope Benedict XVI as the pope meets for the last time with the College of Cardinals at the Vatican Feb. 28.



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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Papal tailors ready no matter what size the new pope is

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Even though a conclave to elect a new pope has not yet started, the papal tailors have the white cassock ready for the new pontiff when he appears less than an hour after his election on the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square. The Gammarelli shop proudly showcased in its street-level window the white wool cassocks in three different sizes: "tall," "medium," and "small," since no one knows who will be the new pope or what his measurements will be. "We received the order (from the Vatican) to prepare the three outfits a few days after Benedict gave the announcement" Feb. 11 to step down, Lorenzo Gammarelli told Catholic News Service. It takes three-and-a-half days to cut, prepare and sew by hand one complete cassock, said the sixth-generation family member, so all three were finished "very quickly" by March 1 and displayed in the shop window the morning of March 4. The shop eventually will deliver the ensemble to the Vatican in time for the conclave and election. The Gammarelli shop was founded in 1798 and has served every 21st- and 20th-century pontiff except for Pope Pius XII, who stuck with his family's tailor. It's not a given that every pope will call on the shop's services, so the shop always waits to receive orders from the Vatican.

Every cardinal in his place: Internal ranking determines seating chart

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In their general congregation meetings, in liturgical processions and in the Sistine Chapel, every cardinal has a place and each cardinal knows his place. The Vatican calls it "precedence," and it has little to do with the importance of the cardinal's day job, the size of his diocese or his age. But it has everything to do with timing. Cardinals are divided into a three-tier internal hierarchy: cardinal bishops, cardinal priests and cardinal deacons. It's the seating order for the general congregations in the Vatican synod hall. It will be the order they line up in for the procession at the Mass for the election of a new pope. The four patriarchs of Eastern Catholic churches who are cardinals are inserted in the ranking between the cardinal bishops and cardinal priests. Simply skipping the cardinals who were over 80 years of age as of Feb. 28, the precedence is the order the cardinal electors will process into the Sistine Chapel for the conclave, the order that determines where they will sit inside and the order in which they will cast their ballots. The cardinal bishops are six senior Latin-rite cardinals residing in Rome; one of them, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, is dean of the College of Cardinals. Diocesan bishops make up the bulk of the rank of cardinal priests, while cardinal deacons are mostly officials of the Roman Curia.



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VATICAN LETTER

Challenges await next pope

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Like the rest of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, including the 5,100 bishops and 412,000 priests, the pope exercises what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls his "baptismal priesthood" by participating in "Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king."

The bishop of Rome exercises his ministry in a unique way, of course, as pastor of the universal church. In practically everything he does, he has special responsibility for preserving and building unity among members of the largest, most widespread and ethnically diverse organization on earth. That responsibility is crucial to defining the particular challenges that await the man whom 115 cardinal electors will choose in the conclave starting March 12.

Priest...

In his almost eight-year pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI worked to emphasize the liturgy's continuity with the church's millennial traditions. He encouraged a revival of eucharistic adoration and the use of Gregorian chant. Most significantly, he lifted almost all restrictions on celebration of the Tridentine Mass, which had fallen practically out of use amid the modernizing reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council.

At the same time, Pope Benedict condoned a kind of liturgical pluralism within the church, and even contributed to it by establishing personal ordinariates for former Anglicans, making it possible for Catholic communities around the world to worship in a form influenced by the 16th-century Protestant reformation.

The next pope will be taking the helm of a church with ever more various forms of worship. Like his

predecessor, he must be sensitive to the needs of Catholics devoted to the revived Tridentine liturgy, but also to those who practice charismatic faith healing and speaking in tongues. He must help preserve the ancient rites of the Eastern Catholic churches while setting a reverent example for the vast majority of the faithful who attend Mass in the form established under Pope Paul VI.

In carrying out this aspect of his mission, the new pope may draw particular inspiration from the two men who preceded him. In the spirit of Pope Benedict's avowed hope that the older and newer liturgies might enrich each other, he may encourage a synthesis of various forms of worship embraced by his global flock. In practical terms, he may follow the example of Blessed John Paul II by incorporating elements of the church's liturgical diversity into papal Masses, especially during international gatherings such as World Youth Day.

Prophet...

Pope Benedict made it a major project of his pontificate to shape the church's understanding of Vatican II, emphasizing that the council's doctrines did not represent a radical break with the past but followed in continuity with tradition.

The next pope may decide that this magisterial task has been largely accomplished, but he is almost certain to maintain Pope Benedict's emphasis on the new evangelization, the effort to revive the faith in increasingly secular societies.

How he pursues this effort may depend on where he comes from. A European or American -- whether from the North or the South -- may continue to highlight the erosion of Christian culture in its former bastions. A pope from Asia or Africa may give relatively great emphasis to the church's

rapid growth on those continents, while frankly acknowledging tensions with non-Christian communities, particularly Islam.

Defense of religious freedom is bound to be another priority for the next pope, who will certainly continue to draw attention to religiously inspired violence and legal restrictions on worship and evangelization around the world. A European or American is also likely to highlight problems increasingly common in developed countries, such as threats to the right of conscientious objection in fields such as medical care and social services.

King...

The most obvious challenge that the next pope will face in regard to governance is the one closest to home: the need for reform of the Roman Curia, the church's central administration.

In their preparatory meetings over the week prior to the papal election, the cardinals discussed the corruption and mismanagement sensationally documented in the 2012 "VatiLeaks" release of confidential correspondence to the Italian press. Serious reform would almost certainly require national diversification of the Italian-dominated curia.

On a global level, no issue of governance is more urgent than that of clergy sexual abuse. A zero-tolerance policy, leading to the exclusion of child abusers from any public ministry, is now in principle the universal norm of the church. However, the application of that norm remains highly inconsistent at the local level.

Financial governance at the Vatican has been the object of heightened media attention in recent years, and the next pope will presumably follow up on Pope Benedict's moves to make the Vatican bank's activities more transparent and in conformity with international norms.

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Same-sex parenting: the downstream effects

In March, 2013, the British paper *The Independent* ran an article entitled, "Children in gay adoptions at no disadvantage: Research confirms same-sex couples are just as good at parenting as heterosexuals."

The article, based on a study at Cambridge University, concluded there was "no evidence" to support the claim that children's masculine or feminine tendencies were affected by having gay or lesbian parents, nor were the quality of their family relationships significantly different.

The studied outcomes, however, were limited to children four to eight years

of age, so that any later effects, as they passed through puberty, for example, and "came of age," were not included.

Common sense, however, begs the question: how capable would two men be at helping their adopted daughter with very female matters pertaining to growing up and maturing physically?

For daughters this is often an issue requiring ongoing support, communication and sharing. It's not something men can just read up on in a book; it can be a delicate, personal matter, closely connected to a young woman's sense of self-identity, and it's reasonable to conclude that there are real advantages to the

empathy shared between a mother and her daughter.

Although *The Independent* claims this was the first study to look at how children in non-traditional families fared when compared with heterosexual households, at least two other major studies addressing the question were published during 2012, one by Mark Regnerus, a sociologist at the University of Texas at Austin, and the other by Loren Marks, a researcher at Louisiana State University.

Both studies presented compelling evidence countering the claim that a child's psychosocial growth is equally supported in lesbian and gay environments as it would be in heterosexual parenting environments.

Common sense, instead of common clichés, ought to serve as our starting point

in discussions about adopting children.

One of the clichés we hear is that adopting children is really just a matter of the "rights of parents." As Phoebe Wilson noted in an article in the *New Woman*: "If adoption is going to be debated as a 'right,' then the rights of the child (innocent and defenseless) are the rights that must prevail. Adoption exists for the benefit of the child, not for the couple who adopts him."

Same-sex couples who seek to adopt a child can doubtless be motivated by the best of intentions and by genuine compassion for the plight of an orphan

Yet Wilson goes on to explain the deeper reasons that need to motivate adoption:

"A child in need of adoption is a child who is in ex-



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

Fr. Tad coming to diocese

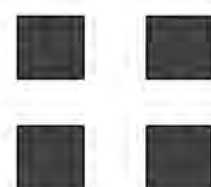
Lifelight of Watertown is hosting Father Tad Pacholczyk April 20 at a luncheon at the Best Western. He will speak on the "Loving those who are handicapped" and "Dealing with end of life Issues"

traordinary and abnormal circumstances: he is a child without parents. Adoption seeks to "create," from a social and legal point of view, a relationship similar to what would be natural for the child, meaning a family relationship: mother, father, child. This relationship would not be, for example, two fathers and a mother, or three women, or a single man because this does not exist in the natural biological filiation.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus places something new in the law: mercy!

Lent is a time of endless opportunity for new growth, a time for insights into the meaning of God's love for us.

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we need to perk up the ears of our hearts when God says to a despondent people in exile to look forward, not backward, as though this moment in which they hear Isaiah's prophecy is really the first day of their lives.

He tells them to forget the past, for He has decided to do something new! This prophecy is really a veiled reference to the Father's de-

cision to send His Son Jesus as Messiah. By his sacrifice, He will bring them out of their vicious cycle of sinning.

How sad that hundreds of years later, when their descendants actually saw their Messiah in the flesh, they failed to remember Isaiah's words that God was doing something new! In the light of that first reading, we can better understand that mercy is the "something new" in the message of Jesus.

The Gospel describes what incredible mercy Jesus shows towards the woman in today's Gospel.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

There is no question that she is guilty as well as the man involved. The law in Deuteronomy clearly says they should both be put to death by stoning. For the time being, the Pharisees have placed the woman squarely in front of Jesus, hoping to trap him into saying something incriminating. By writing on the ground, Jesus cleverly shifts the attention to the sins of those about to stone her to death. Here, indeed, is "something new", and the Pharisees immediately see that Jesus has placed them in the trap!

The elders among them are the first to acknowledge that Jesus has won the test, and they are the first to

March 17

Fifth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

drop their stones and slink away.

The others follow, leaving Jesus alone with the woman.

Without excusing her sin, He merely tells her she is free to leave, but to "sin no more".

What surprises and delights us here is that the Lord has placed something new into the Law - He now includes MERCY - mercy is

now a part of justice!

The second reading on Sunday doesn't always fit the meaning of the other two readings, but it does today.

St. Paul tells the Philippians that in the light of our faith that Jesus has redeemed our sins, and in the power of His Resurrection, we now have God's mercy as the reason for our hope and joy. Now, it will be much easier to "strain ahead" each day in pursuit of that goal to which Jesus and His Spirit calls us. This Fifth Sunday brings us more joy than we had expected. Now we should be convinced that Lent is truly a seedtime of hope for the glory to come.

OUR READERS WRITE

'Choice' rhetoric overlooks evidence

Most abortions are unwanted or coerced; many forced. "Choice" rhetoric overlooks this evidence plus post-abortion harm, heartbreak and higher maternal death rates.

As far back as 1987, then-Surgeon General C. Everett Koop called for a government-funded study to assess abortion's physical and psychological impact. Congress refused to authorize such a study.

To date, no major government study has ever been done on abortion's impact, yet privately-funded studies published in major medical journals indicate that most abortions are unwanted or coerced and abortion causes trauma, deaths, reproductive damage and other psychological and physical injury and illness. (See www.TheUnChoice.com for current research.)

Research published in a major peer-reviewed journal found that, among American women who had abortions, most felt rushed, yet 67 percent received no counseling and 79 percent were not informed about alternatives. 84 percent felt they did not receive adequate counseling before abortion. Americans have a right to be fully informed about unwanted abortions and other risks and aftereffects. Abortion endangers the fundamental rights and lives of both the unborn and women.

NANCY BELZILE
WILLSBORO

Same-sex parenting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"The love and affection of one, two or five people isn't enough. In order for a child to develop into a well balanced and fully mature person, he needs the presence of a father and a mother."

In recent years, adults who were raised by same-sex couples have started to recount and write about some of their childhood experiences.

Robert Oscar Lopez, who has described himself as a "bisexual Latino intellectual, raised by a lesbian, who experienced poverty in the Bronx as a young adult," now works as a professor at California State University.

He described the notable challenges he faced growing up:

"Quite simply, growing up with gay parents was very difficult.... When your home life is so drastically different from everyone around you, in a fundamental way striking at basic physical relations, you grow up weird.... My peers learned all the unwritten rules of decorum and body language in their homes; they understood what was appropriate to say in certain settings and what wasn't; they learned both traditionally masculine and traditionally feminine social mechanisms... I had no male figure at all to follow, and my mother and her partner were both unlike traditional fathers or traditional moth-

ers.... [B]eing strange is hard; it takes a mental toll, makes it harder to find friends, interferes with professional growth, and sometimes leads one down a sodden path to self-medication in the form of alcoholism, drugs, gambling, antisocial behavior, and irresponsible sex. The children of same-sex couples have a tough road ahead of them — I know, because I have been there."

A compassionate society seeks to help and assist orphaned children, but no reasonable society intentionally deprives those children of a mother or a father. That is, however, what placing them into a same-sex home invariably does.

Father 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.ncb-center.org



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AT THE MOVIES

OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Lush visuals and sly humor boost "Oz the Great and Powerful" (Disney), director Sam Raimi's 3-D prequel to the 1939 classic "The Wizard of Oz."

Like its imperishable predecessor, Raimi's fantasy adventure is based on the writings of L. Frank Baum (1856-1919). This second stroll down the Yellow Brick Road, however, incorporates thematic elements that make it unsuitable for small moviegoers, who also might be frightened by some of the spooky creatures jumping out at them from the screen.

Long before Dorothy was ever heard from -- so opening scenes reveal -- a small-time carnival roamed the plains that featured among its attractions the magic show of Oscar Diggs (James Franco), a charming rogue known to one and all by his nickname, Oz.

Off stage, Oscar is gifted at weaving romantic illusions for the many ladies who take his fancy, a talent that sometimes gets him in to trouble.

In fact, it's while he's on the run from an outraged rival that he hops into a hot-air balloon and casts off, only to find his escape vehi-

cle caught in the powerful updraft of a tornado. As Judy Garland long ago discovered, transport by twister leads to just one place: the magical land that shares Oscar's moniker.

There, Oscar discovers that both his arrival and his eventual victory over the forces of darkness gripping the realm have been prophesied. His triumph, should he attain it, will yield Oscar the throne of Oz along with the immense wealth of its treasury.

But Oscar's self-doubt poses a stumbling block on the way to his promised destiny. So too does his initial inability to determine which of his new homeland's three presiding witches -- Theodora (Mila Kunis), Evanora (Rachel Weisz) or Glinda (Michelle Williams) -- truly embodies goodness.

As scripted by Mitchell Kapner and David Lindsay-Abaire, "Oz" emphasizes confidence, cooperation, the marvels of science and the kind of generalized faith in happy endings that constitutes Hollywood's offense-proof substitute for religion.

Oscar is, nevertheless, shown praying to God in times of need -- as, for instance, while spinning through the tornado. And his stated ambition to be a great man, rather than merely a good one --

"Kansas," he says dismissively, "is full of good men" -- is eventually proven to be misguided.

There's even an echo of the Bible -- and of John Milton's great epic "Paradise Lost" -- as one character's consumption of an apple marks her irrevocable embrace of wickedness.

Yet several plot points, including Oscar's fateful ride in the balloon aforesaid, turn on his womanizing.

The specifics of his love-'em-and-leave-'em lifestyle are omitted, as are the limits to which he carries his seductions. Even so, the subject, however vaguely treated, is not one that belongs in a picture for children.

Additionally, tots might be overwhelmed by the sight of grand-scale pyrotechnics and by such sinister beasts as the winged baboons who take flight to protect the interests of dark magic.



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Michelle Williams stars in a scene from the movie "Oz the Great and Powerful."

The film contains mature references, perilous situations, a couple of mild oaths and potentially upsetting images. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -

- adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Year of Faith youth video contest set

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is sponsoring a Year of Faith Youth Video Contest.

Young Catholics of the diocese, ages 12-18 are invited to submit a one-to-three minute video on the theme 'What my Catholic Faith Means to Me.'

The winning video will be announced and aired at the 2013 Diocesan Youth Rally April 27 at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh.

The prize will be a week of summer camp at Guggenheim. The official entry form and rules may be obtained at www.rcdony.org/youthrallyvideo.

The deadline for submission is April 10.

Year of Faith Video Contest

Young Catholics, ages 12-18, are invited to create a 1-3 minute video: **"What My Catholic Faith Means to Me"**

- ◆ For information and application visit: www.rcdony.org/youthrallyvideo
- ◆ Deadline is April 10; winner will be announced at the Diocesan Youth Rally April 27
- ◆ Producer of the most creative video will be awarded a free week at Camp Guggenheim

ADIRONDACK

LENTEN FISH FRY

Bloomingdale – St. Paul's parish will be having a Lenten Fish Fry.

Date: March 15

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children, \$6

CLINTON

HOME-STYLE FISH FRY

AuSable Forks – Holy Name Knights of Columbus Council 2301 will host a home-style fish fry dinner.

Date: March 15

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Holy Name School

Cost: Adults, \$8, Children under 12, \$5

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic "40 Days of Hope" Project Will feature a spaghetti and meatballs dinner

Date: March 23

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Seton Academy

Cost: \$7 Adults, \$5 Children under 12. Take outs no additional cost.

Features: Monies raised go to buy Water Filter Systems for the North Country Mission of Hope.

TAIZE PRAYER

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish will gather for "Taize Prayer Around the Cross."

Date: March 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Features: Taize prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple, with brief refrains repeated in the manner of the mantra of the Eastern Church or the rosary of the Western Church.

CORNEBEEF 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

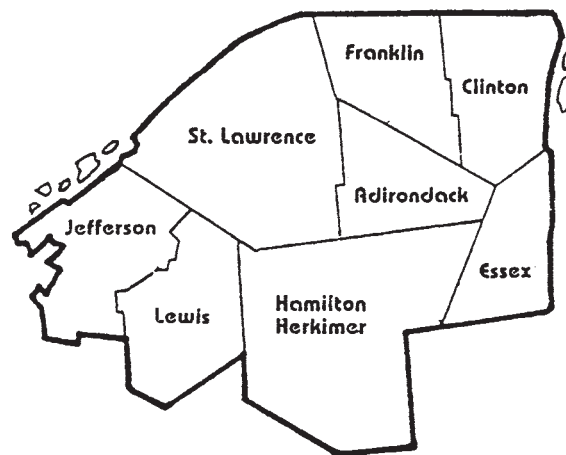
SOUP-SALAD-BREAD

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



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.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

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

Dates: March 16; April 6

Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's chapel

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

Theme: "Silent and solitary, Saint Joseph was always united in mind with Jesus and Mary... We have close to us just as much as Joseph... we have our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, but our poor eyes fail to see Him. Let us become interior souls and we shall immediately see." (St. Peter Julian Eymard).

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

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's will offer week-day 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 kjeshouse@verizon.net.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 7

Place: St. Peter's Parish

Schedule: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12:15-2:30 p.m.; New Video: Jesus, I Trust in You 12:15-1:35 p.m.; Sacrament of Reconciliation in the chapel 1:15-2:15 p.m.; Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Prayer Service begin at 2:30 p.m.; Blessing of Religious objects will take place during the service. Refreshments will be available in the Emmaus Room from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Soaking Prayer is offered every second and fourth Wednesday of the month under the direction of the Living Water's Healing Ministry.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Upper room at St. Peters

Features: A quiet prayerful environment, to be soaked in God's love

PRAYER MEETING

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

Time: 7 p.m.

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

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

ESSEX

OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION

Ticonderoga – St. Mary's School Pre-K and Kindergarten Open House and Registration Night will be held.

Date: March 14

Time: 6 p.m. to 7

Features: Applications are being accepted for the Fall 2013 school year at this time. Call the school at 518-585-7433 if you have any questions. You may also email sschoo3@nycap.rr.com. Check us out on the web at stmarysschoolticonderoga.org

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

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's will be having their famous St. Patrick's Day Cabbage Roll Sale.

Date: March 18

Time: 6 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$4

Features: May be pre-ordered starting March 15, call 518-529-6580 for all orders.

ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY

Bombay – Father Howard Venette will celebrate and be Homilist at the St. Joseph Feast Day Mass.

Date: March 19

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Features: Meatless covered dish dinner follows at the parish hall.

LENTEN CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

Malone – The Malone Council 308 of the K of C will be hosting their annual Lenten Chicken and Biscuit dinner.

Date: March 20

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

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; children under 5, Free
Features: Supports council charities

ADORATION AND CONFESSION

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

Time: 7 p.m. to 8

Place: Notre Dame Church

JEFFERSON

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.

Date: March 25

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthsides Hospitality Center.

Speaker: Rev. Toby Schilling, Director of Pastoral Care at Samaritan Medical Center, in Watertown. His topic will be "The Silver Lining".

LENT 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 14, 21; April 10, 17, 24

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

Place: Hearthsides 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

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

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Hear their need for help

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

The cry is familiar to us all. And yet, it is still a shock to the heart as we hear it each Good Friday – the cry of Christ on the Cross, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

But haven't we sometimes felt abandoned ourselves? As we cope with the serious illness of a precious child or parent? As we are told, at age 53, that our job has been terminated? In the gray loneliness that follows the death of a beloved wife or husband? At these times, hope seems to have disappeared.

And yet, in the midst of our darkness, we remember that God did not abandon His beloved Son, but raised Him from death to glory. And God does not abandon us.

The heart of the Church's missionary work is to bring all people of the world, in all times, this message that God, in Christ, has saved us and is with us, day by day. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith continues to seek prayer and sacrifice for the world's missions, now some 1,100 dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and Latin America.

Help is offered for pastoral and evangelizing programs, for catechists, catechetical work, healthcare and to build churches.

Missionaries still respond to the command of Jesus, “Go and teach all nations.” Missionaries also continue to depend on assistance from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to sustain them in their service to the poorest of the poor. Thank you for being a “home missionary” and helping in your own way.

God calls all of us to be His voice, reminding others that He is with us always. This Lent, would you be one of those loving missionaries with your support of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith? As I ask always for your prayers, I ask also for your financial sacrifice in whatever way you can help our mission family, you are in effect telling them: “God will never abandon you.” And everyone should know that!

Thank you! And may God bless you and your loved ones this Lent as you stand by the Cross of our mission family.

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. Thank you.

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

OBITUARIES

Altona – Douglas H. “Doug” Boyea, 72; Funeral Services March 6, 2013 at Holy Angel's Church.

AuSable Forks – Gerald A. “Jerry” Hart, 62; Funeral Services March 2, 2013 at the Thwaites Zaumetzer Funeral Home; burial in North Jay Cemetery.

Brownville – Blanche F. (Audette) Melisko, 88; Funeral Services March 6, 2013 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

Canton – Bernard L. “Bud” Coffey, 89; Funeral Services March 9, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in North Russell Cemetery.

Canton – Kathleen M. (Wood) Murphy, 79; Funeral March 8, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage – Yolanda M. “Helen” (Ricco) Corbine, 85; Funeral Services March 7, 2013 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Colton – Robert P. “Bob” Whalen, 87; Funeral Services March 9, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church.

Croghan – Doris M. (Mellnitz) Turck, 79; Funeral Services March 5, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's

Cemetery, New Breman.

Hogansburg – Beatrice E. Deer Jacobs, 100; Funeral March 5, 2013 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Louis F. Baraby, 82; Memorial Services March 7, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Keeseville – Richard G. Bouyea Sr., 80; Funeral March 7, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Malone – Vivien D. (Trombley) Lamica, 79; Funeral Services March 8, 2013 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Joseph Conrad Guilbert, 76; Funeral Services March 7, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – James Howard Robert, 69; Memorial Service March 3, 2013 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Mooers – Mary Ellen (LeClaire) Garrand, 85; Funeral March 11, 2013 at St. Joseph's; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville – Theresa A. (Hemingway) Seaver, 66; Funeral Services March 9,

2013 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Ogdensburg – Jane (Adams) Bjork, 71; Funeral March 4, 2013 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Addisyn Burke, infant; Funeral Services March 7, 2013 at Frary Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake – Julie Anne (Keese) Darrah, 85; Funeral Services March 2, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Watertown – Frederick N. Deline, 81; Funeral Services March 9, 2013 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Josephine V. Messina, 83; Funeral Services March 5, 2013 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Jane A. Brenon Taylor, 78; Funeral March 6, 2013 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Winthrop – William D. Quiness Jr., 69; Funeral Services March 2, 2013 at the Ham-mill Funeral Home; burial in Brookdale Cemetery.

Stopping abortion expansion to be top priority at lobby day

ALBANY - Stopping Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposed Reproductive Health Act will be the priority of Catholics gathering for the annual Catholics at the Capitol lobby day March 20 in Albany.

While the lobby day includes a slate of issues of concern to Catholics, with the abortion bill, “we're talking about innocent human life and a bill that can have long-lasting effects,” said Dennis Poust, communications director for the New York State Catholic Conference, which represents New York State's Bishops in matters of public policy.

The bill in question is the Reproductive Health Act, which has been introduced by governors every year since 2007.

In his January State of the

State address, Gov. Andrew Cuomo grouped it with his proposed Women's Equality Act, which prioritizes nine other women's equality issues the bishops support, like equal pay, zero tolerance for sexual harassment and human trafficking laws.

“All these laudable initiatives for women are being held hostage by this Reproductive Health Act,” Mr. Poust said.

The bill would add a broad health exception into state law, which currently allows late-term abortions to protect the mother's life, could allow healthcare professionals who are not physicians to perform abortion procedures, could undermine maternity and prenatal care programs and could be used to compel all hospitals to

allow abortions.

In addition to the fight against abortion expansion, participants from all eight dioceses of New York State will lobby on issues related to Catholic schools, poverty, Medicaid and prisons.

The participants will attend a workshop on the issues, meet with legislators, pray the rosary with the Knights of Columbus and process to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for 1:30 p.m. Mass.

For more information and to register for the lobby day, online, go to www.nyscatholic.org or contact the diocesan coordinator Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin, director of Catholic Charities at (315) 393-2255, ccdirect@wad-hams.edu.

JEFFERSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18
CATHOLICISM SERIES

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

Dates: March 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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: March 21

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 (Bring containers)

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Schedule: March 29 at 3 p.m., the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying the chaplet; April 7 at 3 p.m. Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & Special prayers for Healing your family tree, Blessing of the Divine Mercy image and Benediction of Blessed Sacrament.

Features: The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday; celebrating the Feast of

Mercy, April 7. Being merciful to others, Placing our complete trust in Jesus, making a good confession, & receiving Communion on the Feast of Mercy Sunday
Contact: Call Judy at 315-783-7349 or 315-788-2388, or visit www.thedivine-mercy.org

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 materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

LEWIS

K OF C BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – The South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having and all you can eat pancake brunch.

Date: March 17

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

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

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church will be having a Chicken and Biscuit dinner.

Date: March 19

Time: 5 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$8; children, \$4

Features: Take-outs and deliveries will be available by calling 348-6738 or 377-3111.

ST. LAWRENCE

YEAR OF FAITH MOVIE NIGHT

Norfolk – The Parish of the Visitation is having its second parish wide Family Movie Night.

Date: March 22

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Visitation Parish Center

Features: The Passion of the Christ

LEGION OF MARY ACIES CEREMONY

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary annual Acies Ceremony will be held

Date: March 17

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Features: The ceremony consists of an individual consecration and a collective consecration to Mary. Active members will renew their consecration to Mary. All interested persons are also welcome. Refreshments will be served

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

MARCH 17 BRUNCH

Brasher Falls – A Buffet Brunch will be held.

Date: March 17

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$5; Under 5, Free

VIRTUAL TOUR OF ST. PETER'S

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

Date: March 14

Time: 7 p.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 worked as a tour guide at St. Peter's from 1999 to 2001.

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

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

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, April 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

BINGO NEW NIGHT

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Bingo is now on Thursday nights.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES ARE BACK

Ogdensburg – K og C Friday Night Fish Fries are back every Friday until Easter.

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SYMPOSIUM ENVIRONMENT

The Religious Sisters and Brother of the diocese are holding a symposium "Awakening the Dreamer: Symposium on Environment Sustainability."

Dates: April 13, Saranac Lake, Adirondack Medical Center; April 14, Watertown, Sisters of St. Joseph

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Presenters: Mercy Sister Diane Guerin and Claire Maier, Mercy Associate

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – The Diocese of Syracuse is planning its annual Catholic Men's Conference "Ignite 2013."

Date: March 23

Time: 8 a.m. to 5

Place: SRC Arena, Onondaga Community College

Features: Opening Mass with Bishop Cunningham, three speakers: Joe Lombardi, Fr. Dave Pivonka and Patrick Madrid

Registration: Online at www.ignite-catholicmen.org

Order your 2013 Diocesan Directory!



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 for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

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