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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 20, 2013

WE HAVE A POPE!



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis appears for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was elected the 266th Roman Catholic pontiff. He is the first Jesuit and first Latin American pope. The *North Country Catholic* welcomes the new pontiff with features throughout this week's issue

Bishop shares joy about pope

Sing a New Song Unto the Lord—We have a Pope!!

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shared this message March 14, one day after the election of Pope Francis as the 266th Holy Father.

"What joyous news we have received," the bishop said.

"I join the faithful from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg in giving thanks to Almighty God for the gift of a new shepherd, Pope Francis," the bishop said. "We are grateful to the Cardinal-electors for their inspired

choice of this new successor to Peter the Apostle.

"Our new Pope, the first ever from the Americas, is truly a wonderful gift to the universal Church and the world, Bishop LaValley said. "This remarkable election signals a springtime in the life of the Church.

"Pope Francis can be assured of the prayerful support of us all," he concluded. "May God bless him abundantly as he begins his Petrine Ministry of love and service."

MORE LOCAL REACTIONS, PAGE 9

FOR ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

Bishop LaValley celebrated Mass at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Saturday in anticipation of their Feast Day, St. Joseph's Day on March 19. His homily is featured in this week's Follow Me column

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Tucker twins welcomed to St. Cecilia's in Adams... camp sign-up information announced... call for Year of Faith youth videos

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Message from NYS bishops

The staff of the New York State Catholic Conference rejoices with the Church Universal in the election of Pope Francis.

We pledge our loyalty and fidelity to the Holy Father as he begins his pontificate.

The election of the new pope from Argentina is a moment of profound joy not only for South America, but for all the Americas. His election serves as a wonderful moment of unity for the nations of the New World. We ask Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, to pray for the new pope and for the Church at this historic moment.

We are grateful to Timothy Cardinal Dolan, archbishop of New York, and all of the cardinal-electors for their inspired choice, and we anxiously look forward to the pontificate of the Pope of the Americas.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Pope Francis – doing things his own way

One of my favorite sources of information for all the historic papal news of the past month has been John Thavis, long time head of Catholic News Service's Rome Bureau, author of the newly published "Vatican Diaries" and, lucky me, a personal friend.

It's been a thrill to see John share his insights on national television and in the pages of the New York Times, Washington Post and, of course, in the NCC through Catholic News Service.

He's also been writing a blog about the papal abdication, conclave and election.

On the first day of Pope Francis' pontificate, John shared a few anecdotes which offer some ideas about what we can

expect from our new Holy Father.

Hope you enjoy this insiders' look:

One of the first things a new pope hears is, "Holy Father, it's always done this way."

In his first 24 hours in office, Pope Francis has already given indications that he may not be intimidated by those words, as he creates his own style of being pope.

That was clear from the moment he put on his papal robes, donning the simple white cassock but declining to wear the ermine-trimmed red cape known as the mozzetta, which was left hanging on the wardrobe in the Room of Tears.

To Vatican officials who of-

fered him an elaborate gold pectoral cross to wear around the neck, he said he'd prefer to keep his very simple cross that he's worn as a bishop.

After his blessing last night to the crowd in St. Peter's Square and to the world, Vatican aides told the pope a limousine was waiting to take him to his temporary quarters in the Vatican's residence building. The new pope said he'd rather take the bus back with the cardinals – and he did.

This morning, the pope's first act was to leave the Vatican for an impromptu visit to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in central Rome. No doubt someone told him: "But Holy Father, we need time to plan these visits very carefully." He wisely didn't listen.

Yes, his presence snarled traffic and caused a major stir,

but the Romans loved it.

Instead of taking the main car in the papal fleet, a Mercedes with the "SCV 1" license plate, he rode in a more modest sedan.

On the way inside the basilica, he stopped to wave to high school students across the street. After praying before a popular icon of Mary, he told confessors at the church to "be merciful, the souls of the faithful need your mercy."

Then he stopped personally at a clerical guest house where he had been staying in recent days, a few steps from Piazza Navona, to pick up his things and "pay his bill," as he told cardinals the night before.

One can presume his Vatican handlers offered to send someone else on this humdrum task, but Pope Francis did it his way.



Mary Lou
Kilian

FATHER BILL SAYS

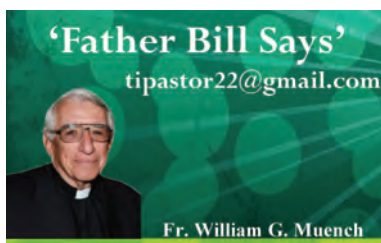
No surprise: new pope is a big surprise!

I was surprised – and am now so pleased with our new Pope – Pope Francis.

As I write this I suspect you have heard and read a great deal about Pope Francis. I just knew there would be plenty of surprises and the Holy Spirit didn't let us down.

I must admit that I had heard often there would be surprises so I often said before the Conclave that there would be surprises however, I really wasn't certain. I was a bit anxious – even when I saw the white smoke and as we waited for the announcement. I was anxious, but so pleased, when our new Pope came out on the loggia and began with a simple – "Good evening!"

You have heard this before I am certain, but I was simply thrilled when Pope Francis asked for silent prayer as a blessing for him as he begins his Papacy. The silence of that throng of people was electrifying. I must admit I walked over to the television and began my own prayer for him.



His humility was obvious. His choice of the name Francis ... his smile – they all caught my attention.

Not long ago, I made a personal retreat in Assisi and I got to know St. Francis of Assisi well. He has become a special saint for me.

Pope Francis is definitely an apostle of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicated to simplicity of life and to the needs of the poor.

What truly rings loudly for me is the story of St. Francis of Assisi hearing the voice of God challenging him to "Rebuild the Church."

May Pope Francis hear that same message.

So we have to watch and see. I will continue to pray that this

is the one. I pray that this is the Pope who will give new life to our Catholic Church. I also pray that he will be happy and, with God's help, successful. May the world see the humble face of our Church in the humble face of our new Pope.

These last few weeks have been rather interesting. The media coverage of the Catholic Church has truly been a barrage. We, Catholics, have been on the news every evening. Granted, some of the reports have delved into our failings and sins but, at the same time, people are hearing a great deal of the greatness of the Catholic Church.

My hope is that our Church leaders, our Bishops, will see in these reports how the world sees our Catholic Church. This can become a challenge for the Bishops of our Church – and our new Pope – to do something. This will be the time to let the world know what our Church stands for and what we intend to accomplish.

The word is evangelization –

getting the message of Jesus and the Church out to all peoples – to our own Catholics, to former Catholics, to all others. Our new Pope has a challenge shared by all of us Catholics – priests and Sisters and all lay men and women – to be evangelizers.

We as Church must find a way to get the word out. Already, our new Pope, Pope Francis, has made it clear: it is a message of holiness and humility. May he truly become our Holy Father.

So join me in a prayer – "Almighty God, my Father, I turn to you this day in prayer. You have blessed our Church with a new Holy Father. Give to him the fullness of your love and peace. Touch him with a deep and strong faith. Lead him with hope and confidence as he begins.

And may he have the charity that will overwhelm the world with his love that he may show all the great love of you, our God, for us all. This is our prayer. Amen."

FOLLOW ME

St. Joseph and SSJs: generous in trusting God

Bishop LaValley's homily for the Feast of St. Joseph, delivered March 16 at Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Scriptural testimony is pretty meager, but ever so significant about St. Joseph. As we gather to celebrate your patron today, I would like to focus on one facet of this righteous man about which we do know: Joseph was generous in trusting God. Similar to Mary's voiced fiat: "let it be done to me according to your word," Joseph's life speaks loudly of his silent fiat.

When I was reflecting on Joseph's generosity in trusting God, I couldn't help but reflect on the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, particularly your first arrival in Watertown.

I remember reading about the establishment of the first Catholic schools and what tremendous faith-women who truly generously trusted in God. The hardship, the unknown, the abject poverty of the North Country, the fighting between the Irish and the French, nothing deterred these women of ironclad faith, your forebears, who trusted so in God's Providence.

As I've mentioned previously, if their hearts were pounding or their knees knocking those so many years ago, it was because of the frigid wintry weather, not for fear or lack of faith.

Sisters of St. Joseph, you must be, you should be, so very proud of your heritage. In order to plant your roots in the frozen tundra of the north and minister so bravely to the people of God here, it took more than just trust. It took a generous spirit of trust, raw faith!

That was over 130 years ago. But the generous trust in God wasn't in short supply and all spent then.

Focused on the need to proclaim the faith by education and formation, the Sisters of St. Joseph began to write a remarkable story of pioneers of faith in our beloved North Country, a story that continues to be told through your lives of self-less service.

The faithful here continue to be richly blessed because the Sisters of St. Joseph, like their patron, so generously trust in God's Providence. And that generous trust is so very important today in our changing world and changing Church.

My dear Sisters, the bones of your faith, continue to be formed here in the 21st century. They must continue to grow or they become brittle and break or calcified and immobile.

As the years roll along, change has been the constant companion of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In her comments on your written history, Sister Annunciata summed it up so beautifully, "It becomes increasingly clear that all is grace and that the driving force of the Spirit forces missions and ministries out of circumstances and events far beyond our own efforts." But that can only happen when we generously trust in God and revel in the grace.

I looked up the word "generously" in Webster's Dictionary. He uses words such as "noble, bounteous, abundant, unsparing" to describe generous. You see, you don't just trust to a minimal or even to an average degree. You trust in God unsparingly, holding nothing back! Your embrace of the evangelical counsels enables such giving.

Through the evangelical counsel of poverty, you empty yourself of any undue cares that could rob your attention, focus and love of Jesus.

To say no to owning your own car, your own home; to pay scant attention to the

fashions and styles of the day; to say no to personal checking or savings account are all a remarkable witness of generosity and trust that speaks volumes to a world today that doesn't believe life is possible without such material things.

Through the evangelical counsel of obedience, you join in the Blessed Virgin's verbal and her husband's non-verbal fiat of total self-sacrifice of your own will and ego. Again, what a counter-cultural, really heroic witness for us all!

Your vow of chastity is a public expression of the exclusive and total giving of yourself to Christ. You have committed yourself, all of your energies, all of your desires, the whole of your life, to the One whose love is so beautifully poetically portrayed in the Song of Songs.

By generously, not grudgingly, living out the evangel-

ical counsels, the blossoming of the faith and the growth of new possibilities is nurtured. Joseph, the righteous one, had no assurances that everything would turn out well if he took Mary as his wife.

He received nothing in writing that would guarantee that his taking of Mary and Jesus to Egypt would be a safe journey or that even their return would be with-

out peril. No, this man of the covenant generously trusted in His God. Joseph's every decision and action was taken in obedience to God's will. He put no limitations on what he would do for God. Any human fear that this poor, humble man might have experienced was drowned out by the generous overflowing of total trust in the faithful God he worshipped.

I would like to conclude with the words of Benedict XVI at his final General Audience:



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley



Chrism Mass 2013

All the Faithful of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg
are cordially invited to join

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

for the annual Renewal of Priestly
Commitment, the Blessing of the
Holy Oils, and the consecration of the
Sacred Chrism for use in all the
churches of the Diocese
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ

on Thursday, March 21st at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

YEAR OF FAITH...STORY OF FAITH

Trusting in God

By Maeana Cragg
Contributing Writer

Some people may think we're crazy. Others may think that we are just foolish. Few have ever said that directly to us. In fact, after asking the obligatory, "Are they all yours?" most people are kind enough to tell us what a beautiful family we have.

There was a time when a Catholic family with at least seven sweet little stair steps was not extraordinary at all, but quite typical. Somewhere, we seem to have lost that beautiful part of our Catholic identity. Honestly, I'm not sure how, as the Church's teachings on family, on contraception, and on the blessings of children have not changed. There is so much peace, so much joy to be found giving your will entirely to God.

My first baby was a hard baby. Now that I am a slightly more experienced mom, I realize just how hard Ethan was. He spent most of the first part of his life sobbing. He wouldn't nurse to sleep, but had to be rocked in a special bouncing rocking rhythm that his daddy perfected. We quickly realized that a crib was an impossibility with this beautiful little boy, unless we wanted to spend the nights standing over him, both hands on him.

I could go on and on, but the point is, if we had decided when to have another baby from a perfectly rational, perfectly human point-of-view, chances are, the next wouldn't have come for years, if at all. Instead, we got our sweet Asher 18 months later.

This little guy was so different from his brother. He didn't do very much crying, but took the whole world in with his big eyes. He was also very physical. He loved hugs and snuggles and had



a sweet and sensitive little heart.

Ethan would sit quietly for hours reading books and doing puzzles. Asher would sit with him for a while, but would then pull him away to dance and wrestle. In so many ways, Asher was just what his big brother needed and Ethan was just what Asher needed. We had our two darling little boys.

I couldn't imagine my heart having enough room for another, and then, 17 months later, Colin came along.

Colin was Mr. Personality. As a baby, he smiled constantly. He was able to put on entire shows at 18 months old that would make the whole family laugh so hard, we were gasping for air. Physically, he was somehow able to keep right up with his brothers. They were now the Three Musketeers.

We had three amazing sons, all three years old and under. If I had to pick a

point during my motherhood where I could have said, "That's it, that is all I can handle", it would have been then. The house was never organized, laundry never put where it belonged, and dinners were simple, to say the least. I was even teaching flute lessons in the midst of it all. Most days, I barely held on.

Humanly speaking, I certainly didn't need another baby, but that was before I met my darling girl, Clare.

God knew I needed a little break, and so there were over two years between her and the boys. She was sweet, petite, and the boys all adored her. I now had my girl. "Now you can stop", said the world. God said, "Trust me", and fourteen months later, he gave me her Irish twin, Lucas.

He continued to shower me with blessings as my beautiful, independent Celia arrived two years later (she walks Lucas upstairs when he's scared), and two years



The Cragg children are shown at left at Christmas time. In front are Gavan and Celia, middle, Clare and Lucas; and back, Asher, Ethan and Colin. The children and their parents Maeana and Eric of St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam are anxiously awaiting the imminent birth of a new baby brother.

after that, I got my cutie-pie, Gavan. God apparently thinks I do well with boys, as I am being blessed with my sixth in just a few weeks. I can't begin to describe how much easier life is with seven helpful children than it was with three.

One question we often get is how we can possibly afford all our children.

Hand-me-downs are wonderful. Because my three oldest boys are pretty much the same size, I just found a tote for my Lucas that had more clothes than he could possibly wear. I was able to give many away, and there are still plenty for both Lucas and his little brothers later on.

Homeschooling makes it easier, as no one cares about the latest fashions. If they had their way, they'd stay in their jammies all day.

Food is so much cheaper when you buy in bulk, and very little goes to waste. We raised our own steer, our own pigs, and our own chickens for meat, and we have our own dairy cow. Honestly though, if we weren't able to do just as well by buying on sale at the local grocery stores.

I grew up with a very fru-

gal mom, and she taught me well. Children don't each need their own room. In fact, I wouldn't be able to separate most of my children, even if I wanted to. They bicker and fight, like all brothers and sisters do, but one of the biggest punishments I can give them is telling them they have to play in separate rooms.

Which brings me to another concern people have when it comes to having a big family, how can I possibly give ALL those children the attention they need.

First of all, I am a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom. My children often get more attention from me than they want. More importantly, a family isn't only about how the parents interact with their children. My children are horrified when they read books about not wanting a baby brother or sister. They are offended when a character describes a little brother or sister as a pain. Instead, my kids like to talk about how Ethan was the least lucky baby in our family, because he only had Mommy and Daddy to love him.

They then go through each sibling, each of whom is luckier and luckier because they each have one more person to love them until they get to the last baby, who is the luckiest of all, because he has Mommy, Daddy, Ethan, Asher, Colin, Clare, Lucas, Celia, and Gavan to love him.

It is so easy to be scared, to listen to the world, the world that tells you that you are nothing without a career, that having a bunch of kids is insane, that trusting in your God, in your Church is foolish.

It is even easier to live a life where you are everything to a bunch of insanely amazing kids, and where trusting in an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving God is the most intelligent thing a person could do.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN MASTELLON

Allison and Amelia Tucker, born joined at the chest, were baptized March 3 at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, two days after their first birthday and four months after successful separation surgery. Shown during the baptism, at left are Vickie Ambeau, grandmother; Greg Tucker, father, holding Amelia; Shellie Tucker, mother, holding Allison; Tom Ambeau, godfather to Amelia; Natalie Maguire, godmother to Amelia and Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor of St. Cecilia's. Allison's godparents, Andrew and Melissa Kotary were unable to attend and were represented by the babies' grandparents Larry and Vickie Ambeau.

Tucker twins are welcomed into the church

By Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

ADAMS - It was the 11 a.m. Mass on March 3. The Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent included Luke's account of the parable of the fig tree, a tree that appeared to be dead. But the gardener begged for the tree to be saved. He pledged to cultivate the ground around the tree and hoped to revive the tree and help it bear fruit.

Father Patrick Ratigan told the parishioners of St. Cecilia's that he would have very little to say in his homily.

"This occasion says it all," he said.

Then he recalled the words of St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel. Use words if you must." The Gospel is being preached to us today in this joyous occasion; in the commitment of Shellie and Greg Tucker and in the lives of their two precious daughters, Amelia and Allison."

One year and two days after their birth the Tucker twins officially came home.

They were presented to the

parish that has prayed for them, worried about them and their parents, and now celebrates for them all.

Amelia and Allison were born joined at the chest. Their parents Shellie and Greg Tucker knew that would be the case long before the girls were born.

They had been advised of all the potential things that could go wrong during the pregnancy.

They were educated about the prospects for survival of conjoined children. They were counseled on the odds of separation.

One physician suggested they consider abortion. Their answer was "no."

The girls were born March 1, 2012 at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, (CHOP). They were baptized at birth.

Over the next many months Allison and Amelia faced hours of treatment and tests to determine the viability and timing of surgical separation. Their parents lived in a Ronald McDonald house designed for the families of children being treated at CHOP.

"We only know about one-tenth of what Shellie and Greg and their families have gone through over these months," Father Ratigan said. "We will never really appreciate what this has been like for them. But we are grateful and thank them and God."

A team of surgeons and support staff separated the girls Nov. 7, 2012.

On March 3, St. Cecilia's Parish embraced the family as a Catholic Christian community is called to do, in Sacrament.

Father Ratigan provided the Baptismal service with anointing and prayer. Allison and Amelia received blessings as their parent's received the Eucharist.

And then the parish sent the Tuckers off to spread the good news, after a chorus of Happy Birthday to the girls.

Shellie and Greg are hoping their lives can somehow find "normalcy." There are jobs to deal with and school work to finish.

There is the everyday joy of watching their daughters develop, physically and socially.

They hope to be able to ac-

complish those things out of the limelight they were thrust into. They know their girls are special and they recognize the story of the Tucker Twins has touched many hearts.

"We could not have done

this without you and your prayers," Shellie told the people of St. Cecilia's. "Thank you and God bless you," she said.

Then everyone moved into the parish hall to meet their newest parishioners.

SAINT JAMES
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To apply, please send cover letter, application, resume, copies of transcripts and letters of recommendation, no later than April 15, 2013 to:

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Application on line: www.dioogdensburg.org at the Catholic School Office link.

Environment: a Catholic concern

Religious Sisters and Brothers plan symposium April 13-14

Awakening the Dreamer Symposium: Changing the Dream, an educational experience that explores one of the most critical concerns of our times, will be offered by the Religious Sisters and Brothers of the Diocese April 13 in Saranac Lake and April 14 in Watertown.

"It is an opportunity to make a real difference in accelerating the emergence of an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on this planet," said Mercy Sister Janet Peters of Sackets Harbor, one of the or-

ganizers of the program.

"The symposium will explore the current state of our planet from a new perspective and connect with a powerful global movement to reclaim our future," Sister Janet said.

Mercy Sister Diane Guerin, Ph.D., who currently ministers as the Justice Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and Claire Maier, a Mercy Associate will present the symposium.

The sessions will be held at Adirondack Medical Center

in Saranac Lake on April 13 and at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown on April 14.

Both presentations are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 4.

Sister Diane has been involved in justice ministry for more than 40 years and has extensive experience as a presenter and facilitator. Her commitment to sharing the *Awakening the Dreamer* Program flows from her belief that each one of us can make a difference in our world. The program empowers participants to act and make that change a reality.

Miss Maier has worked for human rights for more than 50 years, and has volunteered extensively in working on social justice issues, including this program.

Anyone interested in helping to bring forth a wholesome world respectful of all peoples, is encouraged to attend, Sister Janet said.

Further information is available from Ursuline Sister Sheila Murphy, OSU at 518-483-2880, e-mail: ursulmal@verizon.net; or St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald at 315-324-5718, e-mail: srbeth@cit-tele.com.

Climate Ambassador coming to St. Peter's in Plattsburgh

PLATTSBURGH - Dr. Gerry Gacoch, Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital's Heart Institute who is also one of the nation's 21 Catholic Climate Ambassadors trained by the Catholic Climate Covenant, is slated to offer an hour-long public presentation April 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's Church.

The Climate Ambassador's

presentation will focus on

- What is climate change?
- Why should we care?
- Catholic teachings and traditions associated with environmental stewardship
- Mitigation and adaption to climate change; and
- What we can be doing as individuals and together.

This presentation will be co-sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the St.

Peter's Church Environmental Stewardship Committee.

The Catholic Climate Covenant is an outgrowth of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, which was established in year 2006 by the collective efforts of a dozen national Catholic organizations, such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, plus the National Religious Partnership for the Environment.

Ambassador Dr. Gacoch is an experienced speaker and has extensive background on the moral implications of climate change consistent with Catholic teachings outlined

by Pope Benedict XVI in his World Day of Peace Message of year 2010 "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation", and in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement, "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good."

There is no admission fee for the April 21 presentation, although individuals who wish to attend are encouraged to telephone the St. Peter's Church Rectory at 518-563-1692 several days in advance of the presentation, to request a seat be reserved for them.

Environmental Stewardship

TRANSPORTATION

"Questions linked to the care and preservation of the environment today need to give due consideration to the energy problem...The international community has an urgent duty to find institutional means of regulating the exploitation of non-renewable resources, involving poor countries in the process, in order to plan together for the future."

Caritas in Veritate/Vat. II Document

Did you know: U.S. is less than 5% of the world's population and is responsible for about 20% of the carbon dioxide being emitted.

- Plan ahead--combine numerous small trips into one.
- Don't drive faster than 60 mph..Saves gas and reduces stress..
- Share a ride. Carpooling saves carbon emissions.

Taken from www.lent45.org

Bishop's Schedule

March 19-20 - Public Policy Day in Albany

March 21 - 11a.m., Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 22 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 23 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 24 - 11a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 25 - 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 26 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

7 p.m., Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

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

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 20 - Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, 1939

March 23 - Msgr. Paul T. Joly, 1987

March 24 - Rev. George Roskwitalski, O.F.M. Conv., 1980

March 25 - Rev. Michael D. Charbonneau, 1909

March 26 - Rev. Jean P. Bernard, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Thomas J. Rodgers, O.S.A., 1971; Msgr. William E. LaVallee

ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE



Enter for your chance to win a **2013 Toyota Corolla or \$12,000 CASH!!!**

(Winner pays NYS sales tax) Drawing will be held March 31, 2013.

All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Church in Canton and its ministries.

Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

St. Mary's Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

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St. Mary's Youth Group, Clayton held a "Fat Tuesday" party Feb. 12 to prepare for Lent. Everyone brought a favorite food that they planned on giving up for the next 40 days and the group shared everything from chocolate, bread, pasta to bacon. They discussed the true meaning of Lent, made wooden crosses, decorated mini houses, wrote letters to the "Adopt a Platoon" program and played games. Above, Sabrina and Madison Wahl are pictured with uncompleted crosses.



Fifty-four students from Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh participated in the North Country Model United Nations March 7-9 at Northeastern Clinton Central School. Seton sent the largest delegation by student body percentage to the conference as 40% of Seton students participated.

It's time to sign up for camp!

The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is accepting applications for summer sessions at Guggenheim and Sports-Camp.

SportsCamp 2013, held at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, offers boys and girls ages 11-15 the opportunity to blend quality sports training with spiritual growth.

The focus of SportsCamp is to help young people become better athletes and better people.

Basketball camp and soccer camp Will both be held July 7-11.

At Guggenheim, camp activities include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, arts& crafts, campfires, dances and daily liturgical experiences (Masses, penance service and prayer. Faith formation and growth is at the heart of the Guggenheim experience and is an important part of every day!

The 2013 Camp Guggenheim dates, for ages 12 to 15, are June 30- July 5, July 7-12, July 14-19, July 21-26 and July 28-Aug. 2.

The Week of Aug, 4-9 is open to 16 to 18 year olds.

Registration for both sportscamp and Guggenheim made be mad by calling the Office of Youth Ministry at (315) 393-2920 or online at www.rcdony.org/youth/camps.

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

Pope Francis: getting to know him

By Francis X. Rocca and Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, the leader of a large urban archdiocese in Latin America, was elected the 266th pope and took the name Francis.

Pope Francis has had a growing reputation as a very spiritual man with a talent for pastoral leadership serving in a region with the largest number of the world's Catholics.

He is the first pope in history to come from the Western Hemisphere and the first non-European to be elected in almost 1,300 years. The Jesuit was also the first member of his order to be elected pope, and the first member of any religious order to be elected in nearly two centuries.

The election March 13 came on the second day of the conclave, on the conclave's fifth ballot. It was a surprisingly quick conclusion to a conclave that began with many plausible candidates and no clear favorite.

The new pope was chosen by at least two-thirds of the 115 cardinals from 48 countries, who cast their ballots in secret in the Sistine Chapel.

His election was announced in Latin from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, to a massive crowd under the rain in the square below and millions watching around the world.

White smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel chimney at 7:05 p.m., signaling that the cardinals had chosen a successor to retired Pope Benedict XVI. Two minutes later, the bells of St. Peter's Basilica began pealing continuously to confirm the election.

At 8:12, French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the senior cardinal in the order of dea-

cons, appeared at the basilica balcony and read out in Latin: "I announce to you a great joy: We have a pope! The most eminent and most reverend lord, Lord Jorge Mario, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Bergoglio, who has taken for himself the name Francis."

The crowd in the square responded with cheers, applause and the waving of rain-soaked national flags.

Ten minutes later the new pope appeared. He sought prayers for Pope Benedict and spoke of the journey the church was about to begin.

"Now I would like to give my blessing. But first, I will ask a favor. Before the bishop blesses his people, he asks that you pray to the Lord to bless me, the prayer of the people for the blessing of their bishop. Let's pray for me in silence," he said.

Very spiritual man

Pope Francis has had a growing reputation as a very spiritual man with a talent for pastoral leadership serving in a region with the largest number of the world's Catholics.

Since 1998, he has been archbishop of Buenos Aires, where his style is low-key and close to the people.

He rides the bus, visits the poor, lives in a simple apartment and cooks his own meals. To many in Buenos Aires, he is known simply as "Father Jorge."

He also has created new parishes, restructured the administrative offices, led pro-life initiatives and started new pastoral programs, such as a commission for divorcees. He co-chaired over the 2001 Synod of Bishops and was elected to the synod council, so he is well-known to the world's bishops.

Outspoken on the issues

The pope has also written books on spirituality and meditation and has been outspoken against abortion and same-sex marriages.



CNS PHOTO/ENRIQUE MARCARIAN, REUTERS

The world's cardinals meeting in conclave elected Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, a 76-year-old Jesuit, as pope. He took the name Francis. He is pictured in a 2005 photo.

In 2010, when Argentina became the first Latin American country to legalize same-sex marriage, Pope Francis encouraged clergy across the country to tell Catholics to protest against the legislation because, if enacted, it could "seriously injure the family."

He also said adoption by same-sex couples would result in "depriving (children) of the human growth that God wanted them given by a father and a mother."

In 2006, he criticized an Argentine proposal to legalize abortion under certain circumstances as part of a wide-ranging legal reform. He accused the government of lacking respect for the values held by the majority of Argentines and of trying to convince the Catholic Church "to waver in our defense of the dignity of the person."

His role often forced him to speak publicly about the economic, social and political problems facing his country. His homilies and speeches are filled with references to the fact that all people are brothers and sisters and that the church and the country need to do what

they can to make sure that everyone feels welcome, respected and cared for.

While not overtly political, Pope Francis has not tried to hide the political and social impact of the Gospel message, particularly in a country still recovering from a serious economic crisis.

After becoming archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998, he created new parishes, restructured the administrative offices, taken personal care of the seminary and started new pastoral projects, such as the commission for divorcees.

Biographical notes

Jorge Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital city, Dec. 17, 1936.

He studied and received a master's degree in chemistry at the University of Buenos Aires, but later decided to become a Jesuit priest and studied at the Jesuit seminary of Villa Devoto. The last pope to have belonged to a religious order was Pope Gregory XVI, a Benedictine elected in 1831.

He studied liberal arts in Santiago, Chile, and in 1960 earned a degree in philosophy from the Catholic Uni-

versity of Buenos Aires. Between 1964 and 1965 he was a teacher of literature and psychology at Inmaculada high school in the province of Santa Fe, and in 1966 he taught the same courses at the prestigious Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires.

In 1967, he returned to his theological studies and was ordained a priest Dec. 13, 1969. After his perpetual profession as a Jesuit in 1973, he became master of novices at the Seminary of Villa Barilari in San Miguel. Later that same year, he was elected superior of the Jesuit province of Argentina.

In 1980, he returned to San Miguel as a teacher at the Jesuit school, a job rarely taken by a former provincial superior. In May 1992 he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires. He was one of three auxiliaries and he kept a low profile, spending most of his time caring for the Catholic university, counseling priests and preaching and hearing confessions.

On June 3, 1997, he was named coadjutor archbishop. He was installed as the new archbishop of Buenos Aires Feb. 28, 1998.

Some controversy had arisen over the position taken by Pope Francis during Argentina's 1976-1983 military dictatorship, which cracked down brutally on political opponents. Estimates of the number of people killed and forcibly disappeared during those years range from about 13,000 to more than 30,000.

Citing a case in which two young priests were detained by the military regime, critics say that the cardinal, who was Jesuit provincial at the time, did not do enough to support church workers against the military dictatorship.

Others, however, have said that he attempted to negotiate behind the scenes for the priests' release, and a spokesman for the cardinal, quoted in the daily newspaper La Nacion, called the accusation "old slander."

Voices of welcome from the North Country

It's a great time to be a Catholic... Viva il Papa!

My first thought at the White smoke was *it's too early to be white*. I really wasn't expecting that the Cardinals would elect a new pope before Thursday or Friday at the earliest. But somehow I expected it to be +Card. Bergoglio. My thoughts when he arrived on the balcony were many. First off he reminded me of John Paul I. There was just something about him. I also thought it was interesting that a Jesuit would pick the name Francis. And rather than an exuberant greeting with his hands raised like the previous popes, I loved his understated little wave and his quiet "Buonasera."

In the last twenty four hours we have seen much in the news: his washing of feet of AIDS patients, his riding the bus, heading back to his pre-conclave hostel to pick up his bags and pay his bill. Even though it was not on the schedule, going to St. Mary Major to pray the day after his election. I also love the way the Holy Spirit works. After the excitement and dramatic John Paul II, we were given the quiet Benedict who unpacked and explained the theology of John Paul II in ways we could grasp. An now, it seems we have a Pope who will take that theology and help us to put it into practice.

It is a great time to be Catholic!

Marika Donders
Diocesan Evangelization director

I'll never forget this time at the Seminary - when the white smoke began to arise from the chimney atop the Sistine Chapel, the signal we were all so eagerly awaiting, the entire Theology division filled the common room in about two minutes - including the faculty! We all huddled in and waited for the next hour to see who it was. I'll never forget the feeling of exhilaration and anticipation, and how we all clapped and cheered along with the Universal Church when we heard the words from the Cardinal Deacon, "Habemus Papam!", and again when he finally walked out onto the balcony. Having been called to the Priesthood just a few days prior, it was an extraordinary moment to be here at the seminary. May Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, be filled with every grace and blessing, and lead us all to true holiness, and love of Jesus Christ! Viva il Papa!

Deacon Scott Belina
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

I was on the phone when the parish secretary came into the office with a note which said in bold letters: **We have a Pope!** I concluded the call and went online to watch the TV coverage of the announcement and Pope Francis' first words. I am very excited that the new pope is from the Americas, and was immediately impressed by the warmth and humor of his first words and the deep faith and humility he displayed. His ministry as archbishop identifying with the ordinary person and reaching out to the poor, along with the choice of the name of a saint world famous for his desire to spread the gospel to all the



CNS PHOTO/ERIC GAILLARD, REUTERS

Pilgrims react as newly elected Pope Francis I, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is introduced on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13. Several Catholics from the Diocese of Ogdensburg share their reactions here.

world by living a message of peace and goodness strikes me as exactly the witness the Church wants to present to the world. The fact that the cardinals reached their decision in the first day of voting is a sign for me of consensus that only the Holy Spirit can bring. With this choice the Church has turned another corner in her history and begins a new and exciting journey into the future.

Father Albert Hauser
Pastor, Catholic Community of Moriah

"Like most people, I was surprised that the white smoke came so quickly and with the unexpected names attached. It was a joy to see his simplicity just standing there before the world. And it came on the last day of the mission given by Bishop LaValley to the three Parishes located in the City of Plattsburgh. The church was packed and the celebration was electric. It was quite a joyful conclusion to a spectacular three days led by our successor of the apostles. I see Pope Francis as giving us stability, humility, and a new way to present the mystery of Christ. What more could you ask for."

Msgr. Dennis Duprey
Pastor, St. Peter's in Plattsburgh

Mea culpa. When I first heard that we had a new pope, Francis, an Argentinian Jesuit, I took a deep breath. A *Jesuit* pope?! (Clearly since he is the first one in history, there was cause for surprise.) Four years in a Jesuit college, as well as some of the order's recent history, gave me pause at this announcement...until I uttered my first Memorare for him, and my perspective shifted almost immediately. After all, it was the Holy Spirit who had inspired his election. Next came the reminder that some of the most prayer-

ful and deeply committed priests I have ever known were Jesuits, including the spiritual director whose wisdom and patience laid a sure foundation for all the rest of my life. Then my thoughts turned to St. Ignatius himself: a soldier who did battle with himself to give God his all, and whose sons have blessed the Church for nearly half a millennium. Finally came the words of Pope Francis' first homily: "When we walk without the cross, when we build without the cross, and when we proclaim Christ without the cross, we are not disciples of the Lord...I would like for all of us, after these days of grace, that we find courage to walk in the presence of God..and to build the Church with the blood of Christ." A Jesuit pope? THANKS BE TO GOD!

Suzanne Pietropaoli
Parishioner, Malone Catholic Parishes

Our God of surprises never let's down! Pope Francis is clearly a man of humble faith and great compassion. Some are concerned about his age but the ever young message of God is age indiscriminate! We are greatly blessed!

Father John Yonkovic
Pastor, Lake Placid and Keene

I only recall a few times where I have witnessed a papal election. Prior to Bl. John Paul the Great ... well let's just say they were all WELL before my time. Anyway, each time a Pope is elected I have thought to myself, "How is ANY Pope going to follow in the footsteps of John Paul II and NOW ... Benedict XVI? The Cardinal electors and the Holy Spirit seem to have again, elected the PERFECT candidate. Pope Francis is a humble and simple man, who will be bringing "Culture Shock" to the Vatican. He cooks his own food, takes the bus ... even after being elected Pope, he went into his hotel, packed up his things, paid his own bill before moving into the papal apartment. In addition, taking the name of FRANCIS may be a hint as to the mission of this Pope. Humility, simplicity, and as Christ instructed the beloved St. Francis, "Repair my Church." May God Bless Pope Francis, protect and guide him in his ministry as the Vicar of Christ.

Bill O'Brien
Parishioner, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

What a joyous time for our Church! As I watched our new Holy Father step onto the balcony I noticed immediately the humility that he exuded. Dressed simply, his loving request for prayers from the crowd confirmed that the Holy Spirit knew what he was doing when guiding the cardinals to select this man to be our new Pontiff. With a simple wave he had already won my heart as a Catholic. Let us continue to pray for Pope Francis as he works to "rebuild God's Church."

Amanda Conklin
Campus Minister, St. Mary's, Canton

Inside the Sistine Chapel

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - While the cardinal electors were intensely praying and choosing the next pope, they were utterly unaware of the huge crowds waiting outside braving the rain and whether the smoke really worked, said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

Sequestered by conclave, cardinals missed births, rain, cellphones

The cardinal also said that while he and the 114 other electors were shut off from the rest of the world, a new member of his family had been born when his niece gave birth to a baby boy.

"And I didn't know it!"

He said he knew she was probably going to go in to the hospital March 12, which was the start of the conclave, so it was "the first thing I asked when I got out," he told reporters the night Pope Francis was elected March 13.

Being cut off from all forms of communication for 27 hours was not easy.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston told reporters that it was difficult to not have his cellphone with him during the conclave because he was so used to having it on him.

But the seclusion meant the cardinals were not even aware if the smoke signals they were sending could be seen or interpreted correctly



CNS/PAUL HARING

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, right, prepares to board a bus with other U.S. cardinals from the Pontifical North American College to attend the Mass for the election of the Roman pontiff in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 12. Cardinal Dolan told reporters March 13 that Pope Francis met all of the cardinals' qualifications they were seeking in a new pope.

given the past history of the smoke being a confusing shade of gray.

"Did the smoke work this time?" Cardinal Dolan asked reporters.

He said it was fascinating to watch how the ballots and packets of chemicals that made either black or white smoke were being loaded in the two stoves in the Sistine Chapel.

It was Cardinal Dolan's first conclave, which he said was "very inspirational, very moving."

He said he listened to a few "veteran" cardinals who had participated in a conclave before for input, and they told him that "Once you get in there, you will feel the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit, and you'll see God's grace very much at work."

"You feel a beautiful sense of resignation and direction as you see things unfolding," Cardinal Dolan said.

"It was a very beautiful experience and it's something I will never forget," he added.

The procession into the Sistine Chapel was "a magnificent fraternal, apostolic climate and atmosphere to pray together, talk together. ...You could just see a sense that this was in God's hands, even though that didn't absolve us from the responsibility and hard work we needed to do" of voting for the right person, he said.

Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto said "I found it to be just an immensely moving experience, profoundly so."

Cardinal Dolan said it was very emotional when the final ballot revealed Argen-

tine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio had reached and then surpassed the two-thirds majority of 77 votes needed to become pope.

"There was big applause first of all when he reached the vote of 77 and we knew 'here's the man' and then when it was announced again at the end with the final tally" there was more applause, and still more when he accepted his election.

"I don't think there was a dry eye in the place," Cardinal Dolan said.

He said he wasn't surprised a successful vote had happened so quickly, after just one and a half days of voting and five ballots.

"He's already won our hearts," he said.

After he was elected and

put on his papal vestments, Pope Francis did not choose to sit on a special white chair that had been set up for him on an elevated platform. Instead "he looked at and said 'I'll stay down here,' so he met with each of us on our own level," Cardinal Dolan said.

The pope's choice of the name Francis did not surprise anybody, the cardinal said, because the pope had been known "for his beautiful care and love for the poor in Buenos Aires" and his humility in taking the bus to work every day.

The pope's habit of taking the bus apparently was not easy to break.

After Pope Francis greeted the crowds in the square, he and the cardinals left the apostolic palace to return to their lodgings at Domus Sanctae Marthae. But, instead of getting in the papal car that was waiting for him, the pope took one of the mini-buses with the rest of the cardinals.

"I guess he told the driver, 'That's ok I'll just go with the guys on the bus,'" Cardinal Dolan said.

His simplicity and sense of humor were apparent when the pope asked the cardinals to join him in a meal together.

"We toasted him and then he toasted us and he said, 'May God forgive you'" for having elected him pope, which "brought the house down" with laughter.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl said he was particularly impressed that the new pope joined the cardinals for dinner. The fact that he "just walked in and ate with us," the cardinal said, was "so simple and unpretentious."

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Francis starts first day with Marian prayer, bill paying

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis began his first full day as pope with an early morning act of Marian devotion -- and by paying the bill at the clergy hotel where he had stayed before entering the conclave that elected him. The new pope left the Domus Sanctae Marthae at 8 a.m. March 14 for a five-minute drive to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where he prayed before an icon of Mary and the child Jesus beloved by Romans, the "Salus Populi Romani" (Protectress of the Roman People). Pope Francis knelt in prayer for a while, then sat praying for several minutes before leaving at the altar the bouquet of flowers he had been carrying, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. The pope was joined by Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, and by Cardinal Santos Abril Castello, archpriest of the basilica. U.S. Cardinal Bernard F. Law, retired archpriest of the basilica, also was present, Father Lombardi said. The spokesman said the pope paused in front of the basilica's main altar, which is built over a reliquary containing, according to tradition, pieces of the manger where Jesus was laid as a baby. Pope Francis, a Jesuit, then went to the Sistine Chapel of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, which is where St. Ignatius of Loyola celebrated his first Mass in 1538. Ignatius had wanted to celebrate his first Mass in Bethlehem, but could not travel there, so chose instead St. Mary Major with its relic of the manger, Father Lombardi said.

World offers words of hope, joy to Pope Francis

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Catholic leaders worldwide expressed words of hope and joy in calling upon Catholics to come together as one body behind the papacy of Pope Francis. International political leaders also offered words of congratulations and pledged to work with the new pontiff on common goals and concerns in a complex world. Church bells tolled around the world with the announcement of the new pope, about 25 hours after 115 cardinal electors entered a conclave to consider who would succeed retired Pope Benedict XVI. Catholics flocked to cathedrals to pray for Pope Francis and offer thanks that a new leader was chosen with the help of the Holy Spirit. Here is a summary of comments from around the world... Coptic Catholic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak of Alexandria, Egypt: "I found a smiling person, calm and radiating peace. And then he did something that captured the people. ... He asked that the people pray for him and that God bless him, and there was silence, and you saw all the people wonderfully silent. We need now in the church moments of silence because we are speaking so much we don't hear ourselves or God or others; Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, England, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: "His election may have taken many of us by surprise, including me; but the more we learn about him, the more it becomes clear that the election of Pope Francis is an inspired one and that his papacy will be inspiring. ... By his own example, Pope Francis will help us to have a special concern for the poor because in them we see and serve Christ himself"; Archbishop Stephen Brislin of Cape Town, South Africa, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference: "The symbolism of choosing a pope from Latin America has delights and touches us, most particularly in developing countries. Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, Pope Francis, is a person from humble beginnings. ... He has frequently and courageously spoken of the grave inequities afflicting the world and his thirst for justice for all people will be a strong characteristic of his papacy.

First homily as pope:

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Without faith in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, the church is nothing more than a "pitiful NGO," Pope Francis said in his first homily as pope.

"When one does not confess Christ," he said, "one confesses the worldliness of the devil."

The pope spoke at Mass March 14 in the Sistine Chapel, site of the conclave that had elected him the previous day. Pope Francis celebrated the Mass with the 114 other cardinal electors who had taken part in the conclave.

Following the cardinal electors in a procession, all of them wearing gold vestments to signify joy, the pope entered the chapel as a choir sang in Latin a verse from Mt 16:18, which begins "tu es petrus" (you are Peter).

In one of the first signs of change from the previous pontificate, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at a temporary altar that allowed him to face the rest of the congregation. In recent years, Pope Benedict XVI had celebrated Mass in the Sistine Chapel at an altar fixed to the wall under Michelangelo's fresco of the Last Judgment.

The new pope also delivered his homily standing at a lectern, not seated, as his predecessor usually did.

Preaching for seven minutes in Italian without a written text or notes, Pope Francis spoke about three important kinds of movement that he said appeared



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Francis delivers his homily as he celebrates Mass with cardinal electors in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican March 14, the day after his election.

in the Scripture readings at the Mass: walking, building and confessing.

"Our life is a path," he said. "When we stop, the thing doesn't go." He said Catholics must "walk always, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with that blamelessness that God asks of Abraham in his promise."

"Build with living stones, anointed by the Holy Spirit," the pope said. "Confess Jesus. If we don't do that, we will be a pitiful NGO (non-governmental organization)."

He also compared building without faith to sand castles children construct on the beach, which are washed away by the next tide.

"To walk, build and confess without the cross means that we are not true disciples of the Lord," he said. "We must confess the one cross, and in

that way we will be a true church.

"I would like that all of us, following these days of grace, have the courage -- the very courage -- to walk in the presence of the Lord, with the cross of the Lord," the pope said in conclusion; "to build the church in the blood of the Lord, which is spilled on the cross; and to confess the only glory, Christ crucified. And in that way the church will move ahead."

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Looking ahead to the holiest week of the year

The waving of palm branches and the cries of "Hosanna to the King!" usher in the holiest week of the year.

The full drama begins with the crowd's fickle acclaim of Jesus as King for a day. It is a foreshadowing of the blasphemous mockery the soldiers will hurl at our thorn-crowned Saviour a few days later.

And yet, for a few hours we can raise our voices joyfully with the crowd, linking the honor given by the crowd, especially by the children, with His ultimate victory beyond the grave.

We wonder and rejoice as the veil is raised to permit a glimpse of Jesus, the Mes-

siah and liberator.

But then, as the Palm Sunday Mass proceeds, the horrors of the Passion are proclaimed, and, in the liturgy of the day, we must with reluctance raise our voices with the crowd clamoring "Crucify Him!"

How could have events have accelerated at such a dizzying pace between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday?

The forces of darkness were never more vicious in their attempt to destroy the Mission of Jesus on this earth.

That the religious leaders of the day were made instruments of evil is a tragic lesson to all religions, even to the present day.

That these leaders scan-

dalized their own people, making them agents of falsehood, is another warning to those of unwary and careless piety.

How easily the righteous can be persuaded by the lies of their leaders that a certain action is not at all evil, but actually good and admirable.

We wonder how many of those whom Jesus healed in his journeys were among the crowds crying out against Him just a few days later!

The Passion narrative is the most powerful story ever written about the sacrifice of the innocent to evil, and the blind consent of crowds to the will of those in power.

In this year's narrative according to St. Luke, the Roman Procurator three times declares the inno-

March 24

Passion (Palm) Sunday

At the Procession of the Palms:

Luke 19:28-40

At Mass:

Isaiah 50:4-7;

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23,56

world—the sins of our past, as well as the sins of our present society which threaten to overwhelm us and our beloved nation.

Holy Week is all about Jesus suffering for our very real sins and betrayals, and for our weak response to His call to "Follow Him".

Holy Week is a time for us to realize what we're really like, and to find that the only remedy for our cowardice and fear is courageous love.

Are we ready to join our own pains and fears to the Master's, and to make as strong a response to His limitless love as we can muster?

It's a fitting end to our Lenten journey, and a sure way to let the King of love effect in us that change we so hope will happen in time for Easter joy.

cence of Jesus, and so does Herod Antipas, the Jewish tetrarch of Galilee.

Yet, fear of political expediency prevailed.

Only the "good" thief who defends the truth of Jesus' innocence and honestly admits his own guilt, is rewarded with heaven that day.

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to personally suffer and die with Jesus for the sinfulness of our

OUR READERS WRITE

Another look at gun control

I read with interest Bishop Terry LaValley's Follow Me column titled "Promoting a culture of life in the face of gun tragedies." His analysis of how things have changed over the last few decades was thoughtful. Indeed, the culture of death that justifies a deed as evil as abortion seems to have infected much of our nation's culture, to the point that it has become quite numb to violence and death.

We now have increased exposure to violence and death portrayed in the sensationalizing news media, in movies, on television, and more recently, in video games. We also have the breakdown of the family unit and good moral values. I think many would agree that all of these

changes have conspired to deteriorate our culture.

Yet, knowing this, Bishop LaValley states that "we would be seriously negligent not to look at" gun control. Well, let's look. Have guns changed over the last few decades? No. The "high-caliber, high capacity" guns the bishop refers to have been in production for decades. Is there "easier access" to guns now compared to decades ago? No. Gun control's biggest accomplishment is disarming law abiding citizens, leaving them at the mercy of violent criminals consumed by and furthering a culture of death.

We should not ask for new laws to allow criminals to victimize more people. We should not tell the soldier returning from Afghanistan that she is not

allowed to defend her family using a gun she is very accustomed and familiar with. The gun was legal when her father returned from Vietnam, and it should be now. Our laws should not add to the problem. Instead, let's ask our legislators to focus on the causes of the culture of death while we do our part to promote a culture of life.

MICHAEL ROBERTS
MOOERS FORKS

Silent no more

A recent news article dealing with abortion bears comment. In it Jennifer Dalven, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Reproductive Freedom Project, stated, "the American public wants abortion to remain safe, legal and

accessible." The truth is that most Americans are woefully uninformed on this issue, many still believing abortion is limited to the first trimester.

The article further states that "you don't see women talking about their abortions." Sadly several hundred are unable to do so because they died of abortion related deaths. I would suggest that those who wish to consider the issue objectively go to www.Lifedynamics.com and click on women killed by abortion. Go to the bottom of the Blackman Wall and click on www.safeandlegal.com and learn about the death of beautiful 18 year-old Maria Cardamone. From there, view The Blackmun Wall, which lists 348 women who died from legal abortions since Roe v. Wade and describes the circumstances of their deaths.

One not yet listed on the wall is the death of Tonya Reaves, a 24 year old woman who died last July of a perforated uterus from an abortion performed at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Chicago. More recently, the death of 29 year-old Jennifer Leigh Morbelli on Feb. 7, was reported. Thirty-three weeks pregnant, she and her preborn child both died of complications resulting from a late term abortion performed by

abortionist Leroy Carhart. In 2005 another of his patients died from a third-trimester abortion.

Many women do talk about their abortions. • The "Silent No More" campaign is comprised of such women who feel that abortion caused more problems in their lives than it solved (www.silentnomoreawareness.org.)

The author writes "abortion-rights groups also were heartened by a backlash to anti-abortion initiatives and rhetoric that they viewed as extreme." I would argue that the word extreme would be more applicably applied to Planned Parenthood, an organization that states on the one hand that "you deserve medically sound information about your body, your health and your reproductive choices to make your own decisions" and then continually takes cases to court to deny informed consent for abortion on the other.

Abortion is the largest unregulated business in America. It may be legal, but denying women the right to consider the complications and possible death that may result is not freedom, and the facilities where they are performed are all too often not safe.

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AT THE MOVIES

THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

By turns repellent and charming, "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" (Warner Bros.) comically charts the rise and fall of dueling magicians on the famed Las Vegas Strip.

On the surface, the film, directed by television veteran Don Scardino ("30 Rock"), seeks its laughs the conventional Hollywood way, via sexual innuendo or gross-out sight gags. Regrettably, such sleaze - together with a morally flawed conclusion --obscures interesting commentaries on the wickedness of narcissism and a fallen idol's potential path to redemption.

For years, the hottest ticket in Sin City has been "A Magical Friendship," headlined by the superstar - and

colorfully named - magicians Burt Wonderstone (Steve Carell) and Anton Marvelton (Steve Buscemi). "Everyone loves a magician," intoned the great illusionist Rance Holloway (Alan Arkin) in his how-to videotape watched by the wide-eyed boys. "And they will all love you, too."

Audiences did, but lately changing tastes and increased competition have dimmed the spotlight and strained the friendship. Burt, channeling Siegfried and Roy with his flowing blond locks, spray tan and sequined jumpsuit, has become an obnoxious diva who beds lady volunteers from the audience. He's bored with the act and, especially, with Anton, who has never wavered in his self-discipline and loyalty.

When a new stunt fails in spectacular fashion, the duo parts ways, and Burt falls on

hard times, forced to work as an entertainer in an old folks' home.

Meanwhile, a new star is rising in the person of outrageous street performer Steve Gray (Jim Carrey), who goes by the title "The Brain Rapist." Steve's form of magic involves squeamish physical challenges, such as using his head to pound nails into wood or holding his urine for days on end.

To Steve, magicians such as Burt and Anton are old school and must be destroyed. "It's natural for a dying leaf to be frightened of this autumn wind," he tells Burt.

"The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" takes a decisive wrong turn at its climax -- when a big comeback stunt depends more on narcotics than on magic. Coming on top of all the dubious humor on display, this development ramps up the



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Alan Arkin, Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Michael Bully and Jay Mohr star in a scene from the movie "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone."

problematic content of the picture -- and will leave viewers questioning whether Burt's values have really changed after all.

The film contains a benign view of drug use and contraception, much crude humor, sexual innuendo and occasional profane and rough language. The

Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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~Bishop Terry R. LaValley



Photo by Betty Steele

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CLINTON

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Plattsburgh – Dr. Gerry Gacioch, Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital's Heart Institute who is also one of the nation's twenty-one Catholic Climate Ambassadors trained by the Catholic Climate Covenant to speak.

Date: April 21

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church

Features: The presentation will focus on What is climate change; [2] Why should we care?; [3] Catholic teachings and traditions associated with environmental stewardship; [4] Mitigation and adaptation to climate change; and [5] What we can be doing as individuals and together. There is no admission fee.

Contact: individuals who wish to attend are encouraged to telephone the St. Peter's Church Rectory at 563-1692 several days in advance of the presentation, to request a seat be reserved for them.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

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

Date: April 7

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Ann's Center

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

HEALING MASS

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be offering a Healing Mass.

Date: April 17

Time: 4 p.m.

Features: Fr. Doug Decker will preside at Mass and Anointing followed by individual prayer for your intentions by or prayer ministers.

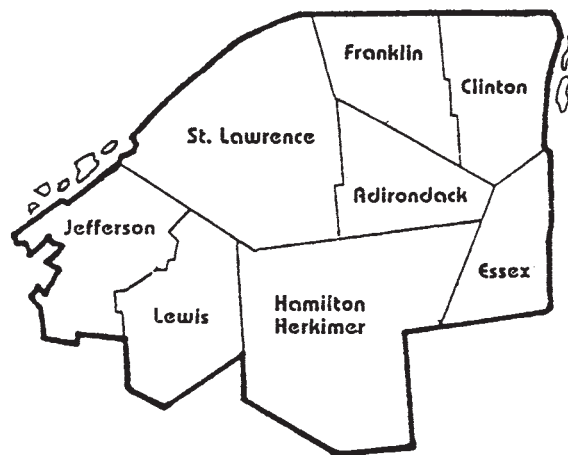
RSVP: Email olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.

SCHOOL OF HEALING PRAYER

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be offering a Level 1 Training Course of Christian Healing Ministries School of Healing Prayer.

Date: April 25-27

Features: This course provides a foundational, practical approach to developing a prayer ministry and offers a Scriptural basis for God's gift of healing prayer. It teaches the student how to be an effective prayer minister through the use of video presentations by Francis and Judith MacNutt, discussion and praying over each other in groups. Registration and fees due by April 15. Course



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.

limited to six. Overnight accommodations available.

Contact: Email olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.

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.

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

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

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

Dates: 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 toolaprayerhouse@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: "O my Sacramental Jesus, would that I could fill all men with love for the Most Blessed Sacrament!" (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

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

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's will offer weekday adoration during Lent through 7 PM on Wednesday of Holy Week.

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

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

LIVING OUR FAITH

Schroon Lake – As part of the Year of Faith program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Saint Joseph's Church in Olmstedville, "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

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".

LIFERIGHT PRESENTS FR. TAD

Watertown – Liferight is sponsoring a luncheon and educational presentations by Fr. Tad Pacholczyk.

Date: April 20

Schedule: 11:30 a.m. "Loving Those with Disabilities" followed by lunch and a second presentation at 12:30 p.m. "Dealing With End of Life Issues".

Place: Savory Café in the Carriage House

Cost: \$15

Contact: Mickey Squier at 782-2297 or Joan Boulio at 639-6688 to make reservations.

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 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

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

God Bless Pope Francis

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies Statement on the Election of Pope Francis

NEW YORK – Father Andrew Small, OMI, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, has issued the following statement:

"On behalf of the Pontifical Mission Societies, I join with the entire Church and the world to welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, chosen as the Successor of Peter, first missionary of the Church. The Keys of St. Peter have been entrusted to our new Holy Father, whom I had the privilege of meeting in 2010. Being in his presence, you know you are close to the Lord.

We pledge our allegiance and our fidelity to Pope Francis and encourage our entire mission family to gather around Him as around the Lord. We are renewed again in our faith in the bark of Peter, the Church. In unity with Pope Francis, we pledge our commitment to bring God's liberating message of salvation to the ends of the earth, preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ to the poor and the lonely, the lost and frightened.

God Bless the Pope and long live the Pope!"

On behalf of the Mission staff, Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ and Molly Ryan, the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., we join our National Offices and our Director Father Andrew Small, OMI, in welcoming Pope Francis. With his extensive background in the Missions, we look forward to working together as we begin this journey that leads all the churches in charity. We pray that it will be fruitful for the evangelization of our World.

The Pontifical Mission Societies were given the title "Pontifical" in 1922 and have special responsibility in the Universal Church. They are under the direct canonical jurisdiction of the Holy Father who, together with the entire body of Bishops, remind the faithful of their baptismal call to mission, as they gather basic support for more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Pacific Islands and Latin America. The Pontifical Mission Societies include the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter Apostle, and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

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

OBITUARIES

Altona – Antoinette M. (Payant) Wray, 91; Funeral Services March 13, 2013 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Union Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Champlain – Joyce (Phaneuf) Coupla, 74; Funeral March 16, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Champlain – Irene (LaVenture) Duquette, 95; Funeral Services at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

Chazy – Ear Francis Dumas, 87; Funeral Services March 11, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church.

Chazy – Willard R. Martin Jr., 82; Funeral Services March 14, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Hogansburg – Kenneth Joseph Boots, 58; Funeral Services March 16, 2013 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid – Margaret A. (Finnan) Rol-

lier, 81; Funeral Services March 23, 2013 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lyons Falls – Agnes A. (Bigda) Krug, 100; Funeral Services March 16, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Malone – Sheila B. (Perry) Demers, 48; Funeral Services March 13, 2013 at the Bruso-Denoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Malone – Carol Agnes Ann Perry Betters Landry, 74; Memorial Services March 12, 2013 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – James D. Hayes, 75; Funeral Services March 15, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Marion (Ward) Kot, 84; Funeral March 15, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Shirley Marie (Smith)

Young, 79; Funeral Services March 13, 2013 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Potsdam – Catherine Mary (Reasoner) Giordano, 55; Funeral Services March 13, 2013 at St. Mary's Church.

Tupper Lake – Joseph Harold LaFountain, 77; Funeral Services March 11, 2013 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown – William J. Haley Jr., 92; Funeral Services March 13, 2013 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Ernest N. Deyo, 73; Funeral Services March 12, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church.



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JEFFERSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18
CATHOLICISM SERIES

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

Dates: March 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

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Evans Mills – "A Quick Journey Through the Bible" – Join us for this introductory "Great Adventure" course in Catholic scripture study.

Date: Eight Mondays beginning April 15

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: DVD lectures by Jeff Cavins, discussion and home study.

Contact: Advance registration is required by April 10 at 767-1065.

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – The Feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated.

Date: April 7

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Blessing of the Divine Mercy image. The Sacrament of Reconciliation begins at 2:10 p.m. At 2:15 p.m. a video, Discovering Divine Mercy, by Father Don Calloway, MIC, will be shown in the church hall. The program continues at 3 p.m. with the Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), homily and Benediction. Rev. Lukasz Kozlowski of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Utica will be the guest celebrant.

Contact: For information call 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

Brasher Falls – The K of C will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.

Date: March 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & March 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: \$3; under 12 free (must be accompanied by an adult)

Features: Many dealers will be present with all kinds of hunting, fishing, archery and sporting items. Dealers wishing to reserve tables can contact Phil Davis at 315-389-4627. Concession stand open all day, breakfast served until 11 a.m.

RUMMAGE SALE

Canton – St. Mary's School will be having a rummage sale.

Dates: April 5 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 6 7:30 a.m. to 11

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

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

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, concession

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

EUCHARISTIC 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 Eucharistic Holy Hour to pray for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 7 p.m. to 8, concluding With Benediction

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Eucharistic adorations is offered every Thursday afternoon following noon Mass until 5 p.m. (except When the evening Holy Hour is held) and on First Fridays, also after the noon Mass to 5.

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

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – Bishop LaValley Will preside at the annual Chrism Mass.

Date: March 21

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral.

Features: Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese

DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY

Plattsburgh – The annual diocesan Youth Rally is set

Date: April 27

Place: Seton Catholic Central

Features: Chris Stefanick is keynote speakers; registration through parishes.

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

*In the unity of faith our parishes,
the Church of the Visitation, St. Andrew's,
and St. Raymond's invite you to join us*

*Passion
Sunday*

Saturday, March 23rd

- 4:00pm St. Andrew's Church, Norwood

- 6:00pm St. Raymond's Church, Raymondville

Sunday, March 24th

- 8:30am St. Andrew's Church, Norwood

- 10:30am Church of the Visitation, Norfolk