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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 3, 2013

## Pope: all are equally important

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The stability of the church requires that it be built on Jesus, but its beauty and strength also rely on the contributions of each and every Christian, Pope Francis said.

"If someone tells you, 'Go home, you're not needed,' that's not true," the pope told

an estimated 50,000 people at his weekly general audience June 26.

"No one is useless in the church. We are all needed to build this temple. We are all equal in the eyes of God -- everyone," he said. "One of you may say, 'But listen, pope sir, we are not your

equals.' But, yes, I'm like all of you, all of us are equal. All of us. We are brothers and sisters.... We all form and build the church."

During the audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis continued his series of talks about the mystery of the church as explained by the

Second Vatican Council. The council's description of the church as the temple of God naturally reminds people of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, the place where people of Israel encountered God in prayer and remembered all he had done for them, he said.

## Fortnight for Freedom for 2013

Bishop LaValley celebrated a Mass for the intentions of religious freedom Sunday at St. Mary's Cathedral.

The liturgy was part of the diocesan observance of the second annual Fortnight for Freedom which concludes July 4.

In his homily, printed in its entirety on page 3, the bishop said, "The Godlessness that is now invading society is impacting our ability to practice our faith. We are called 'bigots' by some, even by fellow Catholics, because we take Christ at His Word."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## NCC summer schedule

The bi-weekly summer publication schedule of the *North Country Catholic* continues; the next issue of the paper will be dated July 17.

## A BISHOP'S BLESSING



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK  
Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown as he blesses the water he would use to sprinkle the newly renovated St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid during a special Mass June 22. Father John Yonkovig, pastor, is at right. Coverage of the dedication Mass includes an article by Father Yonkovig on page 8 and more photos on page 9.

## BISHOP'S STATEMENT

'The difference between a mom and dad matters'



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC  
People demonstrate outside the Supreme Court building in Washington in this photo from late March, when the court heard oral arguments in two same-sex marriage cases. The court ruled as unconstitutional the federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, in a 5-4 decision issued June 26. In a separate case, the court sent back to lower courts a challenge to California's Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage. Bishop Terry R. LaValley released a statement on these decisions, printed on page 6.

FULL STORY, PAGES 6, 11

**MATT MAHER:** Music is ministry for two-time Grammy nominee... p. 13

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Some Rocky Mountain highs

Every couple of years, I have the privilege of attending the annual gathering of the Catholic Press Association. It's always a wonderful opportunity to connect with other diocesan editors, with magazine writers, bloggers and freelancers to share our ideas and our friendships.

This year's Catholic Media Conference brought us all to Denver, an area that still seems to glow from Blessed John Paul II's visit in 1993.

We heard a lot about the 'new evangelization' starting with an opening address by the renowned Father Robert Barron, creator the "Catholicism" television series.

We were taken behind the scenes of the papal transition

by Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, founder and CEO of Salt and Light Television based in Toronto, who assisted the English-speaking media at the Vatican Press office during that historic time.

And Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, who was scheduled to talk about the Catholic media and the new evangelization, instead spoke on immigration reform, which he called "the most pressing issue that we face in American public life."

Day after day, it was indeed a privilege to listen to some of the "movers and shakers" in the Catholic Church as they discussed their most pressing concerns with us.

The yearly convention also

features traditions dear to the hearts of Catholic journalists.

Each year we take part in a memorial Mass during which deceased members of the Catholic Press Association are remembered.

This year, we prayed for our beloved Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, editor of the *North Country Catholic* throughout the 1970s.

And each year, the convention closes with an awards ceremony.

This year, the NCC brought home a very nice prize: second place for "Best Coverage of Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate."

It's always a thrill to hear our name called in a competition with hundreds of papers from

the U.S and Canada.

Readers may remember that our Vocation 2012 issue covered the "Ordinationpalooza" when Father Tom Higman was ordained that day after Deacon Scott Belina.

The issue featured the writing of Bishop Terry LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Kristina Dean, Kelly Donnelly, Ryan Grant and Deacon Scott Belina.

This is what the judges had to say: "This special section of many stories provides an encompassing understanding of vocations from many angles. Many personal stories, well told in a variety of formats, engage the reader."

Hooray for our writers... hooray for the NCC!

MLK

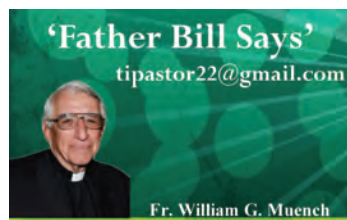
## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Farewell to a faith-filled, faithful friend

I went to a funeral last week. My friend, Father Oscar Melusky, died. We have been friends since we met in our first year of study at St. Mary's Seminary at Roland Park in Baltimore. That was quite a while ago.

Oscar was a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Penn., so, I traveled down to Carlisle with another friend of the both of us, Father Joe Sestito. The funeral was a wonderful celebration of Oscar's life. A Mass in the evening for the reception of his body into the Church included two fine talks about Father Oscar. Then the next day there was a funeral Mass including two more fine talks. These eulogies were given by friends and classmates of Father Oscar. At each Mass a large number of priests celebrated and a large number of parishioners attended. Oscar had lived in this parish for nearly 15 years.

Oscar was a great friend, a great person to be with. One of the bonds of our friendship was golf. Oscar loved golf and would never miss an opportunity to play. He and another great friend of ours often visited up here – and we usually found time to play some golf. I



suspect you want to know who won – well, I will be honest – it was always Oscar. Even in recent years, when he had some ailments, he still put me down.

I will miss my friend. His late night phone calls were always a source of support and joy. I always knew it was him as he sort of shouted into the phone. At times, he could be a rather outrageous person. I remember his coming to one of the celebrations for an anniversary of mine – I think it was the 45th. His gift to me that day was 50 golf balls since he wasn't certain he would make it to my 50th. He then explained to the folks this wild story of how he went out one night to the pond at his golf course, stripped down and dove into the pond several times to retrieve the 50 golf balls. He completely stole the show.

You know, the death of a friend, a good friend, is truly a heart breaking experience. I

have celebrated many funerals in the parish. However, this was a very different moment.

His Bishop celebrated the Mass and other priests gave the talks so, basically, I just attended in the sanctuary and joined in concelebrating the Mass. That meant that I had lots of time to just think – to remember the good times, the enjoyable times we spent together. I admit that was rather sad although there were a few moments I wanted to laugh – even laugh out loud. There were some rather funny experiences that I shared with my friend, Oscar.

The Psalms of the Old Testament offer some real support in moments like these – Psalm 34: "The Lord is near to the

brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" and Psalm 147: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

I have had similar experiences in recent years, very good friends who have gone through difficult days and then died. Someone reminded me that during the first part of life, we make many friends – and then during the later years, we gradually lose them.

However, I am truly grateful to God for the many friends, like Oscar, who have been part of my life and truly helped me to be a better person. I do pray that they will continue to look over me and give me some support every once in a while. I continue to rely on them.

Relax this summer with your subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

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FOLLOW ME

# Fortnight for Freedom

Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for Mass for Fortnight for Freedom June 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral

I recently read about a phrase that was new to me. The article said that in military history there is a thing known as the "forlorn hope." This is a surprisingly honest phrase which was applied to the body of troops that was to lead an attack when there was very little chance of actually surviving. The soldiers themselves used this phrase.

Even more surprisingly, there were very often volunteers for this dangerous mission. There were several reasons: First, if you actually survived, there was a good chance of promotion. Those disappointed in love or who had disgraced themselves, or who owed a lot of money, often saw it as an honorable way out. In other cases, the emotionally unbalanced or the recklessly brave simply enjoyed the risk and chance of "glory." Before the attack, the soldiers would often write a farewell letter and hand their valuables to their friends. They would "put their affairs in order."

There is a just a hint of this "forlorn hope" in today's Gospel. Jesus is going up to Jerusalem where He knows He will be killed in a most horrible manner. He tells the twelve apostles about this, and others try to volunteer to come with Him. There is, of course, an enormous difference. There is, in fact, nothing "forlorn" about this hope.

This incident takes place in the middle chapters of Luke's Gospel and is a turning point in the whole drama. Jesus sets His face towards Jerusalem. In the similar passage in Mark's Gospel, we learn that Jesus has explained to His apos-

les what is going to happen to Him in Jerusalem. This helps explain the urgency that fills this Gospel reading. This is the culmination of the whole of Jesus' mission of love for the Father. The importance of the event is also emphasized in the original Greek where the word for "messengers" is the same as our word for "angels". Jesus sends messengers or angels before Him. So what might seem slightly shocking at first sight—leaving the dead to bury the dead and leaving home without saying goodbye—is put into context by the urgency and importance of Jesus' mission. This is, we could say, the most important journey anyone has ever taken.

There is also a double meaning in the word "Jerusalem." On the literal level, it obviously means the earthly city of Jerusalem where Jesus will be killed and will rise from the dead. But it also refers to His ultimate destination, the heavenly Jerusalem which is the destination of all of us. The very last act of Jesus in Luke's Gospel is His farewell to the apostles and His ascension into the heavenly Jerusalem.

In some ways, of course, we cannot apply all of the realities of our Gospel to our everyday lives. To begin with, this was a unique and unrepeatable event, Jesus going up to His Passion in Jerusalem. The majority of us simply cannot drop everything and literally go to Jerusalem. One thing we are called to do, however, is to follow Jesus not to the earthly Jerusalem, of course, but the heavenly Jerusalem. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus is the gate through which we must enter.

Today, in these United States, there is an urgency for us to refocus our sights and direction, toward the heavenly Jerusalem. We

have lost our sights, our way, God's way. We have allowed political correctness to run roughshod over what's right and what's wrong. Loyalty to one's political party has trumped our faith. As there was an urgency in Jesus' words en route to Jerusalem, that certain things must give way to the journey of faith, so too such partisanship and blind allegiance to political parties must give way, be informed by and reflect our faith.

A separation of Church and State does not mean that the State should silence Church and the practice of one's faith. Historically, we know the horrific effect of such an ideology. It seems that more and more today the human person is living as if God does not exist. We act and make decisions without any reference to God. Tragically, many feel that the Church is selling a product that people don't feel they need anymore: morals, salvation.

The Godlessness that is now invading society is impacting our ability to practice our faith. We are called "bigots" by some, even by fellow Catholics, because we take Christ at His Word. There has been a growing intrusion on religious liberty such as the government healthcare mandate that forces Catholics to violate our deeply held beliefs or face stiff fines.

This HHS mandate which was to go into effect on August 1st has, as of last Friday, been extended to January 1st for non-profit entities. The so-called "accommodations" that were proposed months ago by the administration to mute religious liberty concerns of religious organizations did not improve the situation. This isn't about access to contraception, which is widely available. It's about a government regulation forcing us to act against our

timeless teachings. There is no accommodation for religious conscience.

Again, this isn't about the Catholic Church trying to force its beliefs on others. It's about religious freedom. It's about the government trying to force its lack of belief on those who believe and desire to live their belief outside of the Church doors. In fact, a broad coalition of people with a wide range of beliefs opposes this mandate.

The final ruling by the government on the implementation of this law was issued late Friday evening, so we haven't had the opportunity to study and carefully analyze this complex 110 page document yet. We pray that this final ruling will provide for religious liberty.

Other threats to religious freedom are ominously real and at hand: in some states, local Catholic Charities no longer provide adoption or foster-care services because these charities were forced to violate Catholic beliefs by placing children with same-sex couples or unmarried, cohabitating opposite-sex couples. Several states have passed laws that forbid what they see as the "harboring" of undocumented immigrants, and which the Church sees as its duty of Christian charity and pastoral care. Despite the great track record of the American Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services in helping victims of human trafficking, the federal government sought to require them to provide or refer clients for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching as a condition of receiving government contracts.

The Church cannot be silent in the face of such

threats. Many Catholics complained that the Fortnight for Freedom held last year was an election play.

This year, we continue this special prayer because the government cannot force us to choose between abandoning our most deeply held beliefs or face crippling fines. Our constitution and laws should protect us from this kind of coercion. America is at its best when religion has a place at the table. Today people of faith through-

out our nation must stand together, leaving behind the idols of political parties, and reclaim their faith in the public square.

Jesus said, "Follow Me." In the midst of a rudderless society, ours is not a forlorn hope because Jesus has shown us the way. Following Jesus is the most important journey we will ever take. People who blindly adhere to partisan party politics, whether Democrat, Republican, Tea Party or whatever, and turn a deaf ear to the teachings of Jesus do a great disservice to the common good and lead others astray. What is so tragic is to see so many Catholic legislators in the forefront opposing natural law and Church teaching. We need to inform them of this by tongue, letter and ballot.

*Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome, for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us, this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.*



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

# Bishop to lead K of C pilgrimage to Vt. shrine

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will lead the 65th annual Knights of Columbus pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vt., July 21.

Knights of Columbus, their families and friends from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in the pilgrimage.

Bishop LaValley will celebrate Mass at the shrine at 12:15 p.m. and then join the pilgrims for a picnic lunch on the grounds.

The program Will also include Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at about 2:30 p.m.

Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share if practical. The Knights of Columbus will provide hot dogs, michigans, hamburgers and beverages.

Located on the shores of Lake Champlain, only a few miles from the Rouses Point Bridge, the St. Anne's Shrine religious history dates to 1666 when the French erected a fort and chapel on the site.

The chapel was blessed in 1893 and a statue of St. Anne, the mother of Mary, was erected.

Further information is available from pilgrimage coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

# Norfolk Knight is elected secretary of NY State K of C

**NORFOLK** - Dr. Charles Robinson, a parishioner of the Church of the Visitation and member of the Norfolk Knights of Columbus Council 11544, was elected secretary of the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus at their 118th Annual Convention held in May in Tarrytown, NY.

The secretary is one of five state officers and serves the state deputy and the state council. He leads the council in the absence of the state deputy.

Dr. Robinson, a 1969 graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, first joined the Knights in late 1967 in his hometown of Bellaire, OH, where he attended St. John's grade and high schools.

He has served as grand knight at councils in Ruston, LA and Norfolk and as district deputy and membership coordinator in upstate New York.

He has brought a wealth of membership development

expertise to the Knights based on his IEEE and other volunteer organizational experiences.



Dr. Charles Robinson

Dr. Robinson currently is the director of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, Science and Technology and the Shulman Professor of Rehabilitation Engineering at Clarkson University in Potsdam.

He came to Clarkson in 2005 after six years at Louisiana

Tech University.

He retired from the US Department of Veterans Affairs at the end of 2011 after a 30-year career as a senior rehabilitation research career scientist with postings at the Hines, IL (near Chicago), Pittsburgh, Shreveport and Syracuse VA Medical Centers.

Dr. Robinson is a commissioned lay minister in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He and his wife Kathy, also a commissioned lay minister and a SSJ Associate, reside in Norfolk. Together, they have eight grown children and 11

grandchildren.

At the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Robinson was a Founder's Scholar. He was given the Engineering Department Award, the John F. Welsh Memorial Alumni Award, and in 1995, the Father Dan Egan Alumni Award for Excellence in Science or Medicine.

He is a Fellow of both the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and a U.N.E.S.C.O. Academician.

The Knights of Columbus is a 126 year old Catholic fraternal benefit organization that has grown to more than 14,000 local councils and 1.8 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan. The New York State Council has 90,000 members.

The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

## GO GREEN!

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



**Thomas Yousey**  
*Congratulations*  
*on your*  
*commissioning*  
*as a*  
*lay minister*

St. Peter's, Lowville  
St. Mary's, Glenfield  
St. Hedwig's, Houseville

**St. Alphonsus -  
Holy Name of Jesus  
Parish**  
in Tupper Lake

*sends prayerful  
congratulations to*  
**Charles and Jean Mozdier**  
*upon their commissioning  
as lay ministers*

# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES



Samuel Purcell, valedictorian and class president of Immaculate Heart Central School's graduating class, leads his classmates in the tassel turn at the conclusion of commencement exercises June 15. St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, addressed a special message to the graduates and then presented diplomas to the members of the class, including Shelbi McIlroy, shown above.



Jordan Scharf, eighth grade graduate of Holy Family School in Malone and altar server at Notre Dame Church, was the 2013 recipient of the Bishop's Award at the school. Father Joseph Giroux, pastor of Malone Catholic Parishes, presented the award at the graduation ceremony.



At Sunday Mass on Father's Day, St. Philip & James Church in Lisbon held a two-fold celebration in honor of high school graduates and fathers. Ryan Mathews, who plans to study engineering at Clarkson in the Fall, was lector, a role he has had since his Confirmation two years ago. At the Lisbon School graduation, Ryan was awarded the Sister Joan Casey Memorial Scholarship, given to a graduate who has served the church community extensively.



Graduates from St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's Church in Watertown are shown at the Baccalaureate Mass June 2. Father Donald Robinson, pastor, presided at the Mass and students took an active roll in all aspects of the liturgy including ushering, lecturing and singing. A family luncheon in their honor followed in Msg. Sechi Hall.

## Wanted: Second Grade Teacher

Augustinian Academy currently has an opening for a second grade teaching position for the 2013-2014 school year.

Applicants should be Catholic and possess a NY State teaching certificate. Send letter of interest, resume and application to Sr. Annunciata Collins SSJ, 317 West Street, Carthage, NY 13619.

Applications can be picked up at the school office or found online at [www.caugustinian.org](http://www.caugustinian.org)

## School Openings

Trinity Catholic School currently has openings for one Physical Education and two elementary-level teaching positions for the 2013-2014 school year.

Applicants should be Catholic and possess a NY State teaching certificate. Send letter of interest, resume and application by July 5 to Kathy Behrens, 188 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662.

Applications can be picked up at the school office or found online at [www.trinitycatholicschool.net](http://www.trinitycatholicschool.net)



## Seton Catholic Central is seeking teachers for English, Music and Art

Seton Catholic Central is seeking teachers for English, Music and Art. Applicants must be practicing Catholics and NYS certified in their area of instruction.

Seton seeks dynamic professionals who are generous, willing to share their faith, and who recognize the importance of Catholic education in the mission of the Church.

If interested, please send resume and cover letter to [crussell@setoncatholic.net](mailto:crussell@setoncatholic.net)

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## Director of Advancement and Development

The Advancement Director is responsible for leading the overall advancement program of the Seton Schools. The Director plays an integral role in articulating the mission of Seton by developing relationships with benefactors while increasing student enrollment. A Bachelor's degree and experience in major gift solicitation is necessary. Commitment to the mission of Catholic education is required. Excellent written, verbal and presentation skills are essential. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Seton Catholic Central School, 206 New York Rd., Plattsburgh, NY 12903 or email to: [crussell@setoncatholic.net](mailto:crussell@setoncatholic.net). Applications begin review on July 18th. A copy of the job description is available at [www.setoncatholic.net](http://www.setoncatholic.net) and [www.setonacademy.net](http://www.setonacademy.net)

# Bishop' statement on same-sex marriage court rulings:

The decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26 concerning the Federal Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8, while not unexpected, are a cause of great concern.

As Cardinal Dolan, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops commented: "the future of marriage and the well-being of our society hang in the balance." His words reflect the gravity of the decision.

Under the Court's ruling in the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the federal government will now have to recognize so-called same-sex "marriages" in states that provide for it, including New York.

While in this case, the Supreme Court did not hold that the U.S. Constitution requires the re-definition of "marriage," its ruling accepts such a manipulation of the definition of marriage and enshrines it in the application of law. Justice does not require that different things be treated the same.

We don't merely rename or redefine things that are inherently different so that they can be treated exactly alike. When we do, we risk telling a lie.

The Court's decision in the Proposition 8 case is also very disappointing. While the Court did not itself strike it down, its fate remains in question. The Court missed an opportunity to uphold the voices of millions of Californians who voted to protect marriage's unique meaning.

Marriage is an intimate partnership of life and love established between one man and one woman for life. Through the ages, cultures have understood this to be the will of God for the good of society.

Marriage gives children the best chance of being raised by their own mother and father. Not every married couple has children, but every child has a mom and a dad.

The differences between moms and dads make a difference in the upbringing of children.

Who knows where these rulings will take us? The implications seem ominous. In so many ways, our society has failed our families. These most recent decisions by the highest court in the land only add to the fracture and disintegration of the family unit. Jesus taught a truth that the Church cannot and society should not ignore.

However, as faith-filled Catholic Christians, we do not lose hope. We make our voices heard in the public square.

With renewed determination and loving Spirit, we continue to promote and defend the seemingly unpopular truth about the unique meaning of marriage: one man and one woman, for life.

The difference between a mom and a dad matters.

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley**  
June 28, 2013

## Fidelis Care donates \$47,000 to Ogd. Catholic Charities

Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic health plan, has announced the recent distribution of \$47,000 from its Community Grant Fund to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to support its Healthy Families/Healthy Communities initiative.

"Helping the elderly, the poor and the underserved is at the heart of our mission," said Father Patrick J. Frawley, President and CEO of Fidelis Care.

"We are confident the grant will be used to improve the lives of the most at-risk portion of our population, and we are grateful for our ability to help," he said.

Healthy Families/Healthy Communities is a counseling

and casework program for individuals and families who lack access to these services. This program is specifically targeted to people lacking access to other resources. Its goal is to help individuals and families build bridges to healthier lives.

"Particularly during this time of economic uncertainty, we are most grateful to Fidelis Care for this substantial grant to Catholic Charities for its Healthy Families/Healthy Communities counseling program here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

"This is but one example of how Fidelis Care continues to assist the Church here in the North Country in our common mission of extending

Christ's love and care to the vulnerable among us," he said.

For the ninth consecutive year, Fidelis Care has offered community grants to non-profit organizations that share similar missions and values of service to care for the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

The grants are made in coordination with the bishops in New York State's eight Roman Catholic Dioceses. This year through the Community Grant Fund, Fidelis Care awarded approximately \$2 million Statewide.

### NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated July 17

### Bishop's Schedule

**July 5** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

**July 6** - 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks.

**July 7** - 3p.m., Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Hogansburg.

**July 8** - 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

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

4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

6 p.m., Evening Prayer and Gathering with the Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

**July 13** - 6:00 p.m., Mass at St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington.

**July 14** - 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**July 15** - 5:00 p.m., Golden Jubilee Mass for Brother Richard James, OFM at St. Paul's Oratory in South Colton.

**July 16** - 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Envisioning Team Meeting with the Catholic Leadership Institute at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

### Environmental Stewardship

"Most of our energy comes from fossil fuels-coal, oil and natural gas. We live in an energy-hungry country. God has entrusted one earth to us – we need to learn to care for it and share it."

#### 4.5 Program Passionist Earth and Spirit Center

Tip on how you can keep yourself and your earth –healthier

• Choosing local produce, you can reduce fuel consumption and pollution associated with transporting food, help lift your local agricultural communities, strengthen the local economy, and protect the environment... all by eating fresher, tastier fruits and veggie

### Rest in Peace

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

**July 3** – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954

**July 4** – Rev. Joseph St. Jacques, 1952

**July 9** – Rev. John Rogers, 1887;

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

**July 12** – Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881;

**July 13** – Rev. George Garand, 1941

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

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

### Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://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.

Upcoming programs:

**Aug. 29** - 8 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

### To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the

**Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: [aycsnn@yahoo.com](mailto:aycsnn@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

# COME, HOLY SPIRIT

Bishop LaValley confirmed hundreds of young people during the Spring of 2013; he administered the sacrament at St. Mary's in Potsdam on May 9



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK  
Bishop LaValley anointed the forehead of Samuel Woods during the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. Jacob Woods, left, was sponsor for his brother.



The bishop confirms Abigail Thomas.



MacKenzie Neaton, St. Mary's Parishioner, was one of the readers during the Confirmation ceremony.



Bishop LaValley shares a point with the confirmandi during his homily



Music for the liturgy was offered by St. Mary's choir with music director, Lionel Woods; organist, Laura Toland and singers Richard Burns, John Andrikut, Daniel Lacombe, Julian Matthews and Kathy Burns.



Msgr. Aucoin, pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton.

## St. Patrick's Church in Hogansburg to close

# Parishioners gather at church to say goodbye

**HOGANSBURG**-- During the first week of July, parishioners of St. Patrick's Church are gathering to celebrate the history of the church in preparation for its closure July 7.

The schedule follows:

### July 1 - Baptism

Evening prayer at 6:30 p.m., with a reflection by Father Martin Cline, pastor, on what baptism means for parishioners 30, 40, 50, 60 years later.

Father Cline will lead a renewal of baptismal promises.

In the church will be a collection of names and dates of all baptized at St. Patrick's Church.

### July 2 - Eucharist/Reconciliation/Confirmation

With the celebration of these sacraments participants will gather in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Father Cline will give a reflection on "Confirmation?

What does this mean for me?" Priest will also be available for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### July 3 - Vocations

Evening prayers will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a rosary and litany for vocations and prayers for all those married and for those to know their vocation in life.

Also, married couples, from St. Patrick's and others, are invited to come and renew their wedding vows.

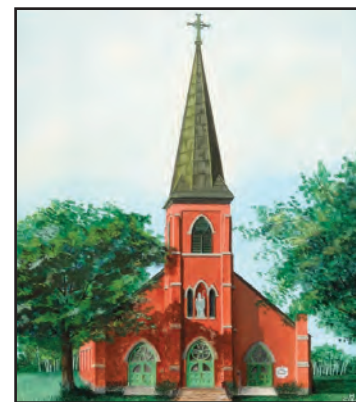
### July 6 - "A night to remember"

Parishioners are invited to come and pray on their own, to take pictures and perhaps meet up with old friends. This night is dedicated to remember, to share, to say good-bye.

The church will be open from 3 p.m. to 8

### July 7 - Closing Liturgy

Bishop LaValley will preside at the closing Mass to be held at 3 p.m. at the church.



Painting by Donna Smith

# St. Agnes renovations illustrate rich history, faith

By Father John Yonkovic

Pastor, St. Agnes, Lake Placid

**LAKE PLACID** - When the devout Catholics of Lake Placid joined together to form a parish in 1894, their first church was located on Lake St. - now Main St. The parish was dedicated to St. Agnes, an early Christian martyr. Father John Waters, the founding pastor, decided on the name not only because he had great respect for the Saint but because it was the name of his childhood parish in Cohoes.

The present day modified Gothic church was designed by architect D.D. Kieff of Watertown with Carter Pierce and George Bola of Lake Placid and Thomas Boswell of Saranac Lake serving as main contractors.

The work on our brick church began in 1924 and, uniquely, it was built over and around the 1905 wooden church. Meanwhile, Mass continued to be celebrated inside the church during construction.

From its earliest history, parishioners have made an attempt to incorporate the richness of the region into the church environment whether that be its natural resources or its talented artisans.

For example, one enters the church through the Sacrament of Baptism.. Upon

entering St. Agnes Church, you now encounter the baptismal font which was carved from a billion year old piece of "Lake Placid Granite" by Lake Placid native Tyler Rand.

The rock is also reminiscent of Jesus' words to St. Peter, "...on this rock I will build my church." As we bless ourselves with the waters of Baptism, we are reminded of the rock solid foundation of our faith - our belief in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The font is positioned on a triangular base made from the altar rail. This triangle speaks of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - as well as the virtues of faith, hope and love.

Carved into the sides of the font are three of the Adirondack mountain ranges making it clear that it is in these mountains that we live our faith.

The inlaid Italian marble cross on the floor powerfully states, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also able to live with Christ." Romans 6:8

Once in the main body of the church, the magnificent ceiling draws one's eyes heavenward.

The expansive blue and gold stenciling on the ceiling was done in 1950 by an outside firm assisted by local artisan Frederick Douglass, Jr. Blue is the color of peace and

gold is the color of God's glory.

The stained glass windows were installed by the Von Gerichten Studios of Munich, Germany.

### See photos on page 9

In medieval times, stained glass windows became a catechism for the general population who could neither read nor write. The stained glass windows of St. Agnes portray the hidden and public life of Christ.

The bronze altar and ambo (pulpit) were created by Robert Eccleston of Lake Placid for the 2013 renovation.

The altar base consists of two trees inter-connected to represent the humanity and divinity of Christ. Scriptural images of "the vine and the branches" and "He shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit" Psalm 1 are clear.

The angle of the trees also express the words of St. Paul that "all of creation will bow and profess Jesus Christ as Lord." Romans 14 The "mensa" or table top of white oak was crafted by Eugene Davis and Winfried Holderied of Lake Placid.

The flames at the base of the ambo (pulpit) speak of the burning bush in which Moses encountered God. The Word of God forms us into

God's People.

In addition to our bronze altar of sacrifice there are three altars made from the famous Carrara marble quarried and hand-carved in Italy.

The large altar in the center of the sanctuary wall weighs 15 tons and stands 15 feet from base to the top of the spire. These altars were a gift of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Spain of New York City.

The statues of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. Agnes are hand-carved from statuary marble by an artist from the North Country whose identity is unknown.

The Window of the Ascension comes from the 1905 church and dominates the sanctuary. In the Acts of the Apostles we read of Jesus and the disciples going to Mount Olivet and from there ascending to the Father. The disciples are given the command to be witnesses of the resurrection "to all the nations."

Artist Geoffrey Kostecki of Massachusetts has cradled the window within a magnificent mural of the mountains of Bethany in the foreground and the Adirondacks in the background.

Experienced Adirondack climbers will recognize Upper Wolfjaw and Phelps to the right and Allen and McDonald on the right in the mural.

Psalm 125 states, "As the mountains are round about

Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people." We gather in this sacred place surrounded by God's creation in order that we too may "Raise a glad cry, you heavens, for God has been at work! Shout aloud, you depths of the earth! Shout for joy, you mountains, and you, forest and all your trees!" Isaiah 44

The spires of Gothic altars like ours were also designed to mimic mountains and the human desire to reach the heavens.

Both the floor of the sanctuary and the inlaid marble under the altar are in the shape of an octagon - an ancient Christian symbol. "The seventh day completes the first creation. The eighth day begins the new creation. Thus, the work of creation culminates in the greater work of redemption. The first creation finds meaning and its summit in the new creation in Christ, the splendor of which surpasses that of the first creation." (Catechism of the Catholic Church #349)

Eight is the symbol for early Christians of the new creation in Christ...we are part of this new creation!

The new devotional area with traditional vigil candles on the right side of the church greatly enhances the large Crucifix given to the parish by William B. McElroy in 1925.



LAKE PLACID PARISHIONERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE RENOVATIONS

# BLESSING AT ST. AGNES

Bishop dedicates new altar during June 22 celebration



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop Terry R. LaValley spreads holy oils on the new altar at St. Agnes during a June 22 Mass during which the altar was dedicated. The bronze altar and ambo (pulpit) were created by Robert Eccleston of Lake Placid. Father John Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes, writes about the church renovations in an article on page 8.

Upon entering St. Agnes Church, visitors now encounter the baptismal font which was carved by Lake Placid native Tyler Rand.



Hank Cooney led the prayers of intercession.



Colleen Locke read from the scriptures during the Mass.



Ron and Jeannine Butler presented the Offertory gifts to Bishop LaValley. Also shown are Father Bryan Stitt who served as master of ceremonies for the Mass and Father John Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes.

# U.S. bishops want to give 'careful analysis' to HHS final rules

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The final rules issued June 28 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services implementing its mandate that employers provide coverage of contraceptives "will require more careful analysis," New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a statement.

The cardinal, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the 110-page ruling is "long and complex" and the bishops will "provide a fuller statement when that analysis is complete."

The HHS final ruling updates proposed rules the department had issued in February and left open for comment through April.

The HHS contraceptive mandate, part of the Affordable Care Act, will require most employers, including religious employers, to provide coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free of charge, even if the employer is morally opposed to such services. It includes an exemption for some religious employers that fit its criteria.

Cardinal Dolan said June 28 that he appreciated the "five-month extension on implementing the complex proposal," meaning the government extended its "safe harbor" period to Jan. 1, 2014, protecting employers from immediate government action against them if they fail to comply with the mandate. Before the final rules were released, that period was to end Aug. 1.

The Becket Fund, a nonprofit, public interest law firm that has represented Catholic and other religious institutions in a number of

the lawsuits against the HHS mandate, said the new ruling is not much different from the proposed rules the HHS issued in February.

"The news about the final rule is pretty simple: It's more of the same," said Eric Rassbach, deputy general counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

In a telephone news conference June 28, Rassbach told reporters that the HHS final rule "is not very different from the inadequate rule" the HHS issued in February and updated after the 60-day comment period. He said that although "HHS tinkered with some aspects of the rule," the agency failed to tackle "fundamental religious questions."

"Essentially, we're where we've been all along; the change now is it is final," he said, adding that unresolved issues will have to be addressed by the courts.

Still at issue, he said, is that self-insured religious groups need to hire administrators to pay for abortifacients and contraceptives and owners of for-profit businesses who because of their religious beliefs are morally opposed to the mandate will have to provide abortion-inducing drugs or pay up to millions of dollars in fines.

A statement by the Becket Fund said an "easy way to resolve this would have been to exempt sincere religious employers completely, as the Constitution requires."

In February, HHS said that in order to clarify what kinds of organizations may qualify for the exemption, it was eliminating the first three prongs of its original four-pronged definition of qualifying religious organizations and clarifying the application of the fourth prong, which stated that an exempt entity would be a nonprofit organi-

zation under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

HHS said June 28 that in its final rules it is giving "a simpler definition of 'religious employer' for purposes of the exemption from the contraceptive coverage requirement in response to concerns raised by some religious organizations. These employers, primarily houses of worship, may exclude contraceptive coverage from their health plans for their employees and dependents."

According to the HHS final rules, the group health plans of religious employers are exempt from having to provide contraceptive coverage. The final rule provides accommodations for nonexempt, nonprofit religious organizations that object to contraceptive coverage on religious grounds.

The HHS final rules also stipulate that nonprofit religious organizations do not have to contract, arrange, pay or refer for contraceptive coverage. It does not make this stipulation for for-profit organizations even those whose owners object to the HHS contraceptive mandate.

In an HHS telephone news conference, Michael Hash, director of the Office of Health Reform for HHS, said the final rules simplify and clarify the definition of religious employers and make it clear that they don't have to "refrain from providing services," such as charity-related work, that they typically do.

He also said the way these contraceptive services will be delivered "insulates the providing organization," referring to a change in the finalized rules that outlines how insurance companies will reimburse nonprofit religious organizations, including religious hospitals or universities, that object to contraceptive coverage.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### U.S. bishops view Supreme Court's rulings as 'tragic day for marriage'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- U.S. Catholic bishops said the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 rulings on same-sex marriage were a "tragic day for marriage and our nation." The court, in separate 5-4 rulings struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, defining marriage as between one man and one woman and also refused to rule on the merits of a challenge to California's Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage. In the rulings, the court said DOMA was unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause and they sent back to lower courts a challenge to Prop 8, saying the individuals who defended the law in court lacked the legal standing to do so. A statement by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chair of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, said the court "has dealt a profound injustice to the American people by striking down in part the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The court got it wrong," they continued. "The federal government ought to respect the truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, even where states fail to do so. The preservation of liberty and justice requires that all laws, federal and state, respect the truth, including the truth about marriage"

### N.Y. Catholics hail defeat of abortion plank in women's equality bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) -- The New York State Senate rejected the abortion-related plank of a 10-point women's equality bill, prompting the New York State Catholic Conference to call the action a "remarkable victory for unborn children." The Catholic conference called the provision the "Abortion Expansion Act." Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who labeled it the "Reproductive Health Act," said the language would merely have codified current abortion rights into law, but pro-lifers warned in their campaign against the measure that it would have opened the door to more late-term abortions. The Catholic conference termed it "the most radical expansion of abortion since the state legalized it in 1970." What transpired in the state Legislature is, "quite literally, the answer to prayer," the Catholic conference said in a June 21 statement. "More accurately, it is the answer to millions of prayers by men, women and children of every faith from every section of the state who believe in the inalienable right to life of the baby in the womb." The Women's Equality Act, with all 10 provisions intact, easily passed the Democratic-led state Assembly. Although the state Senate has a slight Democratic majority, two Democrats joined the Republicans in the Senate to vote against the abortion provision in the bill. (See page 12 for a column on this issue by Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference)

## PALLIUM CEREMONY FOR ARCHBISHOPS



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis greets Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco after presenting him with a pallium during Mass marking the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 29. The pope presented woolen palliums to 34 arch bishops during the liturgy.

# Pope: superficial and rigid 'masquerade' as Christians

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christianity isn't a school for teaching a superficial form of being nice to everyone, but it's also not a boot camp where everything is rigidity, rules and long faces, Pope Francis said.

"The Lord calls us to build our Christian life on him, the rock, the one who gives us freedom, the one who sends us the Spirit, who keeps us going with joy on his path, following his proposals," the pope said June 27 during his morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

According to a report by Vatican Radio, Pope Francis

warned in his homily that too many people today "masquerade as Christians," rejecting either the challenging teachings of Christ and his Gospel or rejecting the joy and freedom the Holy Spirit brings.

"In the history of the church there have been two classes of Christians: Christians of words -- those who say, 'Lord, Lord, Lord' -- and Christians of action, in truth," the pope said.

The Christians who are all talk, he said, fall into two opposing categories: those he defined as "gnostics," who "instead of loving the Rock, love pretty words" and follow a "liquid Christianity" without substance; and those

he defined as "Pelagians," who "believe that the Christian life must be taken so seriously that they end up confusing solidity and firmness with rigidity. They are rigid! They think that being Christian means being in perpetual mourning."

Both groups, he said, are missing the key connection to Christ, "the only one who sustains us in difficult times."

"They do not know how to enjoy the life that Jesus gives us because they do not know how to talk to Jesus," the pope said. Because they have no joy, they have no freedom either. They are "slaves of superficiality" or "the slaves of rigidity."

## Archbishop reacts to Court decisions

# Rulings set up 'worrisome' future

ROME (CNS) -- The "future of our democracy" is "very, very worrisome," U.S. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone said in reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 rulings striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act and refusing to rule on the merits of a ban on same-sex marriage in California.

The court high court remanded the California case to lower courts on the grounds that the individuals who defended the law in court lacked legal standing to do so.

Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, spoke to Catholic News Service in Rome the day the court handed down its two decisions.

He was there to receive his pallium from Pope Francis in a ceremony June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The pope will present palliums to archbishops named in the past year.

The woolen stole signifies an archbishop's authority over the Christian community.

In addressing the court's refusal to rule on the merits of a challenge to California's Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage, Archbishop Cordileone noted that 7 million voters in California voted for the proposition and "many of them invested a lot of hard work and a lot of time and lots and lots of money against seemingly insurmountable odds."

When the state "refused to defend the law," he said, its proponents hired legal counsel, raised money and invested hard work to defend it.

"Now they're being told that those elected officials charged with the duty of de-

fending the laws of the state can refuse to do their duty simply because they disagree with the law and disenfranchise 7 million voters," he said.

In response to the court's ruling that DOMA is unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause, Archbishop Cordileone said the court "overturned a law that respects and enforces the principle that it's in the best interests of the child to be raised by their mother and their father."

He said the effect of the court's decision is to "undermine in the law the principle that children have a right to a mother and father."

He also noted that to have a "healthy vibrant society we need to reclaim a marriage culture."

The archbishop pointed out that he has said all along that no matter how the court ruled "our work remains unchanged. We need to catechize our people about marriage."

"Even if the court issued a ruling that we liked, we would still have a lot of work to do in helping our people understand what marriage really is, why marriage is important for the public good and why it's essentially an institution to support social justice, justice for the sake of children," he added.

Archbishop Cordileone said marriage has the status that it does in law because it has always been a child-centered institution.

Redefining marriage, he said, turns it into an "adult-centered institution" where the government "doesn't have an interest in people's love lives" or in "how people work out their intimate relationships."

(Contributing to this story was Francis X. Rocca in Rome)

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# This week we pray 'God bless America'

This past week, we celebrated the birth of "One nation under God, with liberty and justice for all...born and unborn!, an experiment in the right of all people to govern themselves.

The Scripture readings for this Sunday offer food for reflection, and God's recipe for peace.

The first reading is from the last prophecies of Isaiah, written as the Israelites are returning from the Babylonian captivity.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

We hear that the Lord offers a future of peace and prosperity to Israel "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort."

In the Gospel, Jesus and His apostles, and his 72 disciples, are on the way to Jerusalem to fulfill this ancient prophecy.

In every village and hamlet, they preach the Good News, heal the sick and drive out demons.

Jesus has instructed them to travel very light, relying on the common people to feed and protect them (they are not to take staff or traveling bag).

Unfortunately, Jerusalem rejects the message, puts the Son of God to death, and seals its own fate

There will be no peace for Jerusalem, but rather its destruction in the year 70! No wonder that, when Jesus arrives, He weeps over the city's rejection, again using the image of God as tender-hearted mother.

Will our nation ever know peace again? Will we ever know that religious freedom

JULY 7

14th Sunday of the Year

READINGS

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

which the early citizens of our land enjoyed for so long?

Our constitution clearly assumes that our right to freedom comes from God. It comes from following God's laws.

Freedom comes when the individual sacrifices his own

selfish interests for the freedom and dignity of all its citizens.

Just as Jesus sacrificed His life for the salvation of all, so the good citizen subordinates his wants to the common good of a nation.

When Catholics spread the Good News as the 72 disciples did, they will find the power of God's sacrificial love, a model for peace and prosperity within our own country.

It will also bring a new authenticity to our nation's efforts to bring peace to other nations.

And so we pray, "God bless America!"

## RESPECT LIFE

## As Catholics we defended life. That's what we do

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities  
New York State Catholic Conference

The 2013 New York State legislative session was dominated by the issue of abortion.

Gov. Cuomo fired the first shot in the session's opening hour, demanding passage of the so-called Reproductive Health Act, shouting three times "because it's her body, her choice!" in his January State of the State address.

And in the session's closing hours on the first day of summer, pro-abortion lawmakers tried - unsuccessfully - to use a procedural

maneuver to force the Governor's abortion bill onto the Senate floor.

In between, the Governor, his administration and abortion industry lobbyists were relentless for six months.

The Governor crisscrossed the state promoting a "women's equality" package of advances for women that attempted to disguise an unnecessary and dangerous abortion expansion.

They accused their opponents of using scare tactics, mischaracterizations and untruths.

They assembled a coalition of women's groups (mostly Planned Parenthood affiliates, NOW chapters and like-minded groups) and

poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into ad campaigns targeting specific lawmakers.

When pro-life forces pushed back, we were told we were exaggerating claims about the Governor's proposal.

The Civil Liberties Union called the bill "non-controversial," and the Governor himself said it wouldn't change anything, but would simply align New York law with federal law on abortion.

But Catholics didn't buy it. The people in the pews said "No." We don't want or need more abortion in the abortion capital of the nation.

Bravo to the tens of thousands of people who sent messages to their lawmakers through the Catholic Action Network ([www.nycatholic.org](http://www.nycatholic.org)).

Thank you to all those who wrote letters to newspaper editors and used social media to spread the word.

Hurrah for those who sacrificed so much to come to

Albany - more than once! -- to protest abortion expansion. Kudos to those who organized candlelight vigils in

their own communities, who met with their Senators, and who helped pay for billboards, radio and television advertising.

Catholics joined in solidarity with people of other faiths under the umbrella organization New Yorkers for Life ([www.nys4life.com](http://www.nys4life.com)), and the unity gave us

strength and propelled us forward.

We are so grateful for all of these actions, but most especially for the prayers. Those of us who walk the halls of the Legislature on behalf of the Bishops were energized and refreshed by the spiritual strength emanating from prayers all around the state. Seriously; we felt it.

It was truly a David and Goliath battle. God - the Way, the Truth, and the Life - was with us, and we were victorious in defeating abortion expansion. Amen.



Kathleen  
Gallagher

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*Grammy nominee fuses his love for music with his love for God*

# Matt Maher finds Catholic ministry in his music

By Chaz Muth  
Catholic News Service

FULTON, MD. (CNS) - Kristina Laus arrived at a recent Matt Maher concert to experience the vibrations that electric guitars, drums and Scripture-laced vocals send through blaring amplifiers.

The 24-year-old resident of Hanover along with other concertgoers, enthusiastically clapped her hands to the beat of the music coming from the two-time Grammy nominee's guitar and microphone, while gazing at the giant crucifix to the back of the stage where the band was playing.

After the song ended and the buzz of the music faded, the 38-year-old Catholic musician spoke to the audience about the religious meaning of the tune. He also told them he is trying to live out his faith by listening to the guiding voice of the new leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis.

"I've been a Matt Maher fan for years and it's always a nice opportunity to go and watch him live," Laus told Catholic News Service during the June 24 concert at New Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church in a rural section of Maryland's Howard County, nestled between Baltimore and Washington.

"He has such meaningful stories in his lyrics," she continued, "and he explains where he gets his material from and quotes Scripture so often. It inspires me to go and look at Scripture myself and see what he's actually talking about, to have an opinion on my own."

This is the kind of impact

Maher says he hopes his live shows and recorded albums have on people who listen to his music.

Though being a recording artist is his vocation, Maher also considers his music to be part of a Catholic ministry, and perhaps a component of the Catholic Church's new evangelization effort called for by several recent popes.

"Faith is the greatest source of inspiration, and then it's living out my vocation, being married, being a father and along the way living life," he told CNS during an interview the day of the concert.

"I think for me as a songwriter, it's in the midst of doing those things that I sort of see and hear the fingerprints of God. I think that inspires me and points me back to creating an expression through a song," he said.

Maher uses the time between songs to speak to the audience about God, Jesus and the influence Pope Francis is having on society. In July he will travel to Brazil to perform for the pope during World Youth Day.

His own religious awakening happened when he was 20.

Baptized a Catholic in Newfoundland to an American mother and a Canadian father, Maher says his upbringing was mostly secular in nature with little emphasis on religion.

After his parents divorced, the burgeoning musician moved to Arizona, where he eventually got involved with Life Teen, a Catholic youth ministry movement designed to bring young people closer to Christ. He now

serves on Life Teen's board of directors.

He also wanted to find a way to fuse his love for music with his faith, and after receiving a music degree from Arizona State University; he launched a career in Christian rock.

Maher has recorded seven albums since 2001, three of which have been in Billboard Magazine's in the top 10 Christian Album charts.

His latest album, "All the People Said Amen," was released in April.

Nashville, Tenn., is now home for the married father of a young son, but he spends a great deal of time touring the U.S., playing more than 120 shows last year alone.

As Josh Chumley of Clarksburg, Md., made his way into the June 24 show, he stopped by a booth to look over the Matt Maher concert t-shirts and CDs for sale, and proclaimed himself a "big fan."

"I heard about the show on the radio and wanted to bring my entire family," Chumley told CNS. "He speaks Scripture throughout

what he sings and that's truth to us. So, we want to follow the truth, and honestly, he's got a great voice too."

If the exposure of his music introduces the Gospel message to more people, Maher said his Catholic journey will be on course.

"In some ways rock 'n' roll was the soundtrack to the sexual revolution," he said. "So, if there is going to be another revolution inspired by theology of the body, inspired by the past four popes in calling for this re-evangelization of the church and then subsequently culture, we are going to need a soundtrack for it."

With a slightly flushed face and a beaming grin, Maher said he would never presume he would be part of such a soundtrack, "but maybe I'm inspiring people who will create it. If that's all it is, then that's good enough for me."



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF MATT MAHER  
Two-time Grammy nominee Matt Maher is pictured in an undated publicity photo. The Catholic musician and songwriter says his music is his ministry.

Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
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**11th Annual Summer Gala & Raffle**

**Only 370 Tickets to be sold!**  
(One need not be present to win)

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

<b>1st Prize \$10,000.00</b>
2nd Prize \$2,000.00
3rd & 4th \$500.00
5th & 6th Prize \$250.00
7th - 11th Prizes \$100.00

\*\*Prize amounts depends on 370 tickets sold\*\*

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

**Where:** The Town of Clayton Recreation Park Arena  
**When:** Tuesday, August 6 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Must by 18 to purchase

**CLINTON**

**FR. DELBEL BENEFIT**

**Champlain** – A benefit fund raiser to assist Father James Delbel with medical related expenses has been planned

**Date:** July 13

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 7:30

**Place:** Knights of Columbus Hall

**Features:** Spaghetti dinner (minimum donation, \$10), prizes, 50-50s.

**Donations:** Checks may be made payable to thee Knights of Columbus Council #3525, Charitable Fund, PO Box 96, Champlain, NY, 12919

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

**Place:** St. John's chapel

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

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

**FRANKLIN**

**FAREWELL ST. PATRICK'S**

**Hogansburg**– St. Patrick's Church is holding special celebrations during the last week before church closes. The events follow:

**July 1**– Baptism reflection celebration, 6:30 p.m.

**July 2**– Eucharist/Reconciliation/Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

**July 3**– Vocations Reflection Celebration, 6:30 p.m.

**July 6**– Night to Remember, 3 p.m. to 8

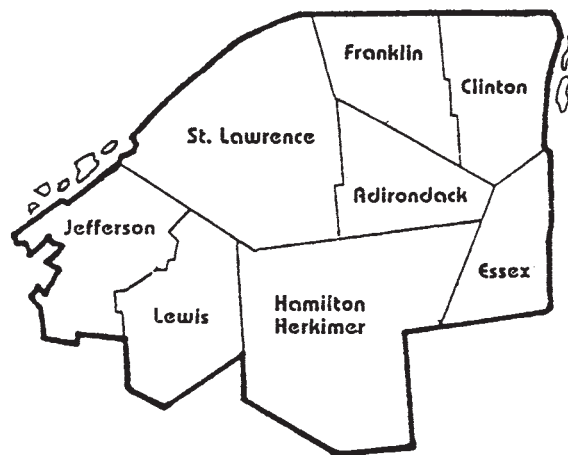
**July 7** – Closing Ceremony for St. Patrick's (Reception to follow), 3 p.m.

**DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE**

**Constable** - The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville, & Trout River is planning a pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Mass. Pilgrims will receive a plenary indulgence for a visit during the Year of Faith.

**Dates:** Sept. 10-11

**Features:** Trip includes certified travel



The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
**North Country Catholic**, PO Box 326,  
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

agent, bus trip, two lunches, schedules, maps, sightseeing suggestions, one evening dinner, fees to the shrine, guided tour of the shrine and additional activities, two Masses, stop at the gift shop, snacks on the bus going to Stockbridge, lodging at the Red Lion Inn (based on double occupancy).

**Cost:** \$265 per person. Reservations due immediately. All reservations are final. All payments due by July 30. Space is limited reservations should be made promptly.

**Contact:** Phone: 315-358-2862 or email: ariat74@hotmail.com

**UNDERSTANDING ANNULMENTS**

**Brushton**– St. Mary's Parish is sponsoring a workshop "Understanding Annulments

**Date:** Aug. 7

**Time:** 6 p.m.

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

**Features:** Msgr. Harry Snow, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Ogdensburg will open with a presentation on the purpose of annulments, the steps, the process and the language used. The second part

of the workshop is dedicated to questions and answers. There is no charge; refreshments will be served

**Contact:** For more information call St. Mary's Parish office at 518-529-7433 or email: office@stmarysbrushton.org.

**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**

**DAY OF PILGRIMAGE**

**Carthage** – Pilgrimage to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine in Fonda, NY, and then to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Stockbridge, Mass., has been planned

**Date:** Aug. 10

**Schedule:** Bus leaves from St. James Church at 5 a.m., arrives in Fonda at 7:30; arrives in Stockbridge at 11 a.m., back at St. James, approximately 10 p.m.

**Features:** In Fonda – chapel, gift shop, outdoor Stations of the Cross, Iroquois Indian Village where Kateri lived; in Stockbridge – Eucharistic adoration, Mass, confession, rosary for life, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, benediction, blessing with a relic of St. Faustina, blessing of religious articles, Stations of the Cross, Shrine of the Holy Innocents and Lourdes Grotto. Handicap access both sites

**Cost:** \$55 per person, includes transportation, lunch, and donation, not dinner on way home.

**Contact:** RSVP & money due by July 7, to Laurie Halladay 6967 Belfort Rd, Croghan, NY 13327. For more information, call and leave a message at 315-346-6047. Notify if dietary, other needs.

**LIFERIGHT MEETING**

**Watertown** - Liferight of Watertown meets 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 DEVOTIONS**

**Houseville**– July Divine Mercy devotions have been planned.

**Date:** July 7

**Time:** 3p.m.

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

**South Colton**– A Mass of Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Profession of Vows of Brother Richard James, OFM, a native of South Colton.

**Date:** July 15

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** Oratory of St. Paul

**Features:** Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be the celebrant. Bring your lawn chairs and Ice cream will follow.



**TRIP TO SHOW IN SYRACUSE**

**Ogdensburg** –Notre Dame Altar & Rosary is sponsoring a bus trip to Landmark Theatre to see Daniel O'Donnell.

**Date:** Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

**Features:** Tickets are \$125 which includes show ticket, S&W bus fare (leaves from Donut King) and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant.

**Contact:** Call Cherie @393-5050 or 393-7158 or Joyce @713-4457.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**

**Norfolk** – A brunch, sponsored by the Knight of Columbus, will be held

**Date:** July 14

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

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

**Cost:** Adults: \$7 Under 12: \$4 Under 5: Free Family: \$18

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

**Ogdensburg** – St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** Thursday before the First Friday

**Time:** 7 p.m. concluding with Benedic-

tion at 8 p.m.

**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel

**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.

**LATIN MASS**

**Potsdam** – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin as the celebrant

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

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

**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

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**THE BEAUTY OF BELIEF**

**Potsdam** – The Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting "THE BEAUTY OF BELIEF--a celebration of art and music in the Year of Faith"

**Date:** Aug. 18, afternoon

**Place:** SUNY Potsdam's Hosmer Hall and Gallery

**Features:** Musicians sharing high quality choral, vocal, and instrumental pieces that are sacred and spiritually influenced as well as artists sharing the beauty of faith through visual art.



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## 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@rcdony.org

# The Augustinians say 'thank you'

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

Through the funds collected by the Annual Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, we were able to once again donate to the Augustinians' fund. We recently received a note of gratitude from them and I thought I would share their kind words with you all, since it is you who makes the donations possible.

*Dear Sister Mary Ellen:*

*Thank you for your recent contribution. As we celebrate the joy and transformation of the Resurrection, my reflections also turn to the conversion of Saint Augustine, who feast we celebrate in April. Christ has the power to heal and make all things new.*

*St. Augustine hungered and searched for God in many ways during his youth. He finally entered into a relationship with Christ that transformed all of the experiences of his youth and put them more fully at the service of the Gospel in witnessing to others and drawing them closer to Christ.*

*I thank God for your relationship with Christ, and the transformation He continues to work in each of us. It is Christ who inspires you to generously share your gifts with others. Your gift helps to transform the hope of those in greatest need into a joy that they are remembered and not alone.*

*Your gift to the Augustinian Fund in support of South Africa's fruit program helps us to meet, and hopefully exceed, our goal in support of this important ministry. Please be assured that you are remembered in the prayers of the Friars of the Province.*

**In Augustine,  
Very Reverend Anthony M. Genovese, OSA**

Thank you for donating to the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in the past. Our collection this year will be held on the East Side of the Diocese's deaneries. Please give generously so that groups such as the Augustinians can continue their worthy programs abroad.  
God Bless.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Alexandria Bay**- Merle C. Farrell, 87; Funeral June 27, 2013 at St. Cyril's; Burial Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

**Bombay**- Mary Dixon; Funeral June 13, 2013 at St. Joseph Church. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Fort Covington.

**Carthage**- Beryl J. (Mono) Hutchins, 86; Funeral June 17, 2013 at St. James Church. Burial in parish cemetery.

**Chazy**- James D. Langevin, 71; Funeral Service June 17, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church. Burial in parish cemetery.

**Churubusco**- Rachel M. Parent; Funeral Service June 3, 2013 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial parish cemetery.

**Colton**- David Paul Fayette, 80; Funeral Service June 19, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church. Burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Croghan**- Margaret B. (Bullard) Rubar, 95; Funeral Service June 13, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church. Burial in St. Vincent DePaul Cemetery in Belfort.

**Croghan**- Michael R. Kerfien, 68; Funeral Service June 17, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church. Burial in parish cemetery.

**Ellenburg**- Rose M. (Trombley) Nelson, 67; Funeral June 25, 2013 at Edmund's Church. Burial in Parish Cemetery.

**Ellenburg**- Clara (Gadway-Hart) Nephew, 82; Funeral Service June 18, 2013 at St. Edmunds Church. Burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens

**Hogansburg**- John F. Oakes, 92; Funeral Service June 19, 2013 at St. Regis Catholic Church. Burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Hogansburg**- Joseph Johnson, 75; Funeral Service June 16, 2013 at St. Regis Church. Burial in Kateri Cemetery.

**Lake Placid**- David J. McDonough, 59; Funeral June 14, 2013 at the St. Agnes Church. Burial Norton Cemetery, Keene.

**Lake Placid**- Frederick S. Dennin, 90; Funeral June 20, 2013 at St. Agnes Church. Burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lisbon**- Edward L. Jordan, 61; Funeral Service June 27, 2013 at St. Philip and James Church. Burial in Morley Cemetery

**Lowville**- Douglas A Sweredoski, 67; Funeral Service June 28, 2013 at St. Peter's Church.

**Lyon Mountain**- Arthur John Ryan, 83; Funeral Service June 24, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church. Burial in Brainardsville Cemetery

**Malone**- Lyle B. Trippany, 89; Funeral Service June 18, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church. Burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery

**Malone**- Sylvia A. Hosler; Funeral Service May 24, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church. Burial in parish cemetery

**Malone**- Elaine E. (Colburn-Burgoyne) Miner; Funeral June 24, 2013 at Notre Dame Church. Burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone**- Richard Shortal, 68; Funeral Service June 13, 2013 at Notre Dame Church. Burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena**- Albert R. Tricase, 86; Funeral June 14, 2013 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena**- Anita M. Payette Murray, 87; Funeral Service June 14, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church. Burial in Notre Dame Cemetery in Cornwall.

**Massena**- Elizabeth M. (Michaud) Snickles, 79; Funeral Service June 17, 2013 at the Church of the Sacred Heart. Burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena**- John F. George, 77; Funeral June 21, 2013 at the Church of the Sacred Heart. Burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville**- Alfreda B. (Rock-Baxter) Dickson, 89; Funeral Service June 17, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church. Burial in Parish Cemetery.

**Morrisonville**- Margaret "Anne" (Conway) Rock, 87; Funeral Service June 28, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church. Burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery in Peru.

**Ogdensburg**- Genevieve Lesperance Measheaw Sutton, 52; Funeral Service June 18, 2013 at Fray Funeral Home. Burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg**-Thelma (Langley) Carmody; Funeral Service June 24, 2013 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Burial Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg**- Helga (Hahn) Lago, 53; Funeral Service July 3, 2013 at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg**- Martha J. (Gagnon) Jerome, 59; Funeral June 27, 2013 Fray Funeral Home. Burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg**- Elaine E. Miner; Funeral Service June 24, 2013 at Notre Dame Church. Burial in parish cemetery

**Plattsburgh**- Theresa J. (Stone) Fountain, 78; Funeral June 17, 2013 at St. Peter's Church. Burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh**- Billie E. Moore, 69; Funeral June 18, 2013 at Our Lady of Victory Church. Burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh**- Florence M. (Bleau) Forett, 99; Funeral Service June 18, 2013 at St. Peter's Church. Burial in St. Ann's Cemetery in Mooers Forks.

**Plattsburgh**- Daniel Joseph Downs, 90; Funeral Service June 20, 2013 at the Newman Center. Burial in the Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

**Plattsburgh**- Gerald L. Holland, 81; Funeral June 21, 2013 at St. John's Church. Burial in Mt Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh**- Shelley J. Willette, 58; Funeral Service June 27, 2013 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh**- Audrey J. (Gadway) Boyd, 73; Funeral Service June 26, 2013 at Our Lady of Victory Church. Burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Potsdam**- Robert A. Jacot, 84; Funeral Service June 14, 2013 at St. Mary's Church. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery

**Potsdam**- Nancy L. Sheldon, 74; Funeral June 18, 2013 at St. Mary's Church. Burial in Fairview Cemetery in Parishville.

**Saranac Lake**- Joseph Medwick, 64; Funeral Service June 13, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church. Burial in St. Agnes Cemetery in Lake Placid.

**Tupper Lake**- Gertrude E. Roberts, 84; Funeral Service June 20, 2013 at St. Alphonsus Church.

**Watertown**- M. Patricia (McDonald) Clark, 86; Funeral June 18, 2013 at Holy Family. Burial Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown**- Frederick J. Petroske, 61; Funeral June 22, 2013 at Our Lady of the Sacred heart Church. Burial in Riverside Cemetery, in Wellesley Island.

**Watertown**- Norma R. Jones, 86; Funeral Service June 24, 2013 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. Burial in Hailesboro Cemetery.

## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# The camp songs of Guggenheim

By Alexis Michael  
Parishioner, St. Raphael's, Heuvelton

Camp Guggenheim, is the Diocese of Ogdensburg's summer camp, in Saranac Lake. I have been going to Camp Guggenheim for five wonderful years now!

Each year, the staff at camp chooses a theme song for the summer that is sung at least once every day. After I arrived home from camp last summer, I realized that each song, at least over the course of my five years, seemed to be related to each other.

The first year I went to Guggenheim, 2008, the theme song was "You Are Everything" by Matthew West. As the title implies, this song is all about acknowledging that there is a God, that He (I will use the pronoun "He" to avoid confusion) is present in our lives, and that he loves us.

We learned, through various activities, that we need God, and that He is always ready to welcome us back into his love.

The next summer, 2009, "Two Hands" by Jars of Clay was the chosen theme song. This song is about the division we, as human beings, feel towards God. We want to love Him, but the things we do, say, and think, push



Music plays a large role in the Guggenheim experience. In this article, camper Alexis Michael writes about the camp songs chosen each year to illustrate special themes chosen by the camp staff.

Him further away from us.

My third year at Guggenheim was spent in the summer of 2010. The theme song that year was "More" by Matthew West.

Here we learned that even though we, intentionally or not, continually push God

away, He still loves each of us more than anything else in creation! When God looks at us, He sees more than just another person, just another face. He sees us for the beautiful people we really are, and loves us for it.

In 2011, the theme song was "Reach" by Peter Dinklage.

We learned that God reaches for us! He will take all of our hopes, dreams, and fears if we just give them over to Him. God is out there always, calling each of us to come to Him, so that He can comfort us.

Even though we don't always pull Him closer, even

though we try to hide, God still love us all as individuals and pulls us ever closer towards His love. He just wants us to reach for it as well.

Now in this past year, the year of 2012, the Guggenheim theme song was "Nothing's Gunna Stop Us" by Sidewalk Prophets.

Over the past years, we have learned that God loves every one of us, with an unimaginable love, no matter how undeserving we are. Our natural response to this is to want to share that love with those around us. This song, and the weeks at camp, is encouragement in that mission.

God has put all of our desires in our hearts, and he doesn't want us to wait to pursue them. He wants nothing to stop us from spreading His love to the world. He will be with us the entire time, and nothing can separate us from Him!

Each of these camp songs led into the other, deepening our understanding of the love that God is offering us. We, over the years, were led to acknowledge God's presence, understand our indecision towards Him, and realize that He still loves us anyway.

We learned that He is reaching for us, and that we need to spread His love to the world! I can only wonder what this year's song will be for the campers of Guggenheim. I will end this by saying my prediction might be "Reckless" by Jeremy Camp.

Yes, I would like to contribute to the M.P.D.O. I wish to help by enclosing the following gift to:

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