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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 11, 2015

## Pope: families need fathers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Every family needs a father - a father who shares in his family's joy and pain, hands down wisdom to his children and offers them firm guidance and love, Pope Francis said.

Being a father is not easy since it takes lots of patience and grace, he said. "But what consolation, what a reward

one receives when the children honor this legacy.

"It is a joy that more than makes up for the hard work, that overcomes every misunderstanding and heals every wound," the pope said at his general audience Feb. 4.

In a series of talks on the family, the pope continued the second part of his reflection

on the role of fathers. While his last audience talk looked at the risks and problems caused by fathers who are absent or fail their family, the day's talk focused on the importance and dignity of fatherhood.

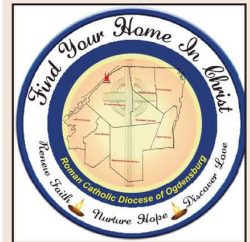
Speaking to some 7,000 people gathered in the Paul VI audience hall, the pope

spelled out the essential, but demanding, things it takes to be a good father.

The most important is being present, first by being by his wife's side "to share everything, joy and pain, hard work and hope" and by being there for his children as they grow, Pope Francis said.

### BUILDING PARISHES

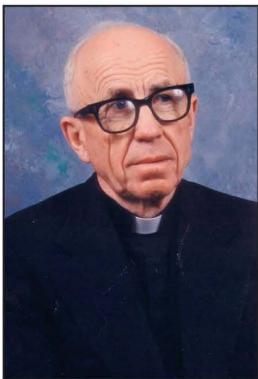
With Living Stones....



One of the priorities highlighted in the Bishop LaValley's pastoral letter "Find Your Home in Christ" was "Building Parishes with Living Stones" and one of the goals set for this priority was to establish a "Living Stones Planning Committee." That goal has been realized with the new committee having recently completed its second meeting in January. Members of the committee are: Father Jay Seymour (Chairperson), Dr. William Amoriell, Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Frances Barnes, St. Joseph Sister Mary Ellen Brett, Deacon Patrick Donahue, Kelly Donnelly, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Patrick Jank, Father Thomas Kommer, Father Joseph Morgan, Father Kevin O'Brien, Frank Palumbo, Cathy Romano, Shelly Rosteck, Maria Stitt, Father Howard Venette, Deacon James Chaufy, and Father Thomas Higman.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Rest in Peace Fr. Robert L. Cotter, 92



FULL STORY, PAGES 2 & 3

## World Day of the Sick

Bishop LaValley reflects on the observance, to be held Feb. 11, the

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## SNOW FUN IN MASSENA!



SCHOOL PHOTO

Trinity Catholic's fifth grade students Ben Rogers, Brendan Finnegan, Jack Violi and Colby Loran embrace the cold weather and built-up snow, burying each other for recess fun!

YOUNG CATHOLICS: Photos of faith and fun in February.... p. 12

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Rest in peace, Father 'Bobby' Cotter

This week we bid a sad farewell to one of the priests of our diocese, Father Robert Cotter, who along with his twin, Father Lawrence, and their younger brother Father Charles provided decades of priestly service to people in the North Country.

Bishop LaValley and priests from across the diocese gathered at the Cotter's home parish of St. Mary's in Canton Feb. 5 to commend their brother to the Lord.

In his homily, Father Jay Seymour remembered "Father Bobby" for his keen intellect, humility and love for his parishioners.

Excerpts from the homily follow:

We are here this afternoon to commend to the Lord one of our brother priests and the

brother of one of our brother priests.

As we gather in faith to worship our God celebrating Christ's victory over death we are acknowledging one of His favored ones; one of the "blessed" who Jesus refers to in the Beatitudes. It is not hard to place Father Bobby into Christ's framework of discipleship which He outlines in the Beatitudes. A couple of the verses almost jump out at you:

- Blessed/ Happy/ are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

- Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

When Jesus commends the "meek" he is not referring to weakness (Certainly Father Larry and the Sisters too were

well aware that Father Bobby could be strong willed at times) but rather when Jesus refers to meek He is referring to a humble soul and there is no doubt that was Father

Bobby. We should not confuse his meek and humble nature either, for being a mental lightweight. He had a keen intellect and memory that helped to make him not only a gentleman but a scholar.

Bobby was also "clean of heart". He had integrity of heart with no duplicity about him. His motives were pure even if sometimes they seemed confused leading to humorous interpretations.

He had his idiosyncrasies but we all have our idiosyncrasies ... except you and me, of course.

Perhaps the Beatitude that

most characterizes Bobby, though, is "poor in spirit". His great faith manifested itself in a humble dependence upon God. He also depended a great deal on the Sisters of St. Joseph these past few years (and we can't thank the Sisters enough for all that they do for our priests) but that is God working through them.

Bobby's poverty of spirit manifested itself in the way he conducted his whole life with such humility. This was particularly evident in his ministry as a priest. The wisdom of Sirach instructs us: "Conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." That certainly seemed to be true of Bobby.

Wherever he served as a priest, he was loved by his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

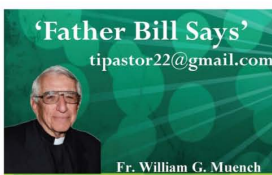
## Power of silence: it can be transformative

Today is windy, snowy and cold. January has rushed into February. Christmas, with its joy and fun, is gone and forgotten. Time for Lent.

Lent, developed by our Church as a time of joy and celebration, gives us all an opportunity to draw closer to our friend, Jesus. Lent is also about reconciliation. The Church suggests that you and I use Lent as a time to prepare our hearts for Holy Week and the magnificent Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter. This is truly a time to celebrate.

Lent is a gift from God, a unique opportunity for transforming our lives over and over again using special prayer and acts of mortification. This is accomplished through conversion. Lent is not a time just to suffer. The idea of Lent is to personally develop special times for mortification to open our hearts and minds to the Lord, Jesus.

Lent is a time to remove from our lives any activity or addiction or sin that has taken over our lives. So, we are encouraged to consider our own lives.



Fr. William G. Muench

There have many too many things that have taken over control of our lives. There are numerous examples and we each have our own – maybe food, alcohol – and I suspect some must admit to drugs – then there may be television – and such.

This year I would like to suggest to you as some Lenten mortification that I believe can be healing and helpful for you and for me. I am going to suggest silence. I know that I need some silence in my own life, so, this Lent I plan to add some times of silence into my day. Lent will be a perfect time for this. I know honestly this will not be so easy. I have tried this before and have not always done so well.

Why silence?

Silence is definitely a time for God to enter my heart more completely. Moments of silence

can be times to bring peace to my heart and mind. Silence can be a time for conversion for me to bring control over my life.

What am I talking about?

Silence could give me some minutes for prayer or maybe time for reading Scripture or good spiritual reading. So, I must turn off the television or the radio and replace them with quiet. Maybe a visit to Church would be good, a time to open my heart to the presence of the Lord.

Silence may be getting away from the internet – or Facebook. Can you picture no Facebook for all of Lent – that would really give God lots of room. Or maybe no computer games for all of Lent (I have done that a couple of times.)

Such silence rids our hearts and minds of noise and clutter – noise and clutter that invades who I am. What a challenge!

This decision for silence can and does bring Christ's presence into my life. Such times of silence can be so good for us. I have personally experienced such times of silent prayer as gift. They gave me new and

stronger control over my own life.

I have learned from many very saintly people the value of silence. I am not talking about monks – although monks do show us the power of silence. I do know many people for whom silence has been transformative. Their lives are changed. They develop a deep peace, a deeper friendship with God. God has a rare opportunity to catch up with us.

---

A Blessing Prayer from Father Ed Hayes:

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, who gives to us nourishment in times of silence and solitude. These times of quiet heal us, within and without, replenish our spirit with new strength and prepare us to meet the constant struggle of daily life with renewed hope and joy.*

*Like Your Son, Jesus, who climbed mountains at night, who retreated deep into the desert to find you in stillness, may we, after this silent-solitary communion with You, allow our lives to reveal Your glory and grace.*

## FOLLOW ME

# The World Day of the Sick

On February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church celebrates World Day of the Sick. The theme for Pope Francis' message this year is: "I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame." (Job 29:15)

As I make pastoral visits around our Diocese, it is abundantly clear to me that our parishes have taken these words of Job to heart. The concern that Christ showed for the bodily and spiritual welfare of those who are ill is continued by the Church of Ogdensburg in its devoted ministry to the suffering.

Our pastoral outreach to the sick is extensive, reflecting our deep compassion and care for our sisters and brothers who are hurting. For instance, many of our parishes have prayer lines that are activated when word is received that a loved one is in need of healing and prayers.

Parish organizations such as the Catholic Daughters, Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, as well as parish Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and other parish volunteers visit regularly the hospitalized, homebound and those residing in nursing homes.

We ask our parish family to pray for the sick as we include intercessions for them at our Masses.

Many parishes list the names of the sick in the parish bulletins.

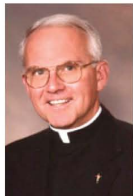
Some parishes hold Communal Anointing Services, particularly in the nursing homes, and others celebrate Healing Masses. Our priests are always available to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Yes, our parishes minister to the sick in our midst so beautifully and faithfully. But...there is always more to be done.

As every parish begins its parish-wide census, parish visitors may meet for the first time individuals who are unable to attend Mass because of health reasons.

The visitors' words of concern and promise of prayers and future visits by parishioners will assure them that their parish family is their companion in the midst of their suffering.

In addition to the physical pain endured by those in poor health, there is also the emotional anguish felt by many who feel all alone in the midst of the hurt.

In his message, Pope Francis comments on an attitude in our hurry-up world where we "forget about giving ourselves freely, taking care of others." Behind this attitude, the Holy Father writes,



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

## Rites held Feb. 4 for Fr. Robert L. Cotter, 92

CANTON — A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Robert Leo Cotter, 92, was held Feb. 4 at St. Mary's in Canton. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided with the priests of the diocese concelebrating and Father James W. Seymour serving as homilist.

Father Cotter died Feb. 1 at the Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown. Burial will be in the spring at St. Mary's Cemetery, Canton.

Father Cotter was born Nov. 10, 1922 in Canton, the twin son of the late Edward and Margaret Clark Cotter. He graduated from Canton High School and began seminary studies at Wadhams Hall in 1939.

He completed his ad-

vanced studies at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester and was ordained on June 14, 1947 by Bishop Bryan McEntegart at St. Mary's, Ogdensburg.

Following his ordination, Father Cotter was appointed assistant pastor at St. Peter's, Lowville, chaplain at Mercy Hospital in 1951, and assistant pastor at St. Paul's, Black River and St. Rita's, Deferiet. In 1955, he was named

pastor of St. Brendan's in Keene, later as pastor in St. Francis Xavier, Redwood, then pastor in St. Mary's, Constableville in 1968.

He was appointed Pro-Synodal Judge in 1974 for five years, then pastor of St. Mary's, Copenhagen, and

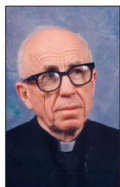
New Boston; in 1993 he was administrator of Star Lake. Father Cotter retired in 1997, and then, in 2000, was appointed administrator of St. Mary's Nativity in West Leyden and Sts. Peter and Paul, Fish Creek. After that, he retired to Glenfield.

In May, 2009, in poor health, he moved to the Sisters of St. Joseph infirmary in Watertown.

Father Cotter is survived by his twin brother Father Lawrence Cotter, who resides in United Helpers, Ogdensburg, a brother, Maurice Cotter, who resides in St. Joseph's Nursing Home and a cousin, Lauren Stiles.

He was predeceased by his brother Father Charles Cotter.

(A reflection on the life and ministry of Father Cotter appears on page 2.)



Fr. Robert  
Cotter

## STEP TOWARDS ORDINATION



PHOTO BY KEN SNOW

Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, Ohio, and Vice Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum, admitted 18 seminarians — including Michael Jablonski who is studying for the Diocese of Ogdensburg — to Candidacy for Holy Orders during a Jan. 31 Mass. at the seminary. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders is celebrated when a seminarian, usually in his second year of graduate study, has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination. Msgr. Christopher Schreck, rector of the Josephinum, is shown at left with Bishop Campbell and Jablonski.



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY  
ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18, 2015

SUPPORT THE COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN  
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE



RESTORE THE CHURCH  
BUILD THE FUTURE



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Your donations help strengthen the Church of this region through grants to Catholic organizations that help those in need receive food, shelter, medicine, pastoral care, and compassion through the light of Christ.

# Rest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

parishioners. I think that was true because they knew how much they were loved by him. He was there to serve them and be present to them and he did not want to let them down, whenever or wherever he was called upon.

One of the endearing stories about Bobby was when the phone rang and he went to answer. Nothing unusual about that except that the phone was in the sacristy and Bobby was in the middle of the Mass. (It's a good thing he didn't have a cell phone). We may find it a bit humorous but that was Bobby. It also may have been St. Vincent de Paul.

What did he say: "It is our duty to prefer service to the poor to everything else and to offer such service as quickly as possible. If a needy person requires medicine or other help during prayer time, do whatever has to be done with peace of mind. Offer the deed to God as your prayer. Do not become upset or feel guilty because you interrupted your prayer to serve the poor."

I'm not sure St. Vincent had the Mass in mind when he was speaking of interrupting your prayer but who knows. We do know that Bobby's heart was in the right place. He was clean of heart and those like him are

destined to see God.

For our part, for those of us who remain, it is our duty to follow the framework for living that

Jesus set before us in the Beatitudes; to live as St. Paul urges us to live in his letter to the

Ephesians ... "in a manner worthy of our calling ... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace." In this way, we too might achieve that poverty of spirit; that meekness, that purity of heart so that we too may see God and belong to His kingdom.

## TRUCK NEEDED!



The North Country Mission of Hope is in need of a truck to transport 24 hospital beds and mattresses from Watertown to Plattsburgh.

Anyone who may be able to assist can call: Sr. Debbie Blow at 518-561-2599 or 518-570-5443  
e-mail: dshope2@charter.net

## ST. MARY'S RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE: \$10,000

Enter for your chance to win **\$10,000 CASH!**

(Winner pays NYS sales tax) Drawing will be held April 5, 2015.

2 Mini prizes of \$100 will be drawn on Feb. 8th and March 8th

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.

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Canton, NY 13617

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

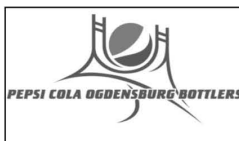
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If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact:

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri-  
anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth  
Counseling Services of Northern New  
York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY,  
12901; e-mail: terrianneyan-  
ulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-  
483-3261; or Father James Seymour,  
the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-  
393-2920, ext. 1340



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### Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 10 – 12, USCCB in Washington, D.C.

Feb. 15 – 11a.m., Mass at St. Mary's  
Cathedral

4:30 p.m., Clinton Deanery Clergy  
Gathering, St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

### 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. 1440.

Upcoming programs:

Feb. 10 – 6 p.m., Sacred Heart  
Church, Chazy

### Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 12 – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

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

Feb. 14 – Rev. John McDonald, 1879;

Msgr. Gerald F. Kellogg, 1979; Rev.

Charles Joseph Richard, 2007

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

Feb. 16 – Rev. Joseph Alexander

Fournier, O.M.I., 1904

Feb. 17 – Rev. Joseph Alfred Hervieux,

1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

### Environmental Stewardship

#### What Color is Your Lent?

The traditional liturgical color during Lent is purple; this color symbolizes the call to prayer, penance and almsgiving during this Season that calls us to new life. These are tools that Jesus gives us (Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18) - Ash Wed.) to help us become our true selves made in the image of God. What would happen if we added some 'green' practices to our Lenten resolutions? To make any changes to our daily routines will definitely require prayer, penance and almsgiving.

Not only can 'green' practices change us physically and spiritually, but they would change the lives of others and ensure a healthier planet that can ensure a more sustainable future for all our children.

We will hear from some people in our Diocese who have undergone some small conversions in how they go about their day to day routine. They will share what caused them to change and how this small choice actually does touch the lives of their sisters and brothers, and all of creation. This simple decision can definitely be a penance, a dying to a less sustainable habit in order to bring about new life for all. For example, California's decision to eliminate the use of plastic grocery bags definitely changed their normal pattern of shopping. Other simple actions like remembering to turn off the computer when not in use for a couple of hours, turning off the water while cleaning veggies.

Consider one simple 'green' practice that you feel drawn to do that will embody Christian simplicity, create a more justice world for all and enable you to grow in the image of Christ who gave his life for us.

### For the Synod on the Family

Anyone wishing to respond to the questions for the Synod on the Family to be held in Fall 2015, may do so by going the diocesan website ([www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org)) and clicking on the banner "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World" and following the instructions.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## House Speaker Boehner announces pope will address Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, announced Feb. 5 that Pope Francis will address a joint meeting of Congress Sept. 24. The pontiff's "historic visit" would make him the "first leader of the Holy See to address a joint meeting of Congress," Boehner said in a statement, adding that he was "truly grateful that Pope Francis has accepted our invitation." Boehner noted that "in a time of global upheaval, the Holy Father's message of compassion and human dignity has moved people of all faiths and backgrounds. His teachings, prayers, and very example bring us back to the blessings of simple things and our obligations to one another. We look forward to warmly welcoming Pope Francis to our Capitol and hearing his address on behalf of the American people."

## Vatican makeover: Restrooms offer showers, barbershop for homeless

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Hot showers, a soapy shave and spiffy haircuts are available for free for those whom the Vatican calls "our homeless pilgrims." Thanks to charitable contributions from Pope Francis and private donors, the Vatican has finished remodeling and expanding a public bathroom a few steps from Bernini's Colonnade, surrounding St. Peter's Square. The Vatican announced Feb. 6 that the construction work was finished and that the updated bathrooms now include three showers and a barber's chair. Free haircuts will be offered every Monday by volunteer barbers and students graduating from hairstylist school. Most barbershops and hair salons are closed on Mondays in Italy, making it the one day of the week hairstylists are easily available to volunteer their services. The showers will be open every day except Wednesdays -- general audience day -- and days when other large events are planned in St. Peter's Square or the basilica, the Vatican said. "Our pilgrims without a home will receive, along with a shower, a complete change of underwear and a kit with a towel, soap, toothpaste, razor, shaving cream and deodorant, according to different individual needs," the Vatican said in a communique.

## Pope orders cooperation in preventing sexual abuse, caring for victims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The leaders of the world's bishops' conferences and religious orders must ensure they are doing everything possible to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse and are offering appropriate care for victims and their families, Pope Francis said. "Priority must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors," he said in a written letter. The letter, dated Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, was sent to the presidents of national bishops' conferences worldwide and the superiors of religious orders. The Vatican released a copy of the letter Feb. 5, feast of St. Agatha, an early martyr who was abused and assaulted as a young woman. In his letter the pope said, "Families need to know that the church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home." With protecting minors as a top priority, the pope said he wants to encourage and promote the church's commitment to protection and care "at every level -- episcopal conferences, dioceses, institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life -- to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of minors and vulnerable adults and to respond to their needs with fairness and mercy."

# Bishop Barbarito recovering from surgery to remove benign brain tumor

PALM BEACH, FLA. (CNS) - Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of Palm Beach was recovering at a Miami hospital after undergoing "a difficult and long, seven-hour surgery" Feb. 2 to have a benign tumor removed from his brain.

"We are pleased to report that the surgery was a success. Praise God!" the diocese said in a statement issued once the bishop was out of surgery and in the recovery room. "Thank you all for your prayers. They are very much appreciated. We ask for your continued prayers for Bishop Barbarito's speedy and full recovery."

Bishop Barbarito, who turned 65 Jan. 4, has headed the Palm Beach Diocese since 2003. Previously, he served as Bishop of Ogdensburg from 2000 to 2003.

The diocese said it would keep the Catholic community informed about the bishop's condition with updates posted on its website, [www.diocesepb.org](http://www.diocesepb.org).

In a Jan. 30 personal note to all in the diocese, the

bishop described how doctors had discovered he had a brain tumor.

"A brief period of vertigo episodes in November," he said, prompted "a whole series of tests of the inner ear - which proved negative."

"My doctor then sent me for an MRI of the brain just to be safe and to rule out any other possibility for the vertigo," he said. "The MRI revealed a moderately large meningioma - benign brain tumor - in an area which could eventually be a serious problem for the future."

"Luckily, it is not causing any problems or symptoms now but, left unresolved, will. It has nothing to do with the vertigo, which has completely disappeared. Go figure!" he wrote.

He said he consulted with "a number of top neurosurgeons, who gave me the same opinion which is that the meningioma should be removed now before serious problems arise," Bishop Barbarito said. "Unlike with the ologians, I could not find a

contrary opinion as much as I tried."

He expected he would have to have "a little recovery time" after the surgery but planned "to resume my schedule as quickly." He said he would cancel public functions for a brief period.

Bishop Barbarito noted that originally he was to have had surgery Jan. 28, but he "came down with some type of bug" and the surgery had to be canceled and rescheduled for Feb. 2.

"I want to assure you that all is well," he said, adding that he looked forward to resuming his schedule "after this brief vacation," which was "not quite a cruise to the Bahamas."

"Obviously, I ask for your prayers upon which I always rely," he said. "These are very important to me."

He called the surgery and recovery period "an inconvenience," but said he felt "fortunate and consider it providential that the meningioma was found when it was!"

# Martyrdom is not a thing of the past, pope says at Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Reading the Gospel account of St. John the Baptist's death on the feast of St. Paul Miki and other Japanese martyrs, Pope Francis said his thoughts naturally turn to Christians being persecuted and killed today because of their faith.

"When I read this passage, I must confess, I get emotional," the pope said Feb. 6 during the morning Mass in the chapel of his residence.

The pope gave two reasons why he is so moved by the passage from Mark's Gospel about Herod ordering St. John the Baptist's beheading: first, because of the situation of persecuted Christians

today; and second, because it is a reminder that everyone, even great prophets, will die.

"I think of our martyrs, the martyrs of today, those men, women and children who are persecuted, hated, chased from their homes, tortured today and massacred," he said. "This is not something from the past; it is happening today. Our martyrs are ending their lives under the corrupt authority of people who hate Jesus Christ."

Pope Francis said it is important to remember the modern martyrs and those facing persecution. Feb. 6 is the feast of St. Paul Miki and his 25 companions, who

were killed in Japan in 1597, the pope said. The stunning thing is that such persecution continues "in 2015!"

The pope said that the Gospel passage also reminds him that everyone is on the same path toward "the ground, where we all will end up."

"I, too, will meet my end," he said, according to Vatican Radio, "No one can 'buy' life. Whether we want to or not, we all are on the path toward the existential end of our lives. This, at least for me, makes me pray that at the end I will resemble, as closely as possible, Jesus Christ and his end."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Learning how to exercise mercy in our lives

Today's readings provide guidelines for the way we should exercise mercy in our lives.

The Scriptures begin with a passage from the Book of Leviticus. Here we find a collection of ritual and sacrificial laws for the Jewish priests.

Why was cleanliness so important for them? They believed that external cleanliness in a person was a sign of being close to God.

Even our own society has a saying, "cleanliness is next to godliness".

They were even more afraid of the contagion connected with skin deformities, especially leprosy.

The Mosaic law called for the exclusion of lepers from normal society. They were to shout out, "Unclean, unclean" when someone approached them.

Their humiliation and loneliness of life were harder for them to bear than even their deformed bodies.

In today's Gospel, the people who were listening to Jesus' teaching must have

been indignant at the leper who dared come physically close to Jesus, and beg Him for a cure.

They must have been horrified that Jesus actually reached out and touched this outcast. That made

Jesus Himself legally unclean.

What a powerful lesson Jesus' action taught that day! He was obviously compassionate, generously sacrificing his own social status by healing the man.

Jesus must have sensed the great longing in that outcast to be again accepted not only by society, but also to be again considered a friend of God's.

And what a price Jesus paid for His mercy! Because the newly-cured leper spread the word of the healing throughout the region, it became impossible for Jesus to be seen in any public place without being mobbed by those seeking a similar cure.

While the leper returns to society, Jesus is forced out!



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

FEB. 15

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
READINGS

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

After this incident, Jesus' listeners knew they should never fear to approach the Master because of their past sins or social standing.

He would understand and show compassion. To the "dark side" in each of us, Jesus brings light and healing to those who trust and believe.

What is holding me back today from approaching Jesus for healing or just for His friendship? There's no

such thing as an "outsider" in Jesus' book. All are welcome who seek His loving touch.

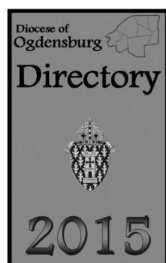
Another question: who are the lepers in my life? Do I avoid those who are repulsive to me? Do I shun those with whom I disagree, or those I just don't like? We can all learn from one another

Remember Jesus' words, "I will reject no one who comes to me". We can at least follow the advice of today's second reading and "avoid giving offense".

A smile, a welcoming word, patiently listening and then giving a loving response is not going to kill us!

By doing so, we will receive much more than we give.

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## OUR READERS WRITE

## St. Mary's in Champlain

Just for the sake of historical accuracy:



The "new" St. Mary's high school in Champlain was constructed in the late 1950's, not the 1960's.

According to the 1959 SMA yearbook (page 6) "upon our return to S.M.A. we found ourselves in the midst of construction, noise, and dust. Out on the campus, bulldozers were busy and the new wing of five classes and office had its begin-

ning in a grinding of machinery, anvil choruses of pounding, and shouting and the school year of 1958-1959 was under way!"

Then, on page 14, "how happy we were to tackle again our school work in our new classroom which we entered on January 7, 1959."

CALVIN CASTINE  
CHAMPLAIN

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## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

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## AT THE MOVIES

# THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

With the arrival of the general sequel "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" (Paramount), self-proclaimed "nautical nonsense" is once again the order of the day.

As for the suitable audience for this fast-paced exercise in silliness, kindergarten-level potty humor and some mildly frightening plot elements aside, director Paul Tibbitt's mix of animation and live action adds up to an appropriate outing for all.

Fans of the long-running Nickelodeon TV series "SpongeBob SquarePants," on which Tibbitt has worked in various capacities, have had to wait quite a while for their hero's second cinematic adventure.

After all, his big-screen debut, titled -- what else? -- "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie," was re-

leased way back in 2004.

As SpongeBob (voice of Tom Kenny) returns to the cineplex, his seabed hometown, Bikini Bottom, is thrown into crisis when the secret formula for Krabby Patties -- the signature delicacy of the restaurant at which SpongeBob works as a short-order cook -- goes missing.

Not only does this spell potential ruin for SpongeBob's employer, miserly Mr. Krabs (voice of Clancy Brown), it threatens to tear the whole community to shreds since the absence of their favorite foodstuff promptly reduces Bikini Bottom's normally tranquil residents to a pack of marauding hooligans.

So, with society falling apart around him, SpongeBob joins forces with an unlikely ally, his boss' long-standing rival Plankton (voice of Mr. Lawrence), to retrieve the vital recipe. He's also helped on his quest, with varying degrees of ef-

fectiveness, by his two best friends: dimwitted starfish Patrick (voiced by Bill Fagerbakke) and easily alarmed chipmunk Sandy (voice of Carolyn Lawrence).

Since Plankton was, as usual, plotting to steal the list of ingredients at the time of their disappearance, he naturally falls under suspicion. But, in an exemplary display of fairness and truth-telling, SpongeBob, who knows Plankton is innocent of the crime, stands up for the unpopular curmudgeon. Yet doubts remain as to Plankton's true loyalties.

This gives screenwriters Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger the chance simultaneously to play with and to promote the commonplace screen message that teamwork is the key to success. Good-hearted SpongeBob preaches the gospel of cooperation unreservedly, but Plankton takes a lot of convincing.

Religion enters the pic-



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Animated characters are seen from "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water."

ture, in a passing way, via Sandy's panicked avowal that Bikini Bottom's citizens must appease "the gods" in order to reclaim their meal of choice. It would take considerable interpretive effort, however, to translate her irrational, aimless paganism into even a veiled critique of revelation-based faith.

The film contains occasional menace and a few mildly scatological jokes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-1 - general

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



## Book suggestions for season of Lent

Here is a selection of recent releases that might be suitable for your spiritual reading during Lent or throughout the year.

- "Lent with Pope Francis: Daily Reflections and Prayers," edited by Donna Gaimo, FSP. Pauline Books & Media (Boston, 2014). 124 pp., \$7.95.

- "Sacred Silence: Daily Meditations for Lent" by Phyllis Zagano. Franciscan Media (Cincinnati, 2014). 132 pp., \$9.99.

- "40 Days, 40 Ways: A New Look at Lent" by Marcellino D'Ambrosio. Servant Books (Cincinnati, 2014). 127 pp., \$14.99.

- "Bringing Lent Home with St. John Paul II: Prayers, Re-

lections and Activities for Families" by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2014). 96 pp., \$2.95.

- "Breaking into Joy: Meditations for Living in the Love of Christ" by Anne Costa. Word Among Us Press (Frederick, Maryland, 2014). 220 pp., \$10.95.

- "Three Minutes a Day," Volume 49, by the Christophers. The Christophers (New York, 2014). 365 pp., \$10.

- "Flunking Sainthood Every Day: A Daily Devotional for the Rest of Us" by Jana Riess. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2014). 290 pp., \$23.99.

- "5 Minutes With the Saints: More Spiritual Nourishment for Busy Teachers," edited by Lou DelFra, CSC, and Ann Primus Berends. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2014). 192 pp., \$12.95.

- "No Bible, No Breakfast! No Bible, No Bed! Father Larry Richards' Scripture Desk Calendar" by Father Larry Richards. Word Among Us Press (Frederick, Maryland, 2014). 365 pp., \$13.95.

- "A Little Daily Wisdom From the Early Church," edited by Bernard Bangle. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2014). 386 pp., \$12.99.

- "A Daily Catholic Moment: 10 Minutes a Day

Alone with God," compiled by Peter Celano. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2014). 192 pp., \$15.99.

- "Peace and Good: Through the Year With Francis of Assisi" by Pat McCloskey, OFM. Franciscan Media (Cincinnati, 2014). 397 pp., \$19.99.

- "Abide in My Word: 2015 Mass Readings at Your Fingertips." Word Among Us Press (Frederick, Maryland, 2014). 578 pp., \$16.50.

- "The American Catholic Almanac: A Daily Reader of Patriots, Saints, Rogues and Ordinary People Who Changed the United States" by Brian Burch & Emily Stimpson. Image Books (New York, 2014). 406 pp., \$24.

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**CLINTON**

**DINNER AND TALK**

**Plattsburgh** - St. Peter's Church will host a "Dinner and Talk" with Father Bryan Stitt on "The Eucharist in Scripture!"

**Date:** Feb. 17  
**Time:** Dinner at 5:30 p.m.; Talk at 7 p.m.  
**Place:** Emmaus Room  
**Cost:** Dinner is \$10; talk is free  
**Features:** Father Stitt will open the parish Lenten Scripture Study with his talk on the Eucharist. Study sets from past scripture studies will be available for purchase at a discounted rate; Lenten scripture study books will be available.

**Contact:** Call the parish office to reserve a place at the dinner by Feb. 13.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

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

**Date:** Feb. 21  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30  
**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$2.50; 5 and under, Free; \$20 per family maximum.

**Features:** Take-outs available. All proceeds benefit local charitable and community programs.

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

**Plattsburgh** - A spaghetti & meatball dinner to benefit Seton Catholic "40 Days of Hope" project to purchase medicines for the North Country Mission of Hope!

**Date:** Feb. 28  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6:30  
**Location:** Seton Academy  
**Cost:** \$8 for adults, \$5 Children under 12; Take outs at no additional cost!

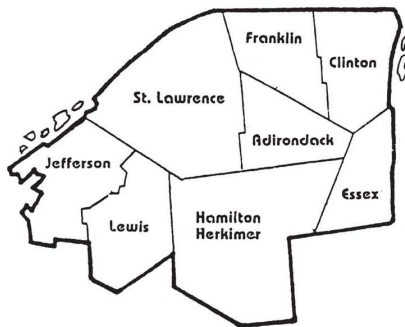
**RUN FOR THE ROSES GALA**

**Altona** - Seton Academy will have their second annual gala.

**Date:** May 2  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to Midnight  
**Place:** Rainbow Banquet Hall  
**Cost:** \$40 per adult, or \$300/table of 8  
**Features:** To benefit Seton Academy and Seton Catholic. Dinner choices include roast beef, stuffed chicken breast, or vegetable stir fry. There will be a cash bar and cake for dessert. Program will feature a "hat" walk if you care to show off your creative side. Sign up before April 16.  
**Contact:** 518-825-7386 to sign up.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Treadwell Mills** - St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can



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.

eat pancake breakfast.

**Date:** March 1  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Joseph's Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, free

**QUILTING CLASSES**

**Ellenburg Center** - Upcoming Quilt Classes at The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop.  
**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks  
**Schedule:** Home on the Range Quilt Class - Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create a fun and easy quilt. Cost \$25.

**HEALING MINISTRY**

**Morrisonville** - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's holds Living Waters Healing Ministry  
**Date:** First Thursday each month  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Alexander's Church  
**Features:** Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** - Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.  
**Place:** St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

**FRANKLIN**

**DINNER THEATER**

**Brushton** - The North Franklin Theater Group and St. Mary's Church presents its annual dinner theater, "Death Suite."

**Date:** Feb. 28  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Cost:** \$28 per person prepaid (Payments must be received no later than Feb. 20, no refunds after Feb. 23)

**Features:** Dinner will consist of cream of broccoli soup, garden salad, Turkey or Roast pork with stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, dessert and a drink.  
**Contact:** Mail reservations to Eileen Miller, PO Box 214, Moira, NY 12957 or call 518-529-7713

**LATIN MASS**

**Constable** - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Friday at 5:30 p.m. with Fr. Howard Venette as the celebrant. Mass will also be celebrated every first Saturday at 9 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Francis of Assisi Church.  
 case of inclement weather.

**DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR**

**St. Regis Falls** - First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held.  
**Date:** First Saturday of each month.  
**Time:** immediately following the 4:30 anticipated Mass.  
**Place:** St. Ann's Church  
**Contact:** 518-856-9656

**HAMILTON-HERKIMER**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Wells** - St. Ann's Altar & Rosary Society is holding a St. Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast.  
**Date:** Feb. 14  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 11  
**Place:** Wells Meal site, located directly

behind the Wells Community Hall.  
**Cost:** \$6.00 per person/\$4.50 children 12 and under and under 3 free.  
**Features:** Blueberry pancakes, or plain, sausage, Gluten free available. Raffle tickets on sale for an afghan and prayer shawl, crafted and donated by Evelyn Stephens, with the drawing May 31.

**JEFFERSON**

**CINDERELLA BALL**

**Clayton** - Hospice of Jefferson County along with Honorary Chairs T. Urling and Mabel Walker will host the Inaugural Cinderella Ball.  
**Date:** Feb. 28  
**Time:** 6 p.m. to 11  
**Place:** Harbor Hotel  
**Cost:** \$75 per person; \$140 for Couples; Table of 4 couples, \$500; Table of 8 couples, \$1000  
**Features:** The night will include dinner, dancing and live entertainment from Fred and the Ed's! This ball will serve as a fundraiser to benefit programs offered by Hospice. In conjunction with the Cinderella Ball, Hospice of Jefferson County is partnering with The Watertown Urban Mission to make the Mission's 2015 Cinderella Closet even more successful.  
**Contact:** Nicole Paratore, 315.788.7323 or nparatore@jeffersonhospice.org.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

**Watertown** - Registration and screening for children who will be entering kindergarten at Immaculate Heart Central Primary School in September to be held.  
**Date:** March 9  
**Features:** Anyone planning to register a kindergarten student is asked to call 788-7011 for an appointment. To be eligible for kindergarten next year, a child must be 5 years old on or before December 1. Parents should bring their child's birth and baptismal certificates and immunization records.

**IHC REGISTRATION**

**Watertown** - Registration for new and returning students in grades 1-6 to take place.  
**Date:** March 17 at IHC Primary and March 18 at IHC Intermediate  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Contact:** If new to the area please call (315) 788-7011 for an appointment

**HOLY HOURS**

**Adams/Henderson** - Holy Hours set  
**Schedule:** First Wed. at St. Cecilia 6:30 p.m.; March 4; Third Monday at St. Cecilia 5 p.m. (followed by pot luck) Feb. 16; March 16;

**Features:** adoration following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Wed.

**LIFERIGHT MEETING**

**Watertown** - Liferight of Watertown, a pro-life educational organization, meets the first Wednesday of the Month.  
**Time:** 1 p.m.  
**Place:** 312 Sherman St.  
**Contact:** Phone 315-788-8480

**LEWIS**

**K OF C BRUNCH**

**Lyons Falls** - The South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having an all you can eat pancake brunch.  
**Date:** Feb. 15  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon  
**Place:** St. John's Church Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**Harrisville** - All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner to be held.  
**Date:** Feb. 11  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30  
**Place:** St. Francis Solanus Church  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free  
**Features:** Meat balls, rolls, Salad, and homemade dessert. Take-outs available.

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY**

**Ogdensburg** - The Knights of Columbus Council 258's will hold a special Ash Wednesday Fish Fry.  
**Date:** Feb. 18  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** K of C Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$9.50; Seniors 65 and up, \$8 Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free; desserts, \$; cash bar

**FISH & SHRIMP FRY**

**Gouverneur** - Fish and shrimp fry to be held every Friday during lent.  
**Date:** Feb. 20 - April 3  
**Place:** St. James School  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:15  
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; Children under 5, Free  
**Contact:** Take-outs and deliver available, phone 287-0130 for faster service

**FRIDAY FISH DINNER**

**Star Lake** - St. Hubert's will hold fish dinners every Friday during lent.  
**Date:** Starting Feb. 20  
**Time:** 5 p.m.  
**Cost:** Dinners, \$10' kids under 10, \$5  
**Features:** Deep fried or Oven baked fish. Take-outs available



## 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

# Joyful words from Ecuador

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

From time to time, the Mission Office is blessed to hear from our Mission friends overseas. This week, I was fortunate to hear from Father John Halligan, SJ, of the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador. Father Halligan works with Ogdensburg Diocesan native Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, who visits our Diocese each summer to help raise funds and awareness for the Working Boys' Center in Quito. I want to share with you below an outtake from Father Halligan's recent correspondence.

"The Lord's peace be with you. We did it again. We celebrated without the slightest uncertainty, another birthday of Jesus our creator and redeemer into our human family. We did it with the help and inspiration of God Father and God Holy Spirit. What other great and beyond the powers of this world things can't we do for the good of those around us? We can even believe for them who need our faith. It's incredibly silly that we don't every single minute enjoy Jesus's love and power in us to help everybody else in our precious lives. But God the Trinity's very generous sense of humor includes putting up with that too. We are expected to celebrate our eternal victory into Heaven, no matter what may seem to be going on.

In our day and age of instant news reports, we can look around like only God used to be able to do and see so much heroic goodness and so much diabolical badness; and we know that all the bad, even twice over, could never ever again frighten us because Jesus in mind while trying to celebrate the fifty years of existence of the Working Boys' Center that God gave us dated December 5, 2014. That's the kind of confidence in our own love for everybody else that God gives to and expects from each of us as we get on Pope Francis' campaign to wake up and live Christ in all of us.

You keep giving us power to do what God wants done to make the lives of our families in the Working Boys' Center more glorious by overcoming the bad. Your gift to us representing the funds raised from COOP last summer showed the miracle and Jesus enjoying every minute of it. I guess you can easily imagine how much our gratitude to you fills our lives!"

In closing, we send our best wishes to Ecuador to Sister Cindy and Father John. We keep them and their people in our prayers and rejoice in the happiness we have helped to bring these wonderful people. Thank you to you the people of our Diocese who help make this joy possible.

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

### Thomas E. DuPré'

**OGDENSBURG** - A Mass of Christian Burial for Thomas E. DuPré, age 87, father of *NCC* editor Mary Lou Kilian and former diocesan attorney, was held Feb. 3 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Father James W. Seymour, his nephew, presided, and Deacon Thomas F. Kilian, his son-in-law, served as homilist. Burial will be in the spring at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Mr. DuPré died Jan. 31, 2015 at St. Joseph's Nursing Home where he had been a resident.

He is survived by three daughters, Mary Lou (Thomas) Kilian of Ogdensburg, Theresa (Richard) Sleasman, Albany and Jane (Gerald) McGrath, Brewerton; five sons, John (Colleen), Nashua, N.H., Thomas (Connie), Alexandria, Va, Peter (Diana), Ogdensburg, Edward (Corinne), Babylon and Joseph (Ellen), Pella, Iowa; a brother, Peter of Fairport; step-brother, Donald Johnson of Watertown; 21 grandchildren. five great-grandchildren, two brothers-in-law, Robert Seymour and William Seymour; sisters-in-law, Marie Morley, Ellen Bova, Rose Seymour, Clara Seymour, Barbara Seymour, Janet Seymour and Mary Ellen Seymour; and many nieces and nephews.

He was pre-deceased by his sister, Jane Hadding; brothers, Paul and David; and a grandson, Thomas Michael McGrath.

Mr. DuPré was born May 27, 1927 in Ogdensburg, the son of Benjamin and Catharine Leacy DuPré. He was married to Anna L. Seymour Sept. 4, 1954 at St. Mary's Cathedral. She died Dec. 17, 2014.

A 1944 graduate of St. Mary's Academy, Mr. DuPré attended Manhattan College for one year before serving in the U.S. Army. Upon honorable discharge, he graduated from Manhattan College and the Fordham University School of Law.

In 1956, after becoming a member of the New York State Bar, he began his career as an attorney with William B. O'Connell and Robert C. McEwen. In the late 1970's,

William R. Small joined Mr. DuPré in the practice of law and they established the firm of DuPré and Small, P.C.

Through the years, Mr. DuPré served as special city judge for the City of Ogdensburg, school board attorney for the Ogdensburg School District and diocesan attorney for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

He was active in the community as a member of the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club board of directors and the Knights of Columbus.

A devout Catholic, Mr. DuPré was a daily communicant at St. Mary's Cathedral and served as a lector, announcer for the weekly radio Mass, and a member of the parish council, parish choir and funeral choir.

Memorial donations may be made to Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club, P.O. Box, 555, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669; or St. Mary's Cathedral, 415 Hamilton St., Ogdensburg, NY, 13669.

**Alexandria Bay** - William E. Decker, 69; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2015 at St. Cyril's Church.

**Carthage** - James P. Cassoni, Jr., 76; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Carthage** - Thomas R. Garrett, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Champion.

**Elizabethtown** - Theodore "Ted" Lucas Peasley, 88; Funeral Services at St. Elizabeth's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Gouverneur** - David Lee Bulger, Sr., 75; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** - Blanche (Vincent) Messier, 97; Funeral Services at St. James Church.

**Hogansburg** - Lawrence "Junior" Marton, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2015 at St. Regis Church.

**Lowville** - John Robert "Bob" Lynch, 93; Funeral Feb. 4, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** - Margaret (Biche) Tabolt, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

**Massena** - Dr. Henry Joseph Dobies, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2015 at the Philips Memorial Home.

**Moers Forks** - Hortense Gloria (Beachard) Boutin, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2015 at St. Anne's Church.

**Morristown** - William "Bif" A. Ryan, Jr., 79; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2015 St. John the Evangelist Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Malone.

**North Bangor** - Francis A. "Joe" Mainville, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Ogdensburg** - Carolyn "Ann" (Woods) O'Grady, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** - Brenda Carmella Pignone, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

**St. Regis Falls** - Glencie P. LaVoy Kujawsky, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2015 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Forest Cemetery.

**Waddington** - William "Reggie" Greene, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2015 at the Philips Memorial Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** - William J. Gartland, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2015 at Cummings Funeral Services, Inc.

**Watertown** - Sally A. (Lavery) Webster, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2015 at Cummings Funeral Services, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Chazy** - Betty J. Matott, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Ingraham Cemetery.



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# FAITH AND FUN IN FEBRUARY



St. Stephen's Parish in Croghan recently held its annual On+Word retreat with high school youth and young adults. The 24 hour experience included prayer in the Taize tradition, reflective workshops and fun in the snow at Beaver Camp.



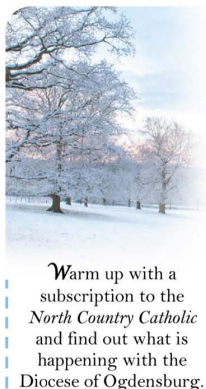
Father Kevin McEwan gave a blessing of the throat to each student at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga on the Feast of St. Blaise, Feb. 3. The ceremonies were held at the school's temporary facilities - SMS Middle School students in the lower level of St. Mary's Church and the elementary students at the First United Methodist Church). Father McEwan is pictured above with the second graders.



Trinity Catholic students in Massena received a surprise visit Feb. 3, the Feast Day of St. Blaise, a doctor and bishop who was martyred in the third century. Father Mark Reilly and Tojo Chacko visited TCS to bless students and teachers in the tradition of this special day. Here, Father Reilly explains to Mrs. Stewart's Junior Kindergarten that he is going ask for the blessing of St. Blaise on them while holding two consecrated candles over their throats. Traditionally, this blessing asks for the intercession of the saint in preserving all from infections of the throat, along with any other afflictions.



Eleven youths were the top shooters in the Knights of Columbus District 95 Free Throw Contest held Feb. 1 at Holy Name School in AuSable Forks. AuSable Forks Council 2301 and Morrisonville Council 6067 sponsored the contest. All the winners have been invited to compete in the Regional K of C Free Throw Competition scheduled for Feb. 28 in Massena. Pictured, from left, are Matthew LaDieu-Reiblein, (age 14), Lucas Strack (13), Regan Arnold (12), Zachery VanValkenburg (11), Braydon Allen (10), Bryce DeAngelo (9), District Deputy Allen Dixon and his helper Abbey Light, Taylor Allen (9), Lexis Denis (10), Koree Stillwell (11), Katelynn Miller (12), and Elizabeth Allen (14).



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