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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 37

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 25, 2015

Pope: choose life over false gods

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Don't use peer pressure, greed or laziness as an excuse to chase after false gods and become a wildly successful failure, Pope Francis said.

Slow down, reflect and choose the path that takes you closer to God and your loved ones, he said Feb. 19 during his morning Mass in

the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

One mistake in life, he said, is "always seeking one's own success, one's own benefit without thinking about the Lord, without thinking about one's family," he said. Vatican Radio and L'Osservatore Romano released ex-

cerpts from his homily, which examined the day's first reading from Deuteronomy, in which Moses sets before the people "life and prosperity, death and doom," and encourages them to choose life by following the Lord.

Christians are still faced with the same difficult

choice every day, the pope said, "to choose between God and the other gods - those that have no power to give us anything, just tiny little what-nots that are fleeting."

"It is not easy to make the right choice because 'we always have this habit of following the crowd a little,' Pope Francis said.

JOYFUL ENCOUNTER

As Season of Lent begins



CNS PHOTO/GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS
A child reacts after being kissed by Pope Francis as he arrives to lead the weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday. Throughout the first week of Lent, Pope Francis preached about how to observe the season. On Friday, he said, "Real fasting isn't just restricting food choices, it must also include cleansing the heart of all selfishness and making room in one's life for those in need and those who have sinned and need healing." Faith without concrete acts of charity is not only hypocritical, "it is dead; what good is it?" he said, criticizing those who hide behind a veil of piety while unjustly treating others, denying workers fair wages, a pension and health care. Being generous toward the church, but selfish toward others "is a very serious sin: It is using God to cover up injustice."

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

It's time to renew your subscription

The annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins Sunday in all parishes of the diocese.

Bishop LaValley has encouraged every Catholic family to welcome the NCC into their homes. "During the upcoming year, I will depend on the *North Country Catholic* to be a critical source of communication as we work together to meet the priorities and goals of our diocesan vision," he said. The list of subscribers who supported the NCC as patrons in 2014 appears on pages 8-9.

FULL STORIES, PAGES 2, 3, 8-9

Faith-filled parish life

Human trafficking program in Lake Placid, First Reconciliation in Wells, parish missions across diocese
FULL STORIES, PAGES 3, 5, 14

ASH WEDNESDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

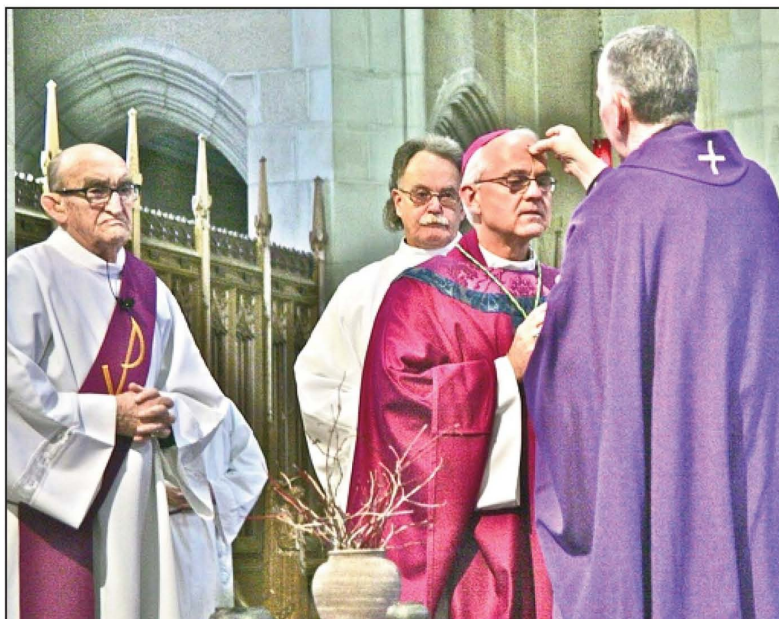


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, rubs ashes on Bishop Terry R. LaValley's forehead at the Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Deacons Francis Bateman and John White look on.

SR. RACHEL'S JOURNEY: Rachel Daly takes 1st steps in Franciscan order, p. 4

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Just a little 'preaching to the choir'

The editor is fully aware that she's "preaching to the choir" when we tout the value of the *North Country Catholic* in the pages of the *North Country Catholic*.

But, as a member of various parish choirs since the early 1970's, I know that a little bit of preaching doesn't hurt a bit! Every so often, it's good to be reminded about why we do what we do.

As always, Bishop LaValley makes a good case for subscribing to the diocesan newspaper as we move forward together in realizing our diocesan vision.

During the coming year, we will feature articles about

every aspect of the priorities and goals which we are pursuing in our North Country parishes.



Mary Lou
Kilian

Together we'll explore the fruits and challenges brought to light by the diocesan census. We'll also publish stories about all the efforts toward building a culture of vocations and strengthening faith formation in our families.

While we all know that our families and our parishes are also enriched when we look beyond parish boundaries.

Reading the *North Country Catholic* brings us in touch

with what's happening in other faith communities in the diocese (e.g., see pages 3, 4, 5, 14 and 16 in this week's paper) and across the country (check out page 10.)

And, when one of our "own" Catholics makes her/his mark far beyond our borders, we will share that good news too. (pages 4 and 5)

Every week, the NCC will deliver important messages from Bishop LaValley and Pope Francis. Readers will be inspired by the wisdom of Msgr. Whitmore and Father Muench and be encouraged by the faith of younger "living stones" in our midst.

And, beyond the formation and information the diocesan paper offers, the *North Country Catholic* is the place where

all the Catholics in our massive diocese can connect with each other and be reminded that we are part of one family of faith.

Personally, I think that's pretty important as we travel together along our *Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled* journey.

The annual NCC subscription campaign begins on Sunday. Please renew your subscription in your parish and consider becoming a patron subscriber to ensure the financial stability of our vital ministry.

The price of an issue - 60 cents - wouldn't cover the cost of a cup of coffee these days.

Even a coffee fanatic like me believes that this vehicle of evangelization, communication and unity in our beloved diocese is worth more than that!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

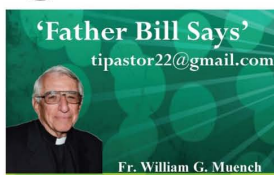
A challenge to 'dedicate your Lent'

Dedicate your Lent. Choose to remember your time of special prayer and acts of mortification for Lent as the intention of praying for someone, someone who needs prayer, someone who is suffering or in need. Or possibly, you might choose to dedicate your Lent to a cause that you feel strongly about.

I guarantee this will change the spirit of your Lent; it will become more than just some various spiritual acts. Rather Lent will be a campaign of bombarding God, seeking the Lord's help for someone in need. This will make Lent a time of something special for someone important to you.

I would also like to suggest that you find a spiritual guide for your Lent. I am thinking of a special saint who will become your guide to drawing you closer to the Lord. It may be reading some of that saint's writing. It may be in joining in that saint's spirit in prayer and meditation.

This year one of my guides for Lent is Catherine Doherty, the foundress of the community of Madonna House. I have listened to Catherine often dur-



ing her life and read what she has written. She is not a canonized saint yet, it is easy for me to recognize her holiness.

The important message for me this Lent is her call to me to love prayer and silence. So, I hope that she will lead me to this silence and prayer. This, I believe, will open me to the presence of Jesus. Her writings may make me ready to allow Jesus to bring peace into my life and find silence in which to pray.

Catherine Doherty writes this about silence: "Silence is the greatest expression of love. Such silence is deep, unfathomable and endless. Such silence partakes already of eternity. Such silence touches the face of God, upon whom without God's grace, more cannot gaze and live. This kind of silence embraces Christ,

touches the face of the Father and knows by experience the reality of the Holy Spirit. (from "Soul of My Soul" by Catherine Doherty).

Another of my guides this Lent will be Thomas Merton. He has frequently been a guide for me, especially through his writings. He wrote often about encouraging us to pray by taking the time - again, in silence - to find the Lord who is with us. He calls this centering prayer. We seek Jesus within us. He guides me to make the Lord the very center of my being.

Merton writes this: "The things we really need come to us only as gifts, and in order to receive them as gift we have to be open. In order to be open we have to renounce ourselves, in a sense, we have to die to our image of ourselves, our fixation upon our self-willed identity. We have to be able to relax the psychic and spiritual cramp which knots us in the painful, vulnerable, helpless "I" that is all we know as ourselves (from Merton's "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander").

This is exactly what Lent is

about - truly dying to ourselves so that we are open to the presence of the Lord.

Each of you have your own saints - canonized and not canonized - who have truly touched your lives. So, I encourage you to choose a saint to become your guide for Lent. It begins with discovering that quality that his saint is recognized for - that quality that made them saintly.

An example would be St. Francis of Assisi who found his spiritual strength in the cross of Christ. He spent long hours praying before the cross of Christ. He found strength and peace meditating in the crucifixion of Jesus. St. Francis is leading many during Lent to the cross of Jesus.

Let me again quote Catherine Doherty:

"Throughout the year we realize what Christ has done for us, but in Lent we realize it more vividly. He has died on this terrible cross, and it is a death for love - He loved us so much that he died for us. Let us allow this reality to flourish in our heart.

(from "Seasons of Mercy" by Catherine Doherty.)

FOLLOW ME

'Please welcome the NCC into your home'

During the past year, our diocese has made great strides towards realizing the Diocesan Vision that I proclaimed at the April 9 Chrism Mass. As we make this *Christ-led, Christ-fed* and *Hope-filled* journey of faith, we are embracing three priorities: Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life, and Building Parishes with Living Stones. During the upcoming



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

year, I will depend on the *North Country Catholic* to be a critical source of communication as we work together to meet these priorities and their specific goals. Special articles in the paper will continue to show what the new vision means for parishes and people of the diocese.

The pages of the *North Country Catholic* in 2015 will feature reports about the diocesan-wide census, the work of

new youth ministers, the progress of the We are Called Vocational Awareness program and more.

This weekend the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins in all the parishes of the diocese. I know that those who subscribe to the *North Country Catholic* enjoy reading the timely and relevant articles on prayer, scripture, Church and religious news that are featured every week. In coming months, special attention will be given to Pope Francis' pastoral visit to the United States and to the

World Meeting of Families to be held in Philadelphia.

If you are a current subscriber of the *North Country Catholic*, please renew your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who don't currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

During these challenging times in our world, it is more important than ever

that we welcome a Catholic perspective on the news of the day into our homes.

As with every bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 1946, I have relied on the *North Country Catholic* to be a primary vehicle for evangelization in this diocese as well as a source of information and unity for Catholics who live in our North Country and beyond.

Mary Lou Kilian, Christine Ward and the many contributing writers produce a wonderful diocesan newspaper. I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the *NCC* into your home.

CDA court offers program on human trafficking

LAKE PLACID - Despite dire weather predictions, a small group gathered at St. Agnes School Feb. 8 for a presentation on Human Trafficking.

Members of Catholic Daughters, Court Dr. Tom Dooley, #2183 had decided a year previous that this was a topic that needed to be brought to the public's attention. Coincidentally, the date of the presentation corresponded with the Feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, a day declared by Pope Francis, as the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Bishop Terry LaValley had requested that all parishes within the diocese commemorate this day in some fashion.

The presentation consisted of a Power Point developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services. It was divided into three parts:

- Catholic Teaching on human trafficking and what is human trafficking? (Presented by Emma Lou Smith)
- Who are victims of human trafficking and what specific situations exist in which individuals can be trapped? (Presented by Sheila Venezia)



- What are the signs and what to do if you suspect a case of human trafficking (Presented by Pat Beneshan)
- Father John Yonkovig opened the meeting with a prayer, and Pat Beneshan followed with an introduction.

As part of the Power Point, eight statements, true or false were broached to ascertain participant's knowledge of human trafficking. While the answers to six of the eight statements were generally known, two elicited more



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Father John Yonkovig, left, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, led prayer for a presentation on human trafficking sponsored by the Catholic Daughters Court Tom Dooley Feb. 8, the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. Above, the court prepared a display of reading materials about the issue.

incorrect than correct answers.

These two statements are as follows "Human trafficking is usually in the form of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution" and the second "Most victims of human traf-

ficking are kidnapped and do not know their captors." Both of these statements are false and the presentation further expanded on the reasons.

While human trafficking occurs in all countries, including the U.S., the predom-

inant type of trafficking varies depending on the part of the world in which it occurs. Another variable is the nationalities of those trafficked. However in nearly all areas of the world, women and girls outnumber men and boys while East Asians make up the majority of those trafficked.

In the United States the gender of the victim is 56% female while the type of trafficking can be divided into labor 72%, sex 20% and a combination of both 8%.

The session closed with a prayer for those enslaved. The prayer was written by Catholic Relief Services and can be viewed on Confrontglobalpoverty.org. A variety of reading materials and brochures with references were available.

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Rachel Daly begins journey towards final vows as Franciscan Sister of Renewal

‘A time to grow in holiness’

By John T. Ryan
Contributing writer

PERU – Each Sunday St. Augustine’s parishioners pray that one of their number will respond to God’s call to the religious life. On Sept. 21, 2014 their prayers were answered when the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal of Bronx, New York received Rachel Daly as a candidate for their religious community.

Rachel attended St. Augustine’s School and graduated from Seton Catholic in 2010. Last spring she earned an English degree at the University of Dallas. She was in Peru visiting her parents Matt and Bobbi Daly for Christmas and took time to speak with *The Peru Gazette*.

Older people recall a time when many Catholic young people decided to become a priest or nun. That is not the situation today; religious vocations have been declining for many years.

Rachel explained why she chose a religious vocation. “I’ve known sisters throughout my life – Sisters Helen and Kathleen at St. Augustine’s School and Sister Debbie Blow at Seton Catholic was a big part of my life through high school,” she said. “That exposure to reli-



Rachel Daly, a native of Peru, second from left, is shown with other candidates for the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal during their Sept. 21 candidacy reception. From left are Stephanie Beach of New Jersey, Rachel, Brittany Allen of Arizona, Klara Folse of Virginia and Sister Agnes at Our Lady Queen of Angels Convent chapel in the Bronx. Rachel, who grew up as a member of St. Augustine’s Parish and graduated from Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, was a regular columnist for the *North Country Catholic* during her high school and college years. Here she reflects on the growth of her vocation in an interview with the *Peru Gazette*.

gious life opened the concept of a vocation to me.”

She also recalls an experience when she attended Camp Guggenheim, the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s summer resident camp for teens.

“A Carmelite sister came to speak to us about religious life,” Rachel said. “My friend

was fascinated with her and wanted to talk to her. So the two of us did, and we found that sister to be joyful, beautiful, and clearly very happy.”

The University of Dallas was also a welcoming place for anyone considering a religious vocation.

Rachel said, “Several of my fellow students considered the religious life. A girl I lived next to as a freshman actually entered an order around the same time I did.”

Between her college junior and senior years Rachel participated in a summer internship where she came into contact with Franciscans who worked with the poor. She said, “I got a taste of the Franciscan spirit.”

Rachel chose the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal after visiting their New York City convents where she discovered a real sense of family among the sisters. The sister’s mission of working with the poor, the homeless and evangelization was also in line with her desires.

Rachel is just beginning an eight-year journey before taking her final vows.

“I’m learning the life,” she said. “It’s about becoming something in order to have something to give. We don’t just bring food to people – we also hope to bring Christ. So this time is about growing in holiness.”

Rachel begins her day with 6 a.m. recitation of the Office

of Readings followed by an hour of private meditation, morning prayer and Mass. There’s also a midday prayer, a late afternoon holy hour, evening prayer, rosary and night prayer. Two days each week she attends classes, and on other days she might do chores, study or assist in her community’s food distribution and soup kitchen apostolates. Fridays are devoted to prayer, silence and fasting.

The sisters are not all work and no play. Evening dinner is an “extended meal” when lively conversation and interaction are encouraged. Each Sunday the sisters enjoy a late morning brunch and an afternoon of rest, during which they might take walks, have a community outing or write letters home.

Asked what has been the most difficult aspect of her candidacy, Rachel responded, “Letting go of my own will. Before entering I was a college student and could design my own schedule. It’s an adjustment to get used to living in community and not only having myself to think about. I’m having to let go of doing what I want, when I want.”

Rachel Daly has been called to serve at a time when the Catholic Church has a new and dynamic leader in Pope Francis. Rachel said, “Pope Francis is working to renew the Church. Christ gave the Church a mission to go to the end of the earth and share the Gospel and to be bold. As a church if we’re not doing that then we’re calcifying. Pope Francis is reminding us to be Christ-like and to be gentle and humble, which is very similar to our community’s special Franciscan call. So it’s a gift to be living in an intensified way what Pope Francis is asking of the whole Church.”

(Reprinted with permission from *The Peru Gazette*)

JOB OPENING

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the seasonal position of **Medical Director at Camp Guggenheim**, located in Saranac Lake, NY. The Medical Director is responsible for reviewing the medical history and physician’s orders of incoming campers prior to registration and reviewing any questions with parents/guardians, maintaining first-aid equipment and supplies, dispensing medications, etc. Applicants must hold a valid New York State RN, LPN or EMT license.

The position is from June 19- August 7 2015. This is an incredible opportunity to spend the summer working with youth in a beautiful, engaging, Catholic environment.

Please submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Office of Youth Ministry c/o Deacon Brian Dwyer; Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369; Ogdensburg, NY 13669



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Father Sony Pulickal, pastor in Wells and Lake Pleasant is shown with the children who made their First Reconciliation Feb. 7, Amelia Germain, Jack Germain and Bridget Allen.

Bringing Gospel to life in story

By Pam Broiles
Parishioner, St. Ann's, Wells

WELLS - Bridget Allen of St. Ann's and Amelia and Jack Germain of St. James Parish in Lake Pleasant made their First Reconciliation Feb. 7 at a special 9 a.m. service after being prepared by Mary Ellen Stofelano, their religious education teacher.

Father Sony Pulickal greeted the children and their families and read the gospel about the Good Shepherd who went out to find the lost sheep to bring it home.

He then told a story from his childhood that made the gospel come more alive with meaning.

"It was when I was five years old," he began "and my first day of school." He talked about the teacher holding up a big stick and announcing that it was lunch time and for the children to go home and eat.

Father Sony said he was so frightened of the teacher with the stick that he ran

out the door and ran and ran, but it was in the wrong direction. He soon found himself lost and bewildered on the street. A kind man saw him and asked what was the matter. Sony told him he was going home to have lunch, but had become lost. The man brought him lunch at a restaurant and afterwards put him on his bicycle to bring him back to school.

On the way, Father said there was suddenly shouts coming from the road, and they were shouting out his name "Sony Pulickal, where are you?" His family had come out to look for him, so worried and concerned, and they were soon joyfully reunited.

From that story the children came to understand how Jesus is always full of love for all his children and will go out to find even the smallest one.

Each child then went to make their confession, and now looks forward to their First Holy Communion on Mother's Day in May.

Bringing Gospel to life in song

By Maeana Cragg
Contributing writer

It was less than two and a half years ago that the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles out in Gower, MO joined together praying a novena to St. Therese to ask for her help in relieving some of the debt they had inherited. It was in the middle of that novena that they were approached by a producer for Decca records and asked to make an album.

Benedictines of Mary, led by Potsdam native Mother Cecilia, record another album

That album was "Advent at Ephesus", which quickly shot to the top of the traditional classical chart as well as becoming one of the top sellers on Amazon, all without most of the sisters even knowing. They simply shared the music that they sang on a daily basis with the world, and the world loved it.

Although a lovely story, you may be wondering what the connection is to our own Diocese of Ogdensburg. The prioress of the convent, Mother Cecilia, was born and raised in Potsdam.

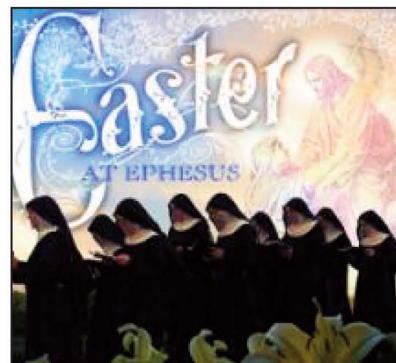
In this, the Year of Consecrated Life, it seems especially appropriate to recognize this beautiful vocation from our diocese. Before she listened to God's call in her own life, she was a professional musician, a French Hornist in the Columbus Symphony.

Many were horrified when she joined the Benedictines, a semi-cloistered, fully habited community. How could she cast her talents into a hole, never to be heard again? Instead, when she gave everything she had to God, he used her in ways that she had never imagined.

After that first album, there came a second, "Lent at Ephesus", and then a third, "Angels and Saints at Ephesus". Every single one made it to the top of the charts. There were specials about the sisters on PBS and EWTN. She was interviewed by NPR and CBS Sunday morning, where she showed the secular world how much pure joy there was to be found in a religious vocation.

Catholics and non-Catholics alike listened to and loved these heavenly voices singing Latin chants and hymns of praise. And though, as she said in one of her interviews, "I don't care about selling albums, I care about saving souls", St. Therese did manage to answer the sisters' first novena beautifully. In well under three years, they managed to pay off the two million dollar debt hanging over them.

The sisters love to sing. It is a major part of what they do every day. However, there is no audition. Many of the young women were never singers of any kind before they joined the Benedictines. Instead, they were



Album cover of "Easter at Ephesus"

called to give themselves entirely to Christ, and Christ helped join them into one beautiful instrument giving praise to Him.

Interestingly, the sisters' main work is not singing, but creating beautiful vestments for priests. Each one is handmade, and each comes with hours of prayers attached for the priest who will be wearing it.

The sisters also milk their own cow, getting not only fresh milk to drink, but butter, cheese, yogurt and ice cream. They grow many of their own fruits and vegetables and collect eggs from their own chickens. The most important parts of their day, though, are spent in prayer.

Through God's grace, though the three albums are internationally acclaimed, almost nothing has changed about the sisters and their daily life.

The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, will soon be coming out with a fourth album, "Easter at Ephesus". Although the release date is not until March 3rd, the album is available to pre-order now.

Though their debt has been paid in full, they have a new, though delightful, problem. There are too many new sisters joining and there are no longer enough rooms in the convent to hold them all.

Mother Cecilia has no intention of ever being in debt again, but has plans to expand the convent and build a second building to house the priests who come to stay on retreat. Any support given, whether in purchase, donation, or simply prayer, is much appreciated.

Those interested in buying the newest album, "Easter at Ephesus", or any of the others, may purchase them at Benedictinesofmary.org as well as at any of the major retailers like amazon.com. Those interested in a vocation with the Benedictines may contact the novice mistress at the convent. No matter what, know that Mother Cecilia has her home diocese constantly in her prayers. We are truly blessed to have nurtured this vocation in our diocese, and pray, in this Year of Consecrated Life, to nurture many more.

Bishops put high priority on fighting assisted suicide

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) - As New York lawmakers began to consider a bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide, the New York State Catholic Conference launched a new website "to offer Catholics moral clarity and guidance on the church's teachings regarding end-of-life decision-making."

"Talking about death and dying can be difficult and uncomfortable, yet perhaps no conversations are more profound or necessary for all of us," says the "About" section of the site, www.catholiceoflife.org. "The fact is that most of us will face challenging decisions regarding treatment and care at the end of life, either for ourselves or our family members."

Developed with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, the site provides links to resources, church teaching, advance directives and a variety of Catholic sources all across the country.

The Catholic Church teaches that physician-assisted suicide is immoral and unethical.

In a Feb. 9 interview with the Daily News, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New

York said he and the state's other Catholic bishops have put a high priority on fighting any effort to legalize physician-assisted suicide. Others opposed to assisted suicide include evangelical Christians, Orthodox Jews and Mormons.

Under the New York measure, two doctors would have to confirm that a patient is terminally ill and mentally competent. It says two witnesses must attest that the patient's request to be helped to die is voluntary, and includes felony penalties for coercing or forging a request. The bill also covers physicians against civil or criminal liability, and participation in a suicide would be voluntary.

Cardinal Dolan, who is chairman-elect of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, told the Daily News that "real death with dignity" is seen in the cases of "those who die naturally, who take each day at a time, savoring everything they've got."

In their 2011 statement on assisted suicide, "To Live Each Day With Dignity," the U.S. bishops declared as-

sisted suicide "a terrible tragedy, one that a compassionate society should work to prevent."

"A choice to take one's life is a supreme contradiction of freedom, a choice to eliminate all choices," they said. "And a society that devalues some people's lives, by hastening and facilitating their deaths, will ultimately lose respect for their other rights and freedoms."

The church promotes palliative care for patients with a terminal disease, including pain control, treatment of depression, among other symptoms, along with spiritual care.

Currently, four states have legalized assisted suicide: Oregon, Washington and Vermont, through legislative or voter action; and Montana, through a court ruling.

In addition to New York, lawmakers in Alaska and Colorado have taken up the issue in their legislatures

Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 25 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m., 75th Anniversary Dinner at the Italian American Club in Watertown

Feb. 27 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 1 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m., Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 2 – 12 p.m., Mass at Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone

March 3 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

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. 25 – Rev. William Howard, 1888; Rev. P.J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1895; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912; Msgr. L. Kevin Connors, 1971

Feb. 26 – Rev. Francis X. LaChance, 1916; Rev. John F. Wiley, 1984

Feb. 28 – Rev. J. H. Tabaret, O.M.I., 1886

March 1 – Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, 1997

March 2 – Rev. Edward A. Dailey, O.S.A., 1901; Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952

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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) and clicking on the banner "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World" and following the instructions. Contact Ian Fawcett at ifawcett@rcdony.org for username and password.

Environmental Stewardship

Why I Do Dishes?

A few years ago I participated in a Lenten program called 4.5 that offered suggestions for protecting God's creation, embracing Gospel justice and nurturing our spiritual lives. It heightened my awareness of how my simple choices have a ripple effect on everything. Something as ordinary as going to a pot luck supper began to raise questions for me. The Styrofoam plates and cups, individually wrapped plastic silverware, paper packets from the sugar, salt and pepper all culminated in huge bag of trash at the end of the meal and caused me to ask the question: What was the cost of this meal to the earth and to one's pocketbook? The Styrofoam products will be around for hundreds of years. The plastic was made from petroleum and the paper was made from forests. Added to these costs are those of manufacturing, transporting, marketing and shopping for these products as well as the cost of trash removal. With cupboards filled with reusable dishware, I asked myself "when did this happen?" When did a large bag of trash become the substitute for the community building experience of washing dishes? While I didn't know the answer to my question, I decided that I would begin to reclaim the practice of using reusable dishes at any social gathering that I planned. Of course, initially there is often some resistance, but soon the sounds of laughter and a spirit of cooperation replace the complaints about having to do the dishes. An opportunity to build community replaces the large bag of trash that leaves a mess in our home, God's Creation.

SISTER BETHANY FITZGERALD, SSJ
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Mr. Paul Maroun

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Liddell
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St. Philip Neri, Westport
Jean Paquette
Jerry Tromblee

St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
David and Mrs. Joseph Barnaby Jr.
Mrs. Rita Devan
Hilda Martin
Susan Fahey

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Walter Corrice, Minoa, NY
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Eleanor Hewes, Brasher Falls, NY
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Jim Regan, Raquette Lake, NY
Mr. Don Romeo, Plattsburgh, NY
Ms. Mary Spadola, Hicksbury, NY
Jillian White, LaBelle, FL

**This listing reflects extraordi-
nary, sustaining, special and
patrons from January 1, 2014-
December 31, 2014. Although
every effort has been made to
include the names of every
patron, some mistakes are
inevitable. If, however, an
omission or error has occurred,
we do apologize. Please notify
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we may correct our records.**

New evangelization was a key theme of Baltimore gathering

Congress goal: increase zeal of church leaders

By George P. Matyssek Jr., Nancy M. Jackson
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) - Soon after Sherry Weddell's new book, "Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus," was published, she was approached by a man who told her that until he had read her book, he didn't know it was possible to have a personal relationship with God.

"This man was in ministry, forming clergy," Weddell told an audience of about 1,200, gathered in Baltimore on the final day of the Feb. 12-14 Mid-Atlantic Congress for Catholic Leaders.

The recounting of the incident drew gasps from the crowd.

Weddell - co-director of the Catherine of Siena Institute, a program dedicated to equipping parishes for the formation of lay Catholics for their mission to the world - said the man told her a personal relationship with God was something that was just never talked about.

"That is the issue," she said, "breaking that culture of silence."

The congress, co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Association of Catholic Publishers, in partnership with the National Leadership Roundtable for Church Management, was designed to deepen the zeal of church leaders at the parish and diocesan level while also expanding their knowledge.

Effective preaching

A focus on the new evangelization was a key theme throughout the gathering, with Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori noting in a Feb. 13 homily that if its goal is to gather people from every language and nation to be a "house of prayer for all peoples," then preaching, formation and religious instruction must attract.

Effective preaching is not



CNS PHOTO/KAREN OSBORNE, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Morgan Ajia, Gabrielle O'Rourke and Nati Perez of Hard As Nails Ministries in Syracuse, N.Y., take a selfie with Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori at the Mid-Atlantic Congress for Catholic Leaders Feb. 13. More than 1,200 attended the Feb. 12-14 event at the Baltimore Hilton.

the mere presentation of information or ideas, he said, no matter how important or profound such information or ideas may be.

"Effective preaching should be engaging," Archbishop Lori said. "It should be brimming with the attractiveness of the Gospel, that is to say with the attractiveness of the person of Christ. It should engage the faith with the struggles and challenges of daily life, while offering hope, vision and fresh strength."

Archbishop Lori noted that preaching should draw people not to a set of rules, "but to a wholly new way of life that can only be lived in communion with Christ, a communion that is achieved in and through the sacraments, most especially the Eucharist."

Church leaders offer formation and religious instruction not as requirements, he said, but "as those who seek to know, love and follow the Lord."

Congress participants heard from more than 80 speakers on a wide range of topics covering everything from church management to

Bible study, liturgy and the sacraments.

Keeping young adults

Weddell cited a Canadian study examining why young adults raised in Christian traditions, including Catholicism, remained in or left their faith.

Those who stayed, the study found, "had an experience of God or answered prayer; they were able to ask questions openly and discuss spiritual questions; they understood the Gospel; and they had older adults living as 'disciples' around them, modeling faith."

"We can't depend on inherited religious identity," Weddell said. The audience laughed as she noted that church leaders tend to separate everyone into two tracks: "the saint track and the rest of us, who were normal." That didn't allow for someone who has begun the journey to discipleship.

Part of the problem, she noted, is that "we never created a safe space for (young people) to wrestle with saying a deliberate 'yes.'" "We presume the yes," she continued, believing it occurred

in religious education classes or youth group, or in learning catechism as children.

She advised church leaders ask people to tell their stories about their relationship with God.

'Intentional discipleship'

In a Feb. 13 talk about trends affecting the Catholic Church, Matthew Pinto, founder of Ascension Press, said he sees a noticeable movement toward "intentional discipleship."

He speculated that the leadership of Pope Francis will cause "progressive" Catholics to have a greater deference to the papacy in the years to come, while it simultaneously challenges "orthodox" Catholics to "come out of their comfort zones" in serving those in need.

"I think in decades to come, we are going to see doctrinal orthodoxy with a social justice emphasis," Pinto said.

Other trends Pinto said the church must be aware of include the rising acceptance of homosexuality, shifting demographics, the emergence of new groups of laypeople ready to serve the

church, increasing challenges to religious freedom and the growth of the new evangelization as promoted by the last three popes.

Personal encounter with Christ

Damon Owens, executive director of the Theology of the Body Institute, emphasized in a Feb. 13 presentation that in helping people live by God's law, church ministers must encourage a personal encounter with Christ.

"The cold objective law is received by the heart as a rebuke until it becomes personal," he said.

Likening God's laws to guardrails that keep people safe, Owens said it isn't enough to "stay on the right side of the road."

"Merely following the law is not a joy-filled life," he said. "It's about an encounter of the heart. Then we can see the law not as the restrictive restraint, but as protective guidance."

Congress participants, who hailed from across the East Coast and beyond, perused books and other resource material set up in a large exhibition hall. There were also opportunities for eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Helen Harris, a cantor, catechist, lector and extraordinary minister of holy Communion at St. Joseph in Martinsburg, West Virginia, said she attended the congress for the first time to learn more about her faith and ministry.

"I want to know what canon law expects of us when we are passing that faith to catechumens coming through (the) RCIA process," she told The Catholic Review, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper. "It's important to learn how to do that in the way the church wants us to do it. It is important to pass on the faith not only to people around us, but we have to continue to grow in our own faith."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Liturgies need to help people experience mystery of God, pope says
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The liturgy should help the faithful enter into God's mystery and to experience the wonder of encountering Christ, Pope Francis told priests of the Diocese of Rome. People should feel the wonder and allure "that the apostles felt when they were called, invited. It attracts - wonder attracts - and it lets you reflect," the pope said during an annual Lenten meeting with Rome pastors in the Paul VI audience hall. Sitting behind a table and talking off-the-cuff, glancing occasionally at a few pages of notes in front of him, the pope led the pastors Feb. 19 in a reflection on the homily and "ars celebrandi," the art of celebrating the liturgy well.

On Ash Wednesday, cardinal speaks out for persecuted Christians

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Making an impassioned plea at the end of his Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington urged Catholics to offer prayers and speak out for Christians being persecuted throughout the world. "Lent is a time of prayer -- pray for those who are suffering and offer your voice," Cardinal Wuerl told a standing-room-only congregation. "Say, 'This is wrong. There is no political, social, cultural or religious reason for this.'" Particularly mentioning the suffering and persecution of Christians in Africa, especially in Nigeria, in the Middle East, in parts of Iraq and Syria and in India, Cardinal Wuerl noted that "when we go out the door with ashes on our forehead, we manifest ourselves as practicing Christians, but there are parts of the world where this will be a death sentence." The cardinal also lamented the recent beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians by Islamic State militants in Libya, and he noted how Pope Francis spoke out after the atrocity. "People are being slaughtered simply because they believe in Jesus Christ," Cardinal Wuerl said. "We should not have to die, we should not have to pay this extraordinary price no one has to pay because we are followers of Jesus." He pointed out that persecution against Christians takes many forms: "People have their homes destroyed, their churches burned, they face forced conversion and their children are sold into slavery simply for being a Christian."

Education essential for abuse prevention, speakers say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis, who has called for zero tolerance for the "despicable" crime of sexual abuse of minors, has praised new efforts aimed at helping the church better protect children. In letter to Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, president of the Center for Child Protection at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, the pope said he was "happy about what you are doing and I sincerely congratulate you." Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley read the letter aloud at a news conference Feb. 16 inaugurating the official launch of the center and its activities. The launch followed a three-year pilot project phase. The pope wrote that he was confident "all this work will bear fruit." The center, which offers an onsite and online prevention and child protection program and diploma, was established in 2012 as a way to help build awareness and train religious and lay leaders globally about the problem of abuse. Cardinal O'Malley, 70, who heads the Pontifical Commission for Child Protection, said he remembers "being raised without much awareness" about abuse and only later saw how the "climate of secrecy and shame" caused so much damage

Pope: Don't let meatless Fridays be selfish, soulless, seafood splurge

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Real fasting isn't just restricting food choices, it must also include cleansing the heart of all selfishness and making room in one's life for those in need and those who have sinned and need healing, Pope Francis said.

Faith without concrete acts of charity is not only hypocritical, "it is dead; what good is it?" he said, criticizing those who hide behind a veil of piety while unjustly treating others, such as denying workers fair wages, a pension and health care.

Being generous toward the church, but selfish and unjust toward others "is a very serious sin: It is using God to cover up injustice," he said Feb. 20 during his homily in a morning Mass celebrated in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

The pope's homily was based on the day's reading from the Book of Isaiah in which God tells his people he does not care for those who observe penance passively -- bowed "like a reed," lying quietly in a "sackcloth and ashes."

Instead, God says he desires to see his people crying out "full-throated and unsparingly" against injustice and sin, "setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless." In the reading, God also points out the hypocrisy of the faithful who fast, but treat their workers badly and fight and quarrel with others.

Pope Francis said Lent is about fulfilling all commandments both toward God and others, according to reports from Vatican Radio and the

Vatican newspaper.

Lent is not about the formal observance of "doing a little whatever" and not eating meat on Fridays, while giving oneself free reign to "grow in selfishness, exploit others and ignore the poor," he said.

Real fasting must also include cleansing the heart of all selfishness and making room in one's life for those in need and those who have sinned and need healing

There might be someone who thinks, "Today is Friday, I can't eat meat, but I'm going to have a nice plate of seafood, a real banquet," which, while appearing to be an abstinence from meat, is the sin of gluttony, the pope said.

Another person might say: "I am a great Catholic, Father, I like it a lot. I always go to Mass every Sunday, I receive Communion," to which, the pope said he would reply, "Great, and how is your relationship with your workers? Do you pay them under the table? Do you give them a fair wage? Do you contribute toward their pension? To their health insurance and social services?"

Some people may regularly make financial contributions to the church, but, the pope asked, how generous are they toward their loved ones and their dependents?

Are they generous and just to them, too, Pope Francis asked.

People cannot "make offerings to the church on the back of injustice," he said. "It is not a good Christian who doesn't do justice to the people who depend on him" and who does not "deprive himself of something essential

for him in order to give it to another who is in need."

"This is the distinction between formal and real," he said, which Jesus underlined, too, when he condemned the Pharisees and doctors of the law, who adhered to "many external observances but without the truth of the heart."

Unfortunately, he said, many "men and women have faith but they separate the tablets of law," that is, they obey the first commandments and obligations to God while ignoring or being selective about the rest of the commandments concerning others.

"They are united: love toward God and love to your neighbor are one, and if you want to practice real, not formal, penance, you have to do it before God and also with your brother and sister, your neighbor," he said.

The pope asked that during Lent people think about what they can do for people who are in very difficult situations, for example, to help "children and the elderly who don't have the possibility of being seen by a doctor."

Perhaps they have to wait "eight hours to be seen and then they give them an appointment for the week after," he said.

"What will you do for these people? What will your Lent be like?"

He also asked people to make room in their hearts for those who have sinned, those who "have made mistakes and are in jail."

To those who may protest about associating with people who have been imprisoned, the pope said, "He is in jail, but you -- if you are not in jail, it is because the Lord helped you to not fall." Pray for them, he said, so that the Lord may help them turn their lives around.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Lent is a time for change; God can change us

Lent is a time for change. When women go to the

beauty salon, and men go to a barber shop, they hope to look different, and maybe even feel different when they come out!

After a week and a half of Lent, do you feel any change yet?

Thousands of years ago, Abraham and his son Isaac certainly felt the shock of change in what happened to them in today's reading. God tells Abraham to take his son, Isaac, the "child of promise", and to travel to the land of Moriah, up a mountain there, where he is offer Isaac in sacrifice!



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

This request must have devastated Abraham in heart and mind.

He must have felt that God had tricked him years ago when He promised himself and Sarah that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Nevertheless, he obeys God to the point of raising his knife to kill his son. How was he to know that this was only a

test?

An angel stops his arm, and God, now satisfied, renews the covenant He had made.

And Abraham is really convinced that, if he is to

please God, he must offer him absolutely everything of himself, of his dearest possessions, and his every hope of future joy.

After this experience, Abraham and Isaac were certainly changed.

And God knew that He could trust them to do anything He asked.

God wants to change each one of us this Lent. He wants to remove all those flaws and sins that keep Him from working through us in His World.

Even if we're satisfied with the way we are now, Jesus our Brother wants us to change. Why?

He wants to combat the evil that is spoiling everything.

He needs us to love every-

MARCH 2

The Second Sunday of Lent
READINGS

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

one, to share our faith and our values with those who may be wavering, and be channels of God's power through our prayer and sacrifice.

Another great encounter with God is offered us in this Sunday's Gospel.

It was offered first to Peter, James, and John on a mountain, Mt. Tabor, which rises almost two thousand feet about the level land of

Lower Galilee.

Tired from the climb, the three disciples wake from a snooze, only to find Jesus who has been praying, suddenly radiant before them, talking with two men.

They recognize these strangers as Moses and Elijah, Moses represents the Law, and Elijah represents the prophets.

As Jesus is talking with them, He is radiant with glory. He is glowing even more with the Father's love as the thunderous words sound out, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"

There is another key for our Lenten observance: listening to God. When we listen, God can change us.

As the song says, "This time, change our hearts".

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OUR READERS WRITE

After 42 years of legal abortion

January 22nd marked 42 years since the passage of Roe v Wade. Due to the broad interpretation of the word "health" abortions are legal in some states throughout pregnancy.

Last year the Chiaroscuro Foundation filed Freedom of Information requests with New York City and the State Health Departments for info regarding inspection of our state's abortion clinics. They finally had to sue the Departments to get access to public records. New York has some 225 abortion clinics yet only 25 are state licensed. Of these 25 only 45 inspections were done over a 12 year period on 17 of these clinics - eight were never inspected. Of the clinics inspected violations included an anesthesiologist being cited for relying on a broken moni-

tor to assess patients vital signs, failure to ensure a registered professional nurse is present in the recovery room to monitor post-operative patients and unsanitary practices such as reusing suction tubing for aspiration of human contents. The State refused to reveal the names of the ones that were inspected and Dr. Nirva Shal resigned as head of the State Health Department amid criticism over his agencies failures. (New York Post - April 9, 2014)

Some 350 women and teens have died from abortions since Roe v Wade. (Go to Life Dynamics.org - click on the Blackman list.) Countless others have been physically or emotionally damaged as evidenced by the "Silent No More" and Feminists for Life groups comprised of post aborted women.

There were 1,145,261 abortions performed in New York City alone from 2000 to 2012. The slogan of abortion advocates was safe, legal and rare and yet our Governor wants to expand abortion in our state. Under his Women's Equality Act Step #10 would permit abortion beyond our 24 week time limit and allow killing the unborn child up to the time of birth. It would allow non-physicians to perform abortions)

An article in Law & Medicine (Spring

2014) gives further evidence of the increased prospect for breast cancer in women having abortions due to cutting off hormones which help breast cells to mature leaving undifferentiated cells which are more likely to become cancerous. (download at www.bcpstitute.org/factshts.htm.)

Despite this, proponents of so-called "reproductive freedom" such as Planned Parenthood fight every attempt to enact informed consent and parental consent for teens having an abortion - and over 50 million precious children never saw the light of day.

BETTE HARTZELL
WATERTOWN

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

•We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

•Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

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AT THE MOVIES

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Iconic spy James Bond gets younger, hipper competition via "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (Fox).

This suave but excessively violent adaptation of Mark Millar and Dave Gibbons' 2012 comic book series "The Secret Service" is directed and co-written -- with Jane Goldman -- by Matthew Vaughn ("X-Men: First Class").

Terribly British to its core, the film is, at one level, an amusing sendup of classic espionage movies, with agents wearing bespoke suits and displaying impeccable manners even as they kill bad guys with a dazzling array of cool gadgets.

Unfortunately, "Kingsman" is too pseudo-sophisticated for its own good, and goes off the rails with unbridled mayhem and vulgarity. Some of the action sequences, including one of a congregation massacred inside a church, display a profound lack of taste, not to mention cinematic judgment.

That's a pity, as the film offers a positive message for wayward youth on achieving reform by learning to look out for others.

Colin Firth stars as Harry Hart, code-named "Galahad." Hart's moniker reflects the fact that the members of the top-secret Kingsmen organization, to which he belongs,

consider themselves a new breed of knights in shining armor (or at least pin-stripes).

This "independent international intelligence agency," overseen by Arthur (Michael Caine), is headquartered behind a tailor's shop on London's Savile Row.

The Kingsmen are commanded to find new, more youthful recruits. Galahad seeks out Eggys (Taron Egerton), a troubled hooligan unaware that his late father was a Kingsman who died saving Galahad's life.

Galahad pledges to redeem this sacrifice by helping the young man. Indeed, under Galahad's tutelage Eggys gets the ultimate makeover.

There's no time to lose, as the world is at risk (naturally) from a megalomaniac named Richmond Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson). Convinced that climate change is caused by overpopulation, Valentine -- perversely inspired by the story of Noah and the great flood -- decides the best remedy for environmental woes is to cull the human race.

So he hands out free cell phones (how modern!) embedded with a computer-

ized booby-trap designed to wreak mayhem.

"Kingsman" carries this ridiculous premise to queasy extremes. However tongue-in-cheek their presentation, the gruesome proceedings become so awash in blood that even many adults will likely be repelled.

The film contains strong gory violence, and frequent profane and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Fifty Shades of Grey" (Universal)

Unusually explicit for a mainstream film, director Sam Taylor-Johnson's adaptation of the first volume in a trilogy of novels by E. L. James has a pornographically narrow focus and a potentially dangerous message. Filling in for her roommate (Eloise Mumford), a socially awkward college student (Dakota Johnson) interviews an intimidating business tycoon (Jamie Dornan) for the campus newspaper, and the two fall for



CNS PHOTO/20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION VIA EPK TV
Taron Egerton and Michael Caine star in a scene from the movie "Kingsman: The Secret Service."

each other.

As the virginal co-ed tries to bond with her aloof new beau, however, she discovers he's an obsessive sadist.

Though it's framed in the familiar context of a good girl's crusade to redeem a naughty boy, her hesitant cooperation with the mogul's perversion risks conveying the idea that all women are potentially willing victims of physical abuse and humiliation.

The fact that their aberrant interaction is mostly toned down, moreover, only aggravates the damage this armchair flirtation with the darker aspects of human nature has the ability to inflict.

Excessive sexual content, including graphic deviant behavior and nonmarital sexual activity with much nudity, a benign view of casual sex and contraception, several uses of rough language.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult



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CLINTON

RETREAT DAY

Plattsburgh – A retreat day to be held.
Date: March 14
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Place: 77 Brinkerhoff St. (former Regina Maria Retreat House)
Presenter: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSI
Cost: Suggested donation, \$25
Features: "Lenten Journey" will focus on deepening our friendship with the Lord by exploring different ways of praying.
Contact: call: 315-212-6592 or email: sr-bethsj@gmail.com by March 11

SCHOOL OF HEALING

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will have a special prayer training class.
Date: April 9-12
Cost: \$35 non-refundable fee due March 22

Features: The course includes Introduction to the Foundations of Healing, History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and practical experience on becoming a prayer minister. Rooms available for overnight guests. Computers welcomed.
Contact: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594.3253

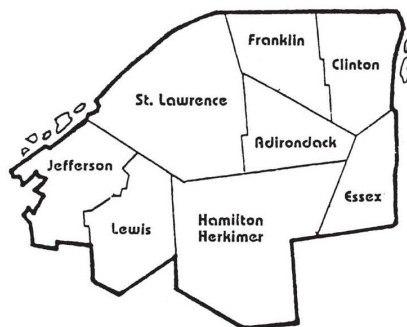
FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have their annual all you can eat fish fry.
Date: March 13
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30
Place: Parish Center
Cost: Take-outs and Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5

ST. PADDY'S DAY DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's parish to have St. Paddy's Day dinner.
Date: March 14
Time: 3 p.m. to 6
Place: Parish center
Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 4-12, \$4; 3 and under, Free

Menu: Traditional Corned beef or Ham, cabbage and "all the trimmings"; various desserts, beverages (adult fare entitles those 21+ to a small "adult" beverage of either Guinness or Bailey's)
Features: Take-outs available. Traditional Irish music by Elisabeth Churchill and George Schnob. Irish dancers, 50/50 Raffle and Green Basket Raffle (1 ticket for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00). The income generated from this event will be used to further the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Saint Monica #2598 of St. Augustine's Parish mission of charity



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.

WEEKDAY LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – This year St. Peter's Church will offer Lenten weekday adoration.
Schedule: Mon. and Tues. after 7 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m.
Place: St. Frere Andre's Chapel
Features: Adoration will end with Benediction at 7 p.m. on Tues. of Holy Week.
Contact: To sign up for one hour a week of adoration, call the rectory at 563-1692 or stop in the Chapel anytime during adoration hours.
Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$2.50; 5 and under, Free; \$20 per family maximum.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Plattsburgh – A spaghetti and 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!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can 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 House of Prayer
Schedule: Home on the Range Quilt Class – Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create a fun and easy quilt. Cost \$25.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

Keeseville – There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.
Time: 1 p.m. to 4
Place: Immaculate Conception Church

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

ESSEX

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's will hold its annual St. Patrick's day dinner.
Date: March 15
Time: 2 p.m. to 6
Place: The parish hall
Cost: Adults, \$11; Children under 12, \$5

Features: Take-outs will be available after 1:30 p.m. Tickets for a cash raffle and other items will be available. A dinner of Corned Beef or Ham, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, homemade bread,

FRANKLIN

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

JEFFERSON

WATERTOWN LENTEN MISSION

Watertown – Watertown native Father Timothy Canaan will be the presenter this year for the annual Lenten Mission for the Catholic parishes in Watertown.
Schedule: The mission opens with Mass at The Church of the Holy Family March 2 at 7 p.m. It will continue on successive evenings, March 3 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's; March 4 at 7 pm, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and concludes March 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony's
Features: Father Timothy will preach on the theme, "Find Your Home in Christ" at each of the Catholic churches during the celebration of Mass. The theme is derived from the Diocesan evangelization effort announced by Bishop Terry R. LaValley one year ago.
Presenter: Father Canaan, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 1993, currently serves as pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of Saint John the Baptist in Plattsburgh and as diocesan Director of Campus Ministry. Shortly his ordination to the priesthood he began preaching retreats and has led close to 20 Parish Missions. He has also been the retreat director for Commissioned Lay Ministers, candidates for Confirmation, and Vocation Candidates.

PSALMS CLASS

Evans Mills – An 11-week course on the Book of Psalms has been planned, the sixth Bible course offered at St. Mary's
Date: Wednesdays beginning March 4
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30
Features: Jeff Cavins, a nationally-known Bible teacher, will lecture via DVD, with discussion led by members of Knights of Columbus Council 7471. Mr. Cavins has titled the course "Psalms: The School of Prayer" following the lead of the Catechism, which says "the words of the Psalmist... both express and acclaim

the Lord's saving works.... The psalms continue to teach us how to pray" (para. 2587). He will consider personal and communal aspects of the psalms.
Cost: There is a \$30 fee for home study materials, which are optional.
Contact: Students are asked to sign up by Feb. 24 by calling Tom at 767-1065.

FEBRUARY ULTREYA

Watertown – Cursillo Community celebrating February Ultreya
Date: Feb. 26
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8
Place: St. Patrick's Church chapel
Features: Cursillistas' reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.

IHC OPEN HOUSES

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School to hold open houses for new and prospective families.
Elementary School and St. John Bosco Pre-School
Feb. 25 at 6 p.m., Open House, Intermediate School; **March 3** at 6 p.m., St. John Bosco Open House, Primary School;
March 9, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Kindergarten Screening & Enrollment (if you have made your choice by this date and/or arrived in the area, please call 315-788-7011 to make an appointment for your child to be screened for Kindergarten.);
Upcoming open houses: March 24 at 6 p.m., Primary School; April 22 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School; May 19 at 6 p.m., Primary School; July 15 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School Aug. 17 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School.
Junior/Senior High School
March 9 at 6:30 p.m., 7th Grade Orientation (if you have made your choice by this date and/or arrived in the area, please attend this event with your "rising 7th grader");
Upcoming open houses: March 25 at 6 p.m., April 21 at 6 p.m., May 20 at 6 p.m., July 15 at 6 p.m., Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.,

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: 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.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Mission Office thanks the NCC

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies Inc. of the Diocese of Ogdensburg would like to commend the enormous efforts of the *North Country Catholic* and its staff (Mary Lou Killian, Editor and her tireless associate Christine Ward) with their assistance in promoting the missionary spirit week after week.

The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. The Pontifical Mission Societies have, as their primary purpose, "the promotion, of a universal missionary spirit, a spirit of prayer and sacrifice among all baptized Catholics."

Every week, the *North Country Catholic* promotes and exhibits our column and photos in an effort to help publicize the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by educating the faithful with awareness of the Church's universal mission. Our columns teach of sacrifice, encourage prayer and support of any on-going appeals.

Our appeals consist of Christmas/Advent, Lent, St. Peter the Apostle, Missionary Projects of the Diocese, Missionary Cooperation and World Mission Sunday. In addition to these appeals, children in Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association program for on-going support and prayers for children in developing lands.

Throughout the years, the *North Country Catholic* has always been there for the Mission Office to aid in our goal of promoting education and awareness. The Mission Office acknowledges that without the weekly column, so many of our faithful donors would not be able to keep up with the news from the Mission World.

In that regard, the NCC helps each week to transform the lives of others far, far away. This office will always be grateful for this assistance.

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is proud to walk with the *North Country Catholic* on our long journey together of making the Diocese a better place through promoting prayers and personal sacrifices for the Missions.

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

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – David M. Pearce, 50; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at the Thwaites-Zaumetzer Funeral Home.

AuSable Forks – Mark Peduzzi, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

Clayton - William L. Monteith, Jr., 80; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Gouverneur - Richard V. Mazurowski, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Gouverneur - Mabel "Maybelle" (Whitaker) Pistolesi, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Hogansburg - Anna Mae (Garrow) Besaw, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Lowville – Rosemary (Kornatowski) Morak, 79; Funeral Services at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Frederick "Peanut" Cayea, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2015 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Madrid - Betty A. Lindsley, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. John the

Baptist Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Parishville.

Malone – Sharon Collette Riggs, 64; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena - Jean E. Marion Griffin, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 14, 2014 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Dora M. (Saumure) Littlejohn, 81; Memorial Services Feb. 27, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

North Lawrence - Kenneth "Kay" H. Prosper, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2015 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Sand Hill Cemetery, Dickinson.

Ogdensburg - Arlene F. (LaRock) Jenner, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – David L. Bilow, 68; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Albert A. Collins, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Michael L. DiCarlo, 57; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Roland J. LaForest, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Port Henry – Catherine Rose Aurilio, 96; Funeral Services May 16, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Sylvia Ann (McKeown) Hurlburt, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam - Danny G. Burkum, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Watertown - Frederic S. Kendall, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

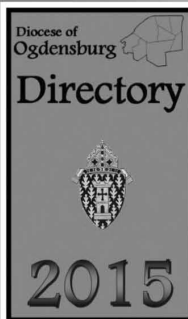
Watertown – Bernice E. "Bernie" White Shannon, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

West Chazy – Lyles Anthony Trombly, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Inghram Cemetery.

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Order your 2015 Diocesan Directory!



The Official 2015 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations. Order online at www.northcountrycatholic.org for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

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PO Box 106

Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$15.00
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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

JEFFERSON

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Schedule: Beginning Good Friday at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 12 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be blessed. All parishes are Welcome.

Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday... call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for vocations to be held.

Date: Mon.-Fri.
Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Place: Holy Family Church
Contact: 315-782-2468

HOLY HOURS

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

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Lifelight 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

LENENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - Lenten Eucharistic adoration to be held.

Dates: March 5, and March 19

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church
Features: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and the Benediction.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March will be held.

Date: March 1
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Features: Vespers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

ST. LAWRENCE

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk - The Knights of Columbus Council 11544 will be hosting their monthly brunch.

Date: March 8
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center (Visitation Parish Center)
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs available

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

LATIN MASS

Potsdam - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday

Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Church
Celebrant: Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10
Place: St. Mary's Family Room.

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2015

Date	Place		Time
MARCH 1	Summit Village	Watertown	6:30 P.M.
MARCH 7	St. Alexander and St. Joseph	Morrisonville	7:00 P.M.
MARCH 13	St. Mary's	Massena	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 15	St. Mary's Cathedral	Ogdensburg	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 20	St. James	Cazenovia	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 21	Holy Family	Little Falls	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 28	Christ the King	Albany	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 29	St. Jude	Wynantskill	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 30	St. Stephen's	Phoenix	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 31	St. Martin of Tours	New Hope, PA	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 1	St. Rose of Lima	Newtown, CT	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 3	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 P.M.

www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

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 Benediction 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 at a new time.

Date: Tuesday afternoons
Time: 1:30 p.m.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Massena - Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Convent
Contact: 315-769-3137

COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

Ogdensburg - The K of Council 258 is starting up its Community Free Lunch

Date: Wednesdays
Time: Noon
Place: K of C Club
Contact: 393-7990 after 4 p.m

DIOCESAN EVENTS

RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg - Bishop Terry R. LaValley Will preside at the annual Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Date: March 1
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

SUMMER DIRECTED RETREAT

Ogdensburg - Save the date to spend some time with the Lord at the 2015 Summer Directed Retreat.

Date: June 21-26
Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: The directed retreat is offered in an atmosphere of silence, while giving the opportunity for daily one-on-one meeting with a spiritual director, along with daily Mass.

Contact: For more information please email inquiry@wadhams.edu

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

LENENT RETREAT

Syracuse - Refresh and recharge during Lent at our 24 hour retreat.

Schedule: From March 6 at 7 p.m. to March 7 at 7 p.m.
Place: Christ the King Retreat House & Conference Center

Cost: \$140; Register by March 2 with a \$25 deposit.
Contact: spiritualrenewalcenter.com, phone: 315-472-6546 Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

24 HOUR RETREAT

Syracuse - A 24 hour retreat to be held.

Schedule: From March 13 at 7 p.m. to March 14 at 7 p.m.
Place: Spiritual Renewal Center
Cost: \$140
Contact: spiritualrenewalcenter.com, phone: 315-472-6546 Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS


WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

Mass
 Rosary
 Fasting
 Day Offering
 Eucharistic Adoration
 Offering of Sufferings
 Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord
 inspires you to offer Him



St. Joseph


DIocese OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

MARCH 2015


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE	REV. PAUL J. KELLY	REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN	REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER	REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG
OUR PASTOR	REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF V.F.	REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	REV. JAMES F. LAMITTE	REV. VICTOR E. LAMORE	REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	REV. PAUL F. LEDERMANN
POPE FRANCIS	BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS	REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	REV. JOHN J. LOOBY V.F.	REV. DOUGLAS J. LUCIA	REV. SHANE M. LYNCH
RETIRED PRIESTS	REV. DONALD J. MANFRED V.F.	REV. GEORGE F. MAROUN	REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	MSGR. ROBERT J. MCCARTHY	REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN
DECEASED PRIESTS	REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS	REV. BERNARD D. MENARD				

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