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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 37

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 4, 2015

Lenten journey of conversion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Lenten journey of conversion requires Christians to rediscover the "deepest truth" about themselves, cast off their masks and take on the courage to live truth, a prominent Carmelite priest told the pope and Vatican officials.

In the first days of Lenten

spiritual exercises for the Roman Curia, the church's central administration, Carmelite Father Bruno Secondin drew from the life of the prophet Elijah to invite Vatican officials to reflect on whether their hearts "really belong to the Lord" or whether they rely on external gestures.

Pope Francis chose the Italian priest, who has authored dozens of books, including a series on praying with Scripture, to lead the exercises on the theme "Servants and Prophets of the Living God."

The Feb. 22-27 retreat was held at the Pauline Fathers' retreat center in Ariccia.

On the second day, the

professor of spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University urged Curia members to put themselves "at the school of mercy" and, like Elijah, to live in the periphery.

Elijah moved toward the centers of power but mostly toward "the peripheries and the geographical and existential frontiers," he said.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

On Catholic marriage



This year's Catholic marriage issue features an interview with Andrew and Brittany Duso of Malone who look back on the first years of their married lives. The issue also features reflections from the diocesan director of family life, information on natural family planning and pre-cana sessions and more features of interest to couples preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 5-10

Bishop's message for Rite of Election

In his homily at the Rite of Election March 1 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Bishop Terry R. LaValley offered Words of support to the catechumens and candidates who attended the ceremony with their sponsors.

"What a day of blessing for the Diocese of Ogdensburg," he said. "Lent has begun with much promise and hope. With the continued guidance of your parish's RCIA team and staff, please make these days of intense prayer a privileged time of personal encounter and shared joy with Jesus Christ."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Blueberry pancakes

Food for the body...

delicious way to build the bonds

of a parish community

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

ROSARY MAKERS FROM THE BAY



Children from the religious education program at St. Cyril's Parish in Alexandria Bay made their own rosary beads and invited their pastor, Father Douglas Comstock, to bless them. In front are children from Mrs. Henry's first grade class. From left are Kaitlyn Bennett, Bramley Gizzi, Maesin Furguson, Father Comstock, Savannah Savage, Dominic Cappuccetti, Aidan McAloon, Melissa Collett and Ronan Amato. In back are fourth grader Colin Hynes, students in Mrs. Slate's fifth grade: Brock Hunter, Terin Thomson, Isaiah Wright and Bridget Wood; and students in Mrs. Cole's fourth grade: Ethan Savage, Adrienne Hyde, Josephine Williams and Angelina Garfella.

THE 'OUR FATHER': One of Jesus' greatest gifts to his people... p. 2

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EDITOR'S NOTES

For newlyweds from nearly newlyweds

The content of this week's issue focusing on Catholic marriage was a bit of a happy accident or, as I like the think of it, the work of the Holy Spirit.

With the deadline looming, I reached out to two Catholic marriage experts on the diocesan staff (the directors of family life and NFP) for quick assistance. And, of course, they came through for me.

Steve Tartaglia provided material offering excellent guidance for couples preparing for Catholic weddings.

Suzanne Pietropaoli wrote a timely perspective on natural family planning, interviewed a young couple from Malone and

suggested that I invite Father Bryan Stitt to share "simply the best wedding homily I have ever heard."



Mary Lou
Kilian

She also encouraged me to ask one of our new writers, Lenka Walldroff, for her observations on married life.

And, while it wasn't a deliberate plan, the issue is filled with profound thoughts on marriage written by Catholics who, from my vantage point, are practically newlyweds.

Believe me, Suzanne and I could offer mountains of marital advice after sharing our lives with Angelo and Tom, respectively, since the end of the 1970's!

But, somehow, even the same words have a more powerful

effect coming from couples married six, seven or 12 years.

We hope that young people who are now preparing for marriage will be inspired by the words of Steve, Brittany, Andrew and Lenka.

We hope that Father Stitt's homily will help prospective brides and grooms to understand the value of getting married in their church, truly celebrating the *Sacrament of Marriage*.

Not surprisingly, each of our young writers stressed the importance of bringing God into their married lives.

From Steve: "The point of being married and having a family is for everyone in the family to grow closer to God, and through their interactions with others, to be a leaven in society.... Love is the mission

of the family, not popularity, accumulation of material goods, personal comfort nor worldly success. Our goal is to get to Heaven and bring as many others with us as we can.

From Brittany and Andrew: "Marriage is all about taking this journey together and getting each other to heaven. That's why it is so important for us to pray for each other and to encourage each other to grow in faith.

From Lenka: Always look to God. The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness and love and how we should treat each other.... We transform the world by transforming our families, and at its nucleus are the husband and wife.

From Father Bryan: "Do whatever He tells you."

And from me: Amen!

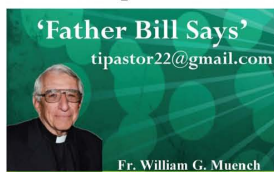
A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The Lord's Prayer: a great gift from Jesus

This week, as part of the ceremonies of the RCIA, the Lord's Prayer is presented. This prayer – the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father – is the gift of the Catholic Church to these catechumens who have chosen to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil.

The Lord's Prayer was Jesus' gift, one of his greatest gifts to his people. It is truly a perfect prayer. There are so many times when we need a prayer but can only think of a jumble of words. Jesus gives us the proper words in the Lord's Prayer. As children, we all learn the Lord's Prayer and we can invite others to pray with us by saying together the Lord's Prayer.

I personally remember many situations when I needed a prayer. I think of times when I wanted to share a prayer with someone I am visiting in the hospital, often someone who is dying. So I suggested the Lord's Prayer and together we prayed the Lord's Prayer, over and over several times. There have been similar times when I was with a whole family



around the sick bed of a loved one. Again I wanted them all to join in prayer. They all knew the Lord's Prayer so we prayed together.

I remember a friend of mine who told me such a story. He was driving somewhere and came upon an automobile accident. He was one of the first to come upon the scene. Help was called and on the way. One of the people had been thrown out of the car and lay on the ground, a ways off.

My friend knew enough not to touch him but he decided to stay with him. He asked if he was a Catholic and then suggested that they say the Lord's Prayer together until the rescue squad came. And that is what he did.

It truly is a gift, isn't it, to

have a prayer – a prayer we can say when driving, when walking or running, when we are in a crisis and need a prayer.

The Our Father is well loved by us, Catholics. It is good for us to remember that in Jesus' time – Jesus' prayer was a bit startling. When Jesus spoke of God as a Father his people, even his apostle, probably found it almost impossible to accept. Their God was the God of Moses, the God that Moses met on Mount Sinai, the all-powerful God who frightened the Hebrew people, the God who was beyond and over and above them.

Then comes Jesus to teach them that when they pray to God, they should say "Our Father." Jesus encourages all of us to establish a bold, unique relationship with God, a relationship with this God who wants to be "Our Father."

So, when we pray, when we want to find the presence of God, we should do so with the realization that God is our Father. When we realize that God is "Our Father" we are changed, we are different people. We are

loved; our God loves us like a Father. God wants to be involved in our life as a Father.

There is so much more in this prayer. A readiness to give glory to God, praying that God's will be done always. We seek our daily bread, not just our sustenance here and now but also our spiritual strength in the Blessed Eucharist.

Then there is forgiveness – our deal with God. God you can forgive me in the same way as I forgive others. I don't fully understand this. I believe that our God is a forgiving God and we can depend on God's forgiveness yet, God doesn't completely need us. Still, in this prayer, Jesus wants us to realize how important it is – that without our spirit of forgiveness, the forgiveness of God goes unnoticed.

Finally, each time we pray the Lord's Prayer we turn to God, Our Father, to seek deliverance from evil. In the Our Father, we are constantly placing ourselves in the arms of our God, seeking protection and love. Each of us is a loved person.

FOLLOW ME

At the Rite of Election

Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion ceremony held March 1 at St. Mary's Cathedral

One of the highlights of my pilgrimage to the Holy Land last Advent was our visit to Mt. Tabor, although, it was also among the scariest legs of the journey. We couldn't take our spacious tour bus up the Mountain of the Transfiguration because the road was so narrow and the turns sudden and sharp. Instead, we had, I swear, a lunatic cab driver take us at breakneck speeds up the mount - sometimes it seemed on two wheels at the many hairpin turns.

I could understand, that if our driver were around during Jesus' time, not even His dearest friends Peter, James and John would have had the courage to accept Jesus' invitation to accompany Him up the mountain.

Jesus was especially close to these three men. I wonder: did He need their support and companionship on this particular occasion? Did they accompany Him for His benefit or theirs or ours?

Peter, James and John saw with their eyes, for the briefest moment, what God requires of the eyes of faith. What Christ offered them was the possibility of human transfiguration. God asked them, as He asks us today to believe in human transformation.

The Transfiguration was not only God's invitation to Peter, James and John to see literally what heaven was like. It was, for them, God's invitation to see momentarily what the kingdom of heaven on earth can be like for all who choose to believe in the transformation of humanity through faith.

We are a people of hope, yes, even in the midst of such hatred, terror, poverty and suffering in our world today because, as a community of believers, we choose to believe in the transformation of humanity. Genuine faith has that kind of power!

Each and every one gathered here today, fellow pilgrims all, know that a pilgrimage works best with companions to share the journey. Ours is a journey of hope shared.

Dear candidates and catechumens, you have responded to the Lord's call and embarked upon the journey of faith with fellow pilgrims from your parish family. Your eyes and hearts of faith share the experience of responding to God's invitation to follow Him up the mount of life.

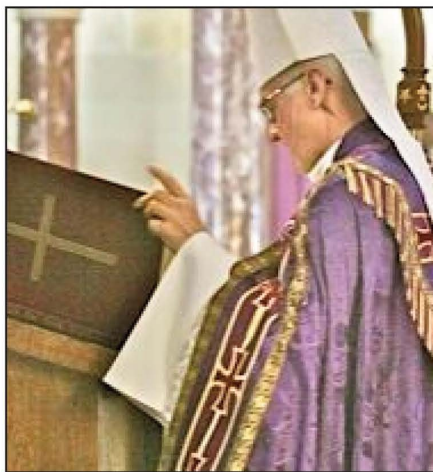


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

In this 2014 photo, Bishop LaValley is shown as he signs and dates the pages of the Book of the Elect that the catechumens had signed. Photos from this year's ceremony will appear in an upcoming issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

We know that many times Jesus went off by Himself to pray. He even taught us that when we pray, we should go into our room and shut the door and pray to the Father in secret.

On the other hand, Jesus, also emphasized the value of praying with others. He said: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Mt.18:19-20) Jesus Himself prayed publicly, often in synagogues or in the Temple.

The greatest prayer we have is the Eucharist, when Jesus blessed bread and wine at the Last Supper and changed it into His Body and Blood. Jesus told his apostles, indeed all of us: "Do this in memory of Me."

How could we ever do what He told us to do if we didn't come together in prayer? Jesus showed us and taught us that we should pray both in the privacy of our own hearts and that we should pray, worship, with one another.

It seems today that many people have given up on communal prayer. Many say they pray on their own. This is good, but Jesus has shown us, by His example and teaching, the value of praying with others.

Those who think they don't need to go to

"Church" to serve and worship God should know that the word "church" in Greek means "a gathering" or "an assembly." How can someone say I belong to this gathering or this assembly without ever gathering or assembling?

The Church teaches that we have a serious obligation as Catholic Christians to come together with Jesus on the Lord's Day to pray together, to offer together to the Father the perfect sacrifice that Jesus gave us at the Last Supper.

People sometimes say, "I don't get anything out of going to Mass." The question could be asked, "Do we pray only to get something?" Don't we also pray in order to give something—to give God ourselves, our worship, our love? When we seek to give something is often when we get something.

I know that Peter, James and John prayed with Jesus many other times, but this one time, something powerful happened. If they hadn't been with Him, they would never have had the experience.

St. Francis tells us: "It is in giving that we receive." It is through the giving of ourselves that our transformation is possible.

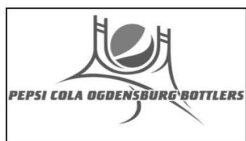
Until such personal transformation takes place, until we possess the readiness to change, not just say the words, but have the will, our world will continue its indifference to God and religion.

As we journey through life, let us be mindful that we do not walk alone. We walk with a transfigured Jesus who will suffer and die. We walk with a loving God for whom resurrection, and not suffering and death, is the final destination. We are, after all, an Easter People!

As Church, we walk with each other and follow Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And, that, my friends can make all the difference in a troubled world.

What a day of blessing for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Lent has begun with much promise and hope. With the continued guidance of your parish's RCIA team and staff, please make these days of intense prayer a privileged time of personal encounter and shared joy with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for coming to our St. Mary's Cathedral this afternoon to be counted among the elect. Your presence this day brings such joy to all of us. I pray that, as you continue your pilgrimage of faith, that you safely manage all the hairpin curves that you encounter on your journey with the assurance of God's grace and the companionship of fellow travelers. May God be praised...forever may God be praised!



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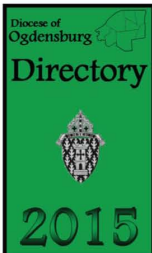
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Bishop's Schedule

March 5 – 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg
6:15 p.m., Immaculate Heart Central National Honor Society Dinner, Italian American Club in Watertown

March 7 – 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake
4 p.m., Mass at St. Paul's Church in Bloomingdale

March 8 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 9 – New York State Bishops' Meeting with State Legislators in Albany, NY

March 10 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 11 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

NCC Patrons

Michael and Elaine Williford from St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh were inadvertently omitted from the list of patrons in the Feb. 25 issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The NCC apologizes for the oversight.

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 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:

March 20 - 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point

To Report Abuse

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

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

Rest in Peace

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

- March 4** – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934
March 5 – Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013
March 6 – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921
March 7 – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934;
March 8 – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914;

GO GREEN!

Receive the NCC in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.
E-mail cward@dioogdensburg.org to sign up today.

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

Spring Cleaning

Growing up along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario I have always had a deep appreciation and respect for the gift of water. In 1962 Rachel Carson published a book called "Silent Springs." In her book she spoke of the negative effects of toxic chemicals being placed in our water. Her words have haunted me every now and then. I asked myself am I part of the problem or part of the remedy?

Recently our SSJ Social Justice Committee joined the Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes. Its mission is to protect the Great Lakes that make up 20% of the world's drinking water. On a personal note what am I doing in my own life?

As I begin to think about spring cleaning this year, I looked at what I use for cleaning products. One of our older Sisters said she always used vinegar and water for cleaning windows and dried them with old newspapers. So I went on-line to find the recipe. On the web page "About Work; Homemade Glass Cleaner," here's what I found: "Mix together in a new empty spray bottle: 1 cup of water and one tablespoon of white vinegar. Benefits: inexpensive, no harsh chemicals or fumes, effectively removes fingerprints and other window grime, and doesn't leave streaks. Several web pages tell how to use white vinegar as a great natural cleaning product as well as a disinfectant and deodorizer.

My resolution this Lent is to change old habits of spring cleaning to new ways that will help protect the quality of the precious gift of water. With St. Francis I pray "Praise to you, My God, through Sister Water, which is very useful, humble, precious and chaste."

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FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

The North Country Catholic presents its annual Catholic Marriage issue

Homily delivered by Father Bryan Stitt at the Mass for the Celebration of Marriage of Samantha Fazioli and Paul Poulin at Notre Dame Church, Malone, Jan. 2, 2015

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

As Paul and Samantha approached their wedding day, they knew that they would have the support of their family and friends - so many of whom gather around them today - but they didn't realize how much advice they would be given. Aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, parents, clergy, and friends have all been giving advice.

Pop quiz: What's the best advice they received? Hint: it was also the best advice given in the whole history of the world.

Another hint: it was given by a middle aged widow at another wedding many many years ago.

"Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5). We just heard the story. Mary spoke these words to the waiters at the wedding in Cana. And in turn Jesus told them to fill the stone washing jars with water, then to draw some out and serve it to the head waiter.

We know the story, but let's put it in modern terms. What if Jesus were to come to one of us, and then He told us to go to the utility closet, reach into the mop bucket, draw out a scoop and serve it to the pastor? (We can all imagine how well that would go over.)

But there was something about the words and presence of the Blessed Mother



PHOTO BY JENNIFER MOORE

Paul and Samantha Fazioli Poulin are shown after their Jan. 2 wedding at Notre Dame Church in Malone. Mrs. Poulin is the director of faith formation for St. André Bessette Parish in Malone. Father Bryan Stitt's homily for the wedding Mass is printed here.

and her Divine Son. They did what they were told, and they were richly blessed.

"Do whatever He tells you." Not just if it works with your plans; even if doesn't make sense. Even if He says "transfer to Steubenville" or "enter the seminary." If He says, "work at Guggenheim" or "scale

electric poles in mid-winter."

Or even if He tells you to move to Malone, take a new job, and meet the love of your life. "Do whatever He tells you."

So we come together at this three o'clock hour on a first Friday - the Mercy Hour on the day of the Sacred Heart - asking for the mercy of God and the fiery love of

His Heart.

We worship in the parish of St. André Bessette literally in the middle of the novena preparing for his feast day on January 6th asking for the intercession of a porter that you may open the doors of your lives. We gather at the beginning of a New Year to mark the start of a new life

as the two become one flesh.

Samantha Mary and Paul Joseph wed as we all celebrate with another Mary and Joseph that the Word was made flesh.

"Do whatever He tells you." What does He tell you?

'Do whatever He tells you'

In the second reading that you chose, St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience bearing with one another through love." In other words, live out the vows that you will make shortly to be true to one another in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, loving and honoring each other all the days of your lives.

One last point: a final piece of advice.

We've all heard it said that for a marriage to succeed it has to be 50/50. This is a well-intentioned but terrible piece of advice that in large part leads to 50 percent of marriages not making it. 50/50 won't cut it because if you are only giving 50% then you're holding back 50%. It must be 100% and 100%.

Today at this Mass we are all to be oriented towards the Cross - the ultimate sign of love. Just like the couple in the Song of Songs, just like St. Paul - a prisoner of Christ, just like Christ on the Cross, all good marriages are a complete gift of self.

Thank you for being willing to make that gift. Thank you for discerning your vocations so well. And now trust that when you do whatever He tells you, you will be richly blessed.

Catholics today are challenged by society's shifting views on marriage and family

Successful marriages need effort... and God

By Stephen Tartaglia
Diocesan director, Family Life Office

When I was a child I loved celebrating holidays with my family. Marriage and children made me realize how much work goes into this. Holidays are not automatic. They require a lot of effort, planning, resources, team work, and good communication.

It's the same with successful marriage and family life. It's not easy and it doesn't happen without effort, planning, resources, teamwork and good communication.

In addition, it doesn't happen without God.

The point of being married and having a family is for everyone in the family to grow closer to God, and through their interactions with others, to be a haven in society.

As our society ponders marriage and as our Supreme Court considers redefining marriage, it is crucial to remember that marriage exists to help people grow closer to God. So-

ciety's view on marriage is shifting toward marriage as a relationship that exists to satisfy the emotional desires of the participants.

Some would claim that society's seemingly swift shift in its view of marriage is the result of the work of homosexual activists, however, in truth, the groundwork for this attitudinal shift is the acceptance and extensive embracing of relativism.

Relativism teaches that all points of view are equally valid, all moralities equally good, all beliefs equally true.

Relativism is a salad bar mentality that allows people to pick and choose what they like and call it "their truth."

Relativism is hostile to the concept of objective truth and the notion that there can be a common set of moral rules that is applicable to everyone.

Opponents of the redefinition of marriage are often criticized as being hypocritical. Maybe you've seen the posts on Facebook that ridicule the idea that same-

sex marriage is a threat to traditional marriage, citing the high divorce rate, the revolving door of marriage for some celebrities, and a variety of inappropriate behavior of married men and women.

I would say there is merit to that criticism. Looking at the history of Supreme Court decisions and the gradual eroding of morality in our society, particularly in the last 50 years, the redefinition of marriage does not come to us out of the blue.

Like dominos falling, it is the next step, the logical consequence, of people's failure to embrace the Church teaching on marriage and contraception.

Parallel to the idea of the seamless garment ethic, perhaps we should coin the phrase "seamless bedsheet ethic." If you oppose redefining marriage, you need to embrace all of what the Church teaches about marriage, including its prohibition of contraception.

This is the defining issue of our time in history, and it is a major challenge for Catholic families to live in a society that has strongly embraced the doctrine of relativism.

We want to build a culture of vocations that supports marriage and family life as well as priesthood and religious life.

Accomplishing this means taking this issue of

relativism very seriously.

As G. K. Chesterton said, "we don't want a Church that will move with the world, we want a Church that will move the world."

So what can we do, as Catholics, to address this issue? I've offered some suggestions for couples seeking a successful marriage. (See box on this page.)

The Diocesan Family Life Office exists to help you with this by providing resources, training, and support, as well as opportunities to connect and network.

(Mr. Tartaglia may be reached by phone at the diocesan offices, 315-393-2920, ext 1420 or by e-mail, startaglia@rcdony.org)

Top ten 'essentials' for strong Catholic families

By Stephen Tartaglia
Diocesan director, Family Life Office

Here are the top ten things I think are essential for having a successful Catholic family.

1. *Have a Catholic wedding ceremony*, not just a civil ceremony. By including God in your marriage, you can count on His grace and your marriage will be stronger, like a rope with three strands instead of two.

2. *Attend Pre Cana classes*. Pre Cana is designed to help the couple think about and discuss several topics that are central to marriage and family life. Many times couples are swept along by emotion and haven't considered everything that goes into being married.

3. *Learn Natural Family Planning and practice it in your marriage*. Couples that use NFP experience a divorce rate of 2 to 4% rather than the 50% rate experienced by those that ignore Church teaching and use contraception.

4. *Go to Church on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation*, and pray while you are there.

5. *Pray together as a family*. Prayers be-

fore meals, morning and bedtime prayers, the family rosary, are great ways of praying as a family, but there are also many other ways as well. Use what works for your family.

6. *Connect and network with other Catholic families*. One of the tragic consequences of our modern life is a sense of loneliness and isolation. We need support from likeminded people. Family Guggenheim, potluck suppers, parish picnics, men's groups, women's groups, anything that connects your family with other Catholic families is essential.

7. *Learn what the Catholic Church teaches* through good reading and

8. *Commit to practicing what the Church teaches*.

9. *Frequently receive the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation*.

10. *Tithe*

Love is the mission of the family, not popularity, accumulation of material goods, personal comfort nor worldly success.

Our goal is to get to Heaven and bring as many others with us as we can. Stay focused on growing in personal holiness, living and acting in accord with Church teaching.



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'Blessed beyond our wildest dreams!'

Malone couple looks back on the first six years of their married life

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

MALONE - When Andrew and Brittany Duso were married in August, 2009, they - like any couple - could not know what their future would hold. But they did know that it was God who brought them together.

"We first met at the Malone Golf Club," Brittany relates. "I wasn't a golfer, but was there with a friend. For a few months after that, we kept running into each other. God was truly giving me all the signs that this was the man I was destined to marry, but I was focused on other priorities, like passing my RN boards."

Yet Andrew persisted: "I was more drawn to her than she was to me. I fell for the passion that she had for all things and the convictions that she had, not only spiritually, but in her professional life."

Brittany points out that "Andy got the message a little quicker than I did. This thoughtful man would show up at my apartment on random afternoons, with lunch, and quiz me on one NCLX questions one after the other," she said.

"His kindness and dedication definitely paid off, as I am now a registered nurse," she said. "Our relationship quickly bloomed from there, and six months later we were engaged."

Church Wedding

For this couple, there was never any question that they would be married in the church (Notre Dame, Malone) that each had attended since childhood.

For Andrew, getting married there continued a family tradition.

For Brittany, it was "a dream come true," one she had looked forward to since altar-serving at weddings when she was young.



Andrew and Brittany Duso of Malone are shown with their children, Parker age 4; Julia, 3; and Bryce, 11 months.

"From where I sat, I could always see the groom's face as he said his vows to his bride," she said. "PURE LOVE! I knew that I wanted to stand right there someday, with my husband, experiencing that love. That happened on our wedding day."

That love, and their strong faith, have sustained the couple through some blessed, busy, and challenging years.

A 'doozy' of a first year

As Brittany explains, "Within our first year of marriage, we were expecting our first child; dealing with my father's cancer diagnosis (he is, thankfully, cancer-free today); Andy's uncle's difficult battle with cancer, and his death; balancing work schedules; Andy being away on business trips; deciding on the roles our families would play in our married life; going from two-incomes to one; buying a new home; and dealing with postpartum depression.

"That was a doozy of a year, to say the least," she said. "Other difficulties we faced through the years

were personal health problems and difficult pregnancies (one landed me on bed rest for a month)."

And, as Andrew points out, there were the ordinary struggles.

"We had to quickly learn to live together as husband and wife," he said, "who will be responsible for various household responsibilities, who will take care of the finances, how will we manage outside expectations, and how will we adapt and create new family traditions that incorporate both sets of our extended family?"

Becoming parents

One very important issue was clear, though.

"After the birth of our first child," Brittany explains, "Andy and I both agreed that my place, for the time being, would be in the home caring for our little ones. So I am currently a stay-at-home mom to our three beautiful children. Parker is four, Julia is three, and Bryce is 11 months.

Our children are such gifts!" she said.

Andrew, a business owner, agrees. "There is nothing that I enjoy more

than being married and being a parent," he said.

"Our kids are great. It is a blessing to be able to watch them grow and learn new things.

"We are blessed to have three children under five years old," he said. "Not all came without complications and some stress, but through the power of prayer and the grace of God all were born healthy."

Children bring plenty of blessings, Brittany adds. "Our children continue to challenge me to become a better version of myself. With every additional child we have had, I feel like I am a better mother.

"Our children have helped Andy and me learn to work better as a team: 'Go Duso Duo,'" she said. "We even have a secret handshake!"

Strength from faith

This couple also draws great strength from their faith - which they are joyfully passing on to their children.

As Brittany explains, "Our Catholic faith means everything to us, and we have been blessed to meet so many new people through

it. Without our faith, I don't think we would be where we are today.

"We go to Mass every Sunday as a family," she said. "We brought our youngest to his first Mass when he was three days old. Church just means that much to us!

"Sunday Mass is a great opportunity to give thanks, reflect, and prepare for whatever lies ahead," she said. "Is it difficult to bring three little ones to Mass? Yes, but we have learned it is best to bring them right up front so they can see what is going on.

"We also teach them to pray at home," she said. "It makes us proud that our four-year-old son and three-year-old daughter can recite the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and grace before meals, as well as their bedtime prayers.

"Our greatest hope for our children is that their love for God will be forever in each of their hearts," she said.

Deepening love

The great adventure of parenthood has only deepened the couple's love.

For Brittany, "The most wonderful thing about being married is spending (almost) every day with my best friend! I know that whatever happens in life, my best friend will be there to experience it with me."

Andrew identifies "getting to know my wife better" as uniquely wonderful. "Our courtship was relatively short, and there are still things I love getting to know about her."

After all, the couple concludes, "Marriage is all about taking this journey together and getting each other to heaven. That's why it is so important for us to pray for each other and to encourage each other to grow in faith.

"We have been blessed beyond our wildest dreams!"

Breed like Rabbits?

By Suzanne Pietropaoli

Diocesan director, Natural Family Planning

Pope Francis made headlines recently with his comment that Catholics should not breed like rabbits. What he did not say is that Catholics simply CANNOT breed like rabbits—nor can anyone of any faith, or none.

And this is a very good thing: the reason rabbits are so prolific is that the female of their species experiences

induced ovulation, brought on by the act of mating.

Human reproduction, however, depends upon the female cycle of fertility/infertility correlated with male fertility, which is constant throughout life.

These facts, together with the readily observable and comprehensible bodily signs that accompany female fertility, form the basis for modern methods of Natural Family Planning.

In fact, any woman can learn to understand her own

fertility through these easily observable physiologic signs.

This knowledge gives her (and her husband) an entirely safe, highly effective (98-99%), healthy, and readily reversible way to postpone pregnancy, simply by abstaining during the method-defined fertile time.

The same information can also be used to achieve pregnancy, something unique to NFP among all family planning methods.

NFP also stands out from

other methods because it is the one truly green option; it is built on understanding and respecting creation in its most personal dimension.

The couples who choose Natural Family Planning choose to learn about and cooperate with the gift of their shared fertility, rather than to suppress it with drugs or devices. That choice is not only healthy for them; it is healthy for the environment.

By opting to regulate

births naturally, NFP users opt not to pollute: no unnecessary drugs/devices in landfills, fewer toxic chemicals to swallow, no endocrine-disrupting compounds added to lakes, streams, and water supplies—and no group 1 carcinogenic hormones (cf. World Health Organization) putting the woman's health at risk.

Natural Family Planning fully accepts fertility as an important part of the total and free gift that spouses make to one another

In place of all this, the Church would focus our attention on the way God made us, on that awesome design that allows us to live in harmony with our fertility. But Natural Family Planning is more than good stewardship of natural resources, of health and fertility; it is a way of life rooted in obedient faith.

When couples stand before the altar on their wedding day, they promise themselves to each other in a love that is free, permanent, faithful, and fruitful.

This is the kind of love with which God loves us, and it is the unconditional love for which every person longs. It is the love that God intends should be embodied in every act of intercourse, an act that by its nature says: "I love you. I give all of myself to you forever, and I accept all of you."

Contracepted intercourse, on the other hand, says something different: "I love you, but not your fertility. I give part of myself to you, but I withhold my fertility."

Contraception implies that something is wrong (i.e., fertility) and that it must be fixed.

Natural Family Planning fully accepts fertility as an important part of the total

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FAITHFULLY
YOURS

Celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality.

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NFP Programs: Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 3211 4th St., NE, Washington, DC 20017, 202-541-3340; phone: 1-866-562-9090; www.nfp.org. The phrase, "Celebrate and reverence..." taken from Human Sexuality: CDF, Perspective, USCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities (July 25, 1993). Slogan: Theresa Nolte, PhD. Design: Lisa Toscani, toscani@verizon.net. All images possible by a search from the Rights of Columbus. The persons depicted are models used for illustrative purposes only. ©2014.

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www.rcdony.org/nfp

NFP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and free gift that spouses make to one another, as an essential element in the divine design which so beautifully connects life and love in the sexual union of man and woman.

It does not impose "barriers" between husband and wife, nor does it demand that one should "fix" herself for the other.

In other words, it empowers couples to respectfully accept the gift of fertility, and to approach the gift of one another with awe and gratitude.

NFP is a lifestyle that has the potential to enrich a couple's communication, deepen their love, and strengthen their faith and

their family.

A variety of contemporary methodologies offer real choice for couples wanting to learn and live Natural Family Planning.


From in-person to on-line classes, from Cycle-Pro charting software to new apps, NFP is more accessible than ever before.

To learn more, contact the Diocesan NFP Office, apietropaoli@rcdony.org or at 518-483-0459, or visit www.rcdony.org/nfp.

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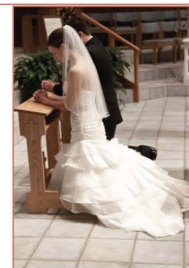
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Special note for anyone who is preparing for marriage or is married please check out the USCCB's web site. The materials and helpful articles are designed for helping build strong marriages. Every marriage matters, because marriage comes from the hand of God.

For more information on these events, please contact the Family Life Office 315-393-2920 or visit our website at www.rcdony.org/familylife



What makes a good marriage?

By Lenka Walldroff
Contributing writer

When Mary Lou asked me to write a piece for the marriage issue, I hesitated, wondering if I'd really have anything of value to share with couples considering marriage, after all, with only seven years of marriage under my belt I'm still learning the ropes myself.

My husband and I have a good marriage but we've made plenty of mistakes - below are some of the lessons that we took away

from them.

- So often, popular culture tells us that marriage will limit us or hold us back. To the contrary, when we marry the right person (with similar ambitions and values), we achieve our goals faster. As they say, many hands make light work.

- Question: "What makes a good marriage?" Answer: "Communication and hard work." We hear that so often that we almost stop listening, but it's true.

There inevitably comes a time in most marriages when one or both partners

want to walk away. Sometimes it's hard work to keep the marriage ship afloat - but a good marriage is worth the effort.

Which brings me to communication: the silent treatment is counter-productive. Communicating - about what's going on, where you're coming from, why you reacted a certain way - is key, especially during those difficult times when you'd really rather not talk to him/her at all.

No matter how perceptive or sensitive your spouse may be, he or she is not a

mind reader - talk it out.

We also need to listen, not just wait for our turn to speak; the saying goes that God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason.

- Learn the difference between self-respect and pride. Pride can masquerade as self-respect, but I've learned the hard way that pride can be incredibly harmful to relationships. I believe the Bible has a lot to say on that subject as well.

- Always, always, always give each other the benefit of the doubt. Many arguments with my husband could have been avoided if I'd followed that advice. Have some faith in the person you married and believe that he or she has your best intentions at heart.

- Marriage is not a casting call. So many of the people I know who have ended their marriages have done so because one (or both) of them was taken in by pop culture's obsession with all things "wedding." In short, they married the idea of being married, not their spouse. Marry the person, not the milestone - fancy invitations and designer dresses are just the icing on the cake.

- A few years back there was a big hype about couples learning each other's "love language" - that is, how partners show their love. I'm generally an eye-roller when it comes to self-help fads but I think that there might be something to that one.

For the first few years of my marriage, I thought appreciation and love equated to flowers and romance. The problem was that my husband's just not a flowers and romance kind of guy. After talking it through (see point #2) I learned that he loves and appreciates me more than I could ever have guessed - he just shows me in more subdued ways: spending a number of week-ends fencing in an acre of land for my beloved chickens, or checking on the

water before he leaves for work in the morning because he knows how much I enjoy my morning showers (this winter has been rough on the water lines in our drafty farm house.)

Marriage is a beginning, a new way of walking through the world - congratulations to all of those about to embark on that journey!

Recently, he agreed to take NFP classes with me (despite his personal apprehensions) when he learned about the side effects of artificial birth control on women.

His concern for my well-being says more to me than all the chocolate and flowers in the world.

I share those examples because people show their love in differently - and sometimes in ways that we take for granted. It helped my marriage immensely when I became open to how my husband was showing me love, even if it wasn't in my own pre-conceived ways.

- Last but not least, always look to God. The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness and love and how we should treat each other. So often we think that applies to people outside of our families but love, charity, compassion, and forgiveness start at home.

We transform the world by transforming our families, and at its nucleus are the husband and wife.

I always cry at weddings because I consider them to be small miracles: that two people, out of the six billion plus folks in the world, managed to find each other and are making a lifelong commitment to one another is beautiful. Marriage is a beginning, a new way of walking through the world - heartfelt congratulations to all of those about to embark on that journey!

2015 PRE-CANA SCHEDULE

DEANERY	DATES	TIMES	LOCATIONS	AREA COORDINATORS
Adirondack	March 14*	9:00 am to 6:00 pm (limited to 15 couples)	St. Bernard's Grade School 63 River Street Saranac Lake, NY 12983	Chip and Kathy Samperi
Clinton	October 24*	9:00 am to 5:30 pm	St. Ann's Parish 83 Maple Street Moers, NY 12958	Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader
Franklin	March 14* or May 16*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm 9:00 am to 4:00 pm	St. Augustine's Parish Center 2472 State Route 11 N. Bangor, NY 12966	Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli
Lewis	March 3 and 17** or April 26*	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm 10:00 am to 5:00 pm	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville, NY 13367	Ron & Michele Gingerich
Jefferson	March 21* or September 19* May 13, 20, and May 27**	9:00 am to 3:00 pm 9:00 am to 3:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm	St. James Minor Church 327 West Street Carthage, NY 13619 St. James Minor Church 327 West Street Carthage, NY 13619 St. Mary's Church 521 James Street Clayton, NY 13624	Nick or Lori Hanno Deacon Henry & Dayna Leader
St. Lawrence	March 4, 11, and 18** April 15, 22, and 29**	6:30 pm to 9:30 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm	St. James School 20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur, NY 13642 Church of the Visitation 3 Morris Street Norfolk, NY 13667	Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader

Essex, Hamilton, and Herkimer: Please contact the Deanery Coordinator nearest your parish.

Please note: * Attendance for the entire session is required. Lunch is provided.
** Attendance for multiple sessions is required.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, higher education leader, diplomat, dies at 97

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) -- Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who led the University of Notre Dame through a period of dramatic growth during his 35 years as president and held sway with political and civil rights leaders, died Feb. 26 at the age of 97. As the longest serving president of Notre Dame, from 1952 to 1987, Father Hesburgh built the university from a small college primarily known for its prowess on the football field into one of the nation's premier higher education institutions. In announcing the highly regarded priest's death, the university did not cite a specific cause. Funeral arrangements remained to be finalized, but the university said a funeral Mass would be celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus. "We mourn today a great man and faithful priest who transformed the University of Notre Dame and touched the lives of many," Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's current president, said in a statement. "With his leadership, charisma and vision, he turned a relatively small Catholic college known for football into one of the nation's great institutions for higher learning.

Willke, a Catholic doctor and longtime pro-life advocate, dies at 89

CINCINNATI (CNS) -- Dr. John "Jack" Willke, an obstetrician and a former president of the National Right to Life Committee who is credited with helping shape the pro-life movement, died Feb. 20 at his home in Cincinnati. He was 89. A funeral Mass was to be celebrated Feb. 26 at St. Clare Church in Cincinnati. "There is no way to quantify the contributions Jack Willke, along with his wife, Barbara, made to the right-to-life movement," said Carol Tobias, the current president of National Right to Life, as it is now called. "Jack's generous heart and wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed. He and Barbara devoted their lives to the right-to-life movement, and we will be forever in their debt," Tobias said in a statement. Born April 5, 1925, in Maria Stein, Ohio, Willke was a son and grandson of doctors. He earned his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1948 and was a family practitioner in Ohio for much of his medical career, from 1950 to 1988. He also was on the senior attending staff of Providence and Good Samaritan hospitals. In the early 1970s, Willke and his late wife, Barbara, co-founded Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati.

Up to 100 Christians abducted in Islamic State offensive in Syria

DOHUK, Iraq (CNS) -- Dozens of Assyrian Christians were abducted by Islamic State forces during a new offensive against a string of villages in northeastern Syria, aid and civil rights organizations reported. The exact number of people being held was unknown, but Father Emanuel Youkhana, who heads the Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq, CAPNI, said that more than 100 residents had been captured during the assault, which began in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 23. "Knowing the brutal barbaric record of IS with the captured, the destiny of those families is a major concern to us," Father Youkhana said in a Feb. 24 email. The priest said at least two villages -- Tal Shamiran and Tal Hermiz -- remained surrounded by Islamic State forces overnight. It was not immediately clear what the militants would do with the abductees. The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need reported that thousands of people fled the villages nestled along the Khabur River and were able to reach the largely Kurdish-controlled city of Hassakeh, Syria, to the east. Bishop Aprim Nathaniel of the Assyrian Church of the East reported that a local church and community hall were overloaded with people who fled the villages.

During Lent, pope offers handy tips for preparing to go to confession

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As Catholics are encouraged to make going to confession a significant part of their lives during Lent, Pope Francis offered some quick tips to help people prepare for the sacrament of penance.

After a brief explanation of why people should go to confession -- "because we are all sinners" -- the pope listed 30 key questions to reflect on as part of making an examination of conscience and being able to "confess well."

The guide is part of a 28-page booklet in Italian released by the Vatican publishing house. Pope Francis had 50,000 free copies distributed to people attending his Angelus address Feb. 22, the first Sunday of Lent.

Titled "Safeguard your heart," the booklet is meant to help the faithful become "courageous" and prepared to battle against evil and choose the good.

The booklet contains quick introductions to Catholic basics: it has the text of the Creed, a list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.

It explains the seven sacraments and includes Pope Francis' explanation of "lectio divina," a prayerful way of reading Scripture in order to better hear "what the Lord wants to tell us in his word and to let us be transformed by his Spirit."

The booklet's title is based on a line from one of the pope's morning Mass homilies in which he said Christians need to guard and protect their hearts, "just as you protect your home -- with a lock."

"How often do bad thoughts, bad intentions, jealousy, envy enter?" he



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis hears confession from a man during a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in March 2014. This week he offered tips to help people prepare for sacrament of penance.

asked. "Who opened the door? How did those things get in?"

The Oct. 10, 2014, homily, which is excerpted in the booklet, said the best way to guard one's heart is with the daily practice of an "examination of conscience," in which one quietly reviews what bad things one has done and what good things one has failed to do for God, one's neighbor and oneself.

The questions include:

- Do I only turn to God when I'm in need?
- Do I take attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?
- Do I begin and end the day with prayer?
- Am I embarrassed to show that I am a Christian?
- Do I rebel against God's plan?
- Am I envious, hot-tempered, biased?
- Am I honest and fair with everyone or do I fuel the "throwaway culture"?
- In my marital and family relations, do I uphold morality as taught in the Gospels?
- Do I honor and respect my parents?
- Have I refused newly

conceived life? Have I snuffed out the gift of life? Have I helped do so?

- Do I respect the environment?
 - Am I part worldly and part believer?
 - Do I overdo it with eating, drinking, smoking and amusements?
 - Am I overly concerned about my physical well-being, my possessions?
 - How do I use my time? Am I lazy?
 - Do I want to be served?
 - Do I dream of revenge, hold grudges?
 - Am I meek, humble and a builder of peace?
- Catholics should go to confession, the pope said, because everyone needs forgiveness for their sins, for the ways "we think and act contrary to the Gospel."
- "Whoever says he is without sin is a liar or is blind," he wrote.
- Confession is meant to be a sincere moment of conversion, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God's willingness to forgive his children and to help them back on the path of following Jesus, Pope Francis wrote.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The place for righteous anger this Lent

Our readings for this Sunday are heavy with righteous anger calling us to justice.

In the first reading, we have Moses coming down the mountain bearing the ten commandments of a new covenant. They had been fused in fire and smoke on two stone tablets.

As you recall, Moses broke those tablets in his anger when he found the people worshipping a golden calf! Only when he had "cooled down" and the people had repented, did he make two more tablets, writing down God's words from memory.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The first three commandments told the people that there is only one God, and Him alone should they worship every seventh day.

If they were faithful to God, then the other seven commandments, commanding right relationships with their neighbor, would be easy.

Notice how direct and plain is God's language. Sin is contrasted in stark language with the righteousness and respect God expects.

Just as Moses had displayed righteous anger because of the people's

injustice, so we witness the righteous anger of Jesus toward their lack of respect for His Father's house.

What a scene he creates, overturning tables, driving people and animals helter-skelter in all directions!

Once he has "cleaned house", He himself takes possession of the temple, and begins to teach the people. Of course, the Pharisees object at once, demanding a sign that he has authority to do these things. What a sign he gave! "Destroy this temple (meaning His Body), and I will rebuild it in three days".

Only when he broke through the rock of his tomb on Easter Sunday, did even his apostles under-

MARCH 8

Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

stand what he meant.

There is a place for "righteous anger" in this year's Lenten journey.

The U.S. Bishops, university presidents, many Catholic groups have recently spoken to our Congress on their shameful neglect in failing to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

In their letter, they stated:

"Our nation's inhumane and flawed immigration policies leave migrant women, children, and families abandoned by the side of the road." Inaction, they said, "will only lead to further hardship, suffering, and death"

Where do we stand in our efforts to speak, write, and pray for speedy action on behalf of separated families, children longing to be united with their parents, and those seeking to become loyal citizens of our great democracy. Church leaders are often far ahead of the indifference, inaction, and even prejudice of the membership.

God calls us all to His justice during this Lent.

OUR READERS WRITE

About Fr. McBrien

In the Feb 18th NCC, 'Father Bill Sall's lifts up Richard McBrien as a "very special theologian," in that he had "a profound effect on my life and my priesthood" and "made the 2nd Vatican Council more understandable to me."

It is good to know that McBrien had such a profound effect on Fr. Bill's life, but many less studied Catholics were drawn down the road of dissension.

I feel it only appropriate that those interested in his theology, first be well-formed in the true teachings of the Catholic Church, as revealed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

And just doing a basic Google Search, I discovered some of the heterodox positions of Fr McBrien:

- advocated the ordination of women priests, an end to mandatory celibacy for

priests, moral approval of artificial birth control.

- "McBrien has terrible ideas," Ralph McNerny bluntly said in 1990. The late McNerny was a renowned philosopher and author of the "Father Dowling" mystery series, as well as a stern critic of what he once called the "pell-mell pursuit of warm and fuzzy Catholicism" he associated with McBrien.

- In addition to celebrity, his book "Catholicism" brought McBrien controversy.

In 1985, the Committee on Doctrine of the U.S. Bishops' Conference objected that the book's "presentation is not supportive of the church's authoritative teaching" on certain matters, especially contraception and the ordination of women, treatment of Jesus and sin, the virgin birth, Mary's perpetual virginity,

the fatherhood of God and papal infallibility. The bishops discouraged the use of "Catholicism" in undergraduate theology courses and in parish formation programs. Today, the Catechism of the Catholic Church provides theology for seminarians.

- McBrien's questioning the Church's teaching on abortion has even caused 2 pro-life organizations to call for his excommunication.

Let us each say a prayer for the soul of Fr Richard McBrien.

IN CHRIST'S SERVICE,
CHRIS LAROSE
POTSDAM

Letters to the Editor

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

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- 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



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Kevin Costner stars in a scene from the movie "McFarland."

McFARLAND, USA

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Kevin Costner turns in a restrained yet compelling performance as the central figure in the fact-based sports drama "McFarland, USA" (Disney).

As for the story unfolding around him, faith- and family-friendly values - together with the absence of any genuinely problematic elements for parents - make director Niki Caro's uplifting tale one that can be enthusiastically recommended for moviegoers of almost all ages.

Costner plays Jim White, a high school science teacher and coach in 1980s California whose sharp temper places him on a downward career spiral.

Jim, wife Cheryl (Maria Bello) and daughters Julie (Morgan Saylor) and Jamie (Elsie Fisher) seem to have hit rock bottom when the best job he can find forces them to relocate to the impoverished, predominantly Latino fieldworkers' community of the title.

As the Whites - whose name now takes on an ironic significance - struggle to adjust to McFarland's Hispanic culture, Jim recognizes a widespread gift among his new students for long-distance running.

Toughened by backbreaking agricultural work and constrained to cover extensive distances on foot, lads

like Thomas Valles (Carlos Pratts) glide swiftly across the landscape without giving their speed a second thought.

Jim decides to draw on this pool of latent talent by organizing a cross-country team. Since this genre of racing is considered an elite sport for country club-types, Jim and his charges will have to compete against the privileged athletes who attend the Sunshine State's private academies.

But Jim is convinced that, with the requisite effort, his hearty proteges can prevail.

Caro's saga of youthful underdogs pitted against the odds honors Jim and Cheryl's strong marriage, along with the bonds uniting the other close-knit clans it portrays.

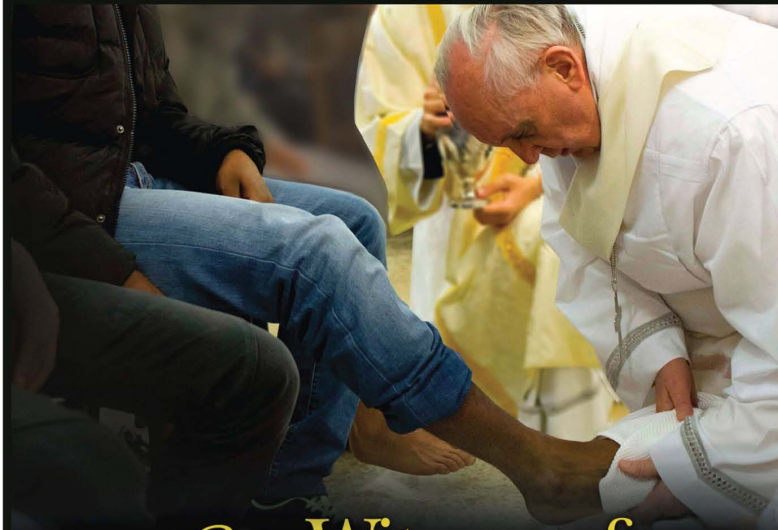
The script also highlights the value of education and self-improvement.

Though religion mostly hovers in the background, a spontaneous, intense and identifiably Catholic prayer of thanksgiving marks one of the movie's emotional high-water marks.

The film contains an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a couple of crass terms and occasional ethnic slurs.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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**COLLECTION WEEKEND:
MARCH 14 & 15**

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, SSJ
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-bethssj@gmail.com by March 11.

FASHION SHOW

Chazy – Join us for our "Spring into Fashion" Fashion Show.
Date: March 15
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Cost: \$5
Features: Fashions and accessories by Christopher and Banks and C.J. Banks. Refreshments and door prize, as well as discount coupons for attendees.

SCHOOL OF HEALING

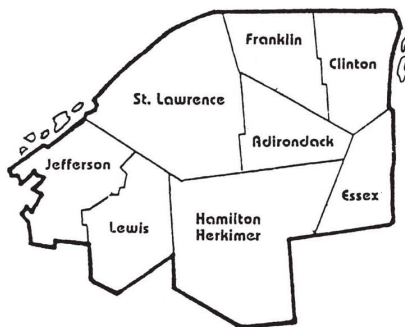
Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will have a special prayer training class.
Date: April 9-12
Cost: \$35 non-refundable fee due March 22
Features: The course includes Introduction to the Foundations of Healing, History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and 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



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.

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

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.

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,

EUCARISTIC 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: St. Elizabeth's 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/ 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

LENTEN RETREAT

Adams – "Back to Basics" Lenten Retreat to be held.
Date: March 23-26
Time: 6:30 p.m. (Mass at 5:30 p.m. Tues-

day and Thursday.)

Place: St. Cecilia's Church
Speaker: Fr. Martin Cline, pastor of St. Cecilia/Queen of Heaven
Schedule: Mon, Evening Prayers with Renewal of Baptismal Promises. REFLECTION: "Baptism for Me Today"; Tues, Eucharistic Adoration. REFLECTION: "My Confirmation All These Years Later"; Wed, Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders, Prayer for Renewal and Increase of Vocations. REFLECTION: "Ones Vocation"; Thurs, Prayer with Stations of the Cross. REFLECTION: "What Does it Mean To Be Catholic?"

DAY OF RETREAT

Watertown – A day of retreat has been planned.
Date: March 29
Time: 11 a.m. to 4:30
Place: SSJ Motherhouse
Features: The retreat day – "Lenten Journey" will focus on deepening our friendship with the Lord by exploring different ways of praying. Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, will be the presenter.
Cost: Suggested offering - \$25.
Contact: To register, call: 315-212-6592 or email: srbethssj@gmail.com by March 25

ABOUT THE CAMINO

Sackets Harbor – Father Kevin O' Brien will give a presentation about his September 2014 pilgrimage walk on the Camino de Santiago.
Date: March 21
Time: 10:30-1:30, lunch included
Place: St. Andrew Catholic Church Parish Center, corner of East Main @Woolsey
Contact: Anne Thomas 315-646-3687.

IHC OPEN HOUSES

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School to hold open houses for new and prospective families.
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.

IHC REGISTRATION

Watertown – Registration for new and returning students in grades 1-6 set
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

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2015			
Date	Place	Time	
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



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

How can you help the Missions today?

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

How Can You Help the Missions TODAY?

- Pray daily for the Church's missionary work: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, St. Francis Xavier, pray for us. * St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, pray for us.
- Offer your personal sacrifice - your pain, your loneliness, your anxiety, your sickness or sadness - in union with the sufferings of the crucified Christ for the redemption of the world.
- Give generously on World Mission Sunday each year. World Mission Sunday is always the next-to-last Sunday of October. This is a collection in your parish.
- Encourage mission vocations through the Society of St. Peter Apostle through donations that support the education of a mission priests or to support the education for male or female Religious novices.
- Remember the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Missionary Childhood Association or Society of St. Peter Apostle when writing or changing your Will.
- Offer regular help through MISSION magazine or through mail or parish appeals to your Pontifical Mission Societies Diocesan Director.
- Encourage your school or parish to participate in the Missionary Childhood Association and use MCA's mission education materials. Education begins with the children.
- Educate yourself through various resources like the website for the Pontifical Mission Societies. The address is www.onefamilyinmission.org. The website is rich with news, ideas, stories from afar and suggestions of ways you can help and where your dollars go.
- Lastly, read the *North Country Catholic* Mission Column each week. The column is a way for the Mission Office staff to reach out to the Diocesan community, our donors, and our Missionaries.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

GO GREEN!

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OBITUARIES

Altona – Howard B. Pecor, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2015 at Holy Angel's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

AuSable Fork – Eslie G. Snow, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

Cadyville – Thomas E. "Poppa" O'Connell, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2015 at St. James Church.

Cape Vincent – Gregory P. Wiley, 32; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2015 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in Rosiere Cemetery.

Champlain – Barbara A. (Cooke) Wilkins, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chateaugay – James B. Humiston, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at the Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Clayton – Helen E. (Slate) Goodfriend, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at the T.R. Jetty Funeral Home; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Wellesley Island.

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

Constable – Mary Patricia Rogers, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2015 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Trout River.

Fort Covington – Joseph A. Gardner, 61; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Carville Cemetery, Helena.

Gouverneur – Darya A. (Chateau) Cummings, 75; Memorial Services Feb. 28, 2015 at the Green Funeral Home.

Lake Placid – Patricia Capossela Rand, 59; Funeral Services March 3, 2015 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid – Sheila Jean (Morrison)

Wasson, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2015 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Malone – Richard Francis "Bucky" Walter; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2015 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Massena – Erwin J. Gardner, 97; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

Massena – Daniel A. Granger, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2015 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Fleurette (Ferland) Guerard, 97; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Gerald M. "Jerry" Lapointe, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

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

Moors Forks – Douglas T. Anderson, 22; Funeral Services March 1, 2015 at the Brown Funeral Home.

Norfolk – Theresa E. "Mema" (Bruso) Aldridge, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2015 at Church of the Visitation.

Ogdensburg – Gladys (Sharrow) Gedbaw, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Arlie Mary "Maria" Gorman, 74; Funeral Services March 7, 2015 at St. Joseph's Nursing Home Chapel; burial in St. Lawrence Union Cemetery, Clayton.

Ogdensburg – John Alfred Lacombe, 97; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Michael L. Paradis, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Leonard H. Sargent, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Michele A. (Chauvin) Ribis, 56; Funeral Services at Feb. 28, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Kyle E. Kirby, 23; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2015 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Christine (Ujvari) Livsey, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Rosemary Z. (Taylor) Misi-aszek, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Ralph R. Gilpin, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Grace Agnes (Martin) Taylor, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2015 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish cemetery.

Watertown – Michael W. Higgins, 54; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – M. Alice (McConnell) Kegins, 98; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2015 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.



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Love - for pancakes - was in the air!

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

WELLS - Love was in the air...love for pancakes that is, as a steady stream of blueberry pancakes came out of the kitchen at St. Ann's Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast held Feb. 14.

The breakfast featured plain or blueberry pancakes, sausages, orange juice and coffee and about 100 adults and children enjoyed the hearty breakfast.

Along with the meal, folks had a chance to try their luck at a 50/50 raffle or buy tickets for the "Heavenly Comfort" Afghan and Prayer Shawl raffle, whose winner will be drawn at the end of May.

At the end of the breakfast, a young man was asked to pick a ticket out for the 50/50 and who should be the winner, but Father Sony Pulickal, the pastor.

Ronnie Royal, made the announcement at the end of Sunday Mass and everyone had a good laugh, including Father Sony, who donated the money back to the Altar and Rosary Society, sponsors of the breakfast.

Father Sony remarked that it was good that the Altar & Rosary Society had been successful in raising some funds for their outreach programs, but even better, he said, was that the breakfast made so many people happy as they came together as a community to eat.



The Lauria family - Vincent, Vinnie, Rachel and baby Anthony - enjoy pancakes at the Valentine's Day pancake breakfast at St. Ann's Parish in Wells.

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: March 7
Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown - The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.

Date: March 26
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

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)

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. **Contact:** For more info on Mercy Sunday, call

Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.the-divinemercy.org

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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Harrisville - St. Patrick's Day dinner to be held.

Date: March 21
Time: 4 p.m. to 6
Place: St. Francis Solanus Church
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: Baked Ham, take-outs after 4, "Fraser Family and Friends" will be there to entertain with Irish music!

LENTE EUCCHARISTIC 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.

ST. LAWRENCE

ACIES CEREMONY

Ogdensburg - The Annual Acies Ceremony for Legion of Mary members, auxiliary members and interested parishioners, will be held.

Date: March 22
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Deacon Winter Chapel of St. Mary's Cathedral.

Features: Father Scott Belina will lead the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and deliver the homily. The ceremony consists of an individual Consecration and a Collective Consecration to Mary. Active members will renew their Consecration to Mary.

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
Take-outs available
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18;

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Massena - First Saturday devotion to be held.

Date: March 7
Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church
Features: The First Saturday Rosary will be prayed with meditations on the Sorrowsful Mysteries. Confessions begin at 2:45 and the Saturday Mass Vigil begins at 4 p.m.

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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!