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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 41

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 1, 2015

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

At the March 26 Chrism Mass, Bishop Terry R. LaValley stirs the sacred chrism which is oil scented with the fragrance of balsam and used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders as well as for the rites of dedication of a church and consecration of an altar. Bishop LaValley's homily for the Mass, along with more photos is on page 3.

EASTER BLESSINGS

From Bishop LaValley

It's ten degrees outside as I write this reflection! It's been a winter of record setting cold and abundant snow. The experience of being chilled to the bone, battling icy roads and walkways, and having to repair frozen, busted pipes has been all too common. "Easter can't come soon enough!" is a sentiment most of us share.

I wonder if somewhat similar thoughts were going through the minds of Jesus' followers as they faced the cold reality of His passion and death. Were brighter days ever going to return? They, too, probably wondered when this bad stretch on the road of life would be over. It appeared to have ended in a garden where a large rock prevented any light of hope for tomorrow to shine.

Then Mary of Magdala approaches that garden on the first day of the week after Jesus' crucifixion. (*John 20:1-18*) The stone is rolled back and she encounters a Gardener who somehow knows her name and who insists the story is not over. The stone was not immovable. She had seen the Lord! He is alive. Go out and tell the good news, He insisted. In a single moment, the downcast friend becomes the enthusiastic announcer of the Resurrection to others. Her faith is renewed, hope restored and love rekindled.

That is the difference the Risen Lord can make in each of our lives. To find one's home in Christ is to "Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, and Discover Love." Last Easter, we prayerfully set out on a journey to strengthen the Family of Faith here in the North Country. Our journey focuses on three priorities and six goals that will: *Create a Culture of Vocations, Strengthen Faith Formation in Family Life, and Build Parishes with Living Stones.* This Easter that journey continues with each of us, like Mary Magdalen, called by name to announce to others the presence of the Risen Lord here in the North Country.

Last December, when I was visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem I learned that on Easter a lighted candle is passed through a small opening in the tomb casting new light onto a darkened world. At our Baptism, we were called children of the light and given the instruction "to keep the flame of faith alive" in our hearts.

Let us heed the invitation to turn around and to discover anew the Risen Lord. As we tend to our relationship with Jesus, we bring the light of His love into our families and communities. May the light of Christ dispel the darkness of the night! What joy it brings! A very blessed and happy Easter to you and your families!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Moving forward as a family of faith

If last year's Chrism Mass marked a turning point in the direction of the diocese with the proclamation of the diocesan pastoral vision, this year's Mass was certainly an affirmation of the steps taken over the past twelve months.

St. Mary's Cathedral was filled on Thursday morning... with priests, Catholic school children, religious and hundreds of Catholics from every part of the North Country.

It was a wonderful family reunion of people who truly care about the future of our church and recognize that a healthy future is in each of

our hands.

Bishop LaValley acknowledged that while members of the various committees have undertaken specific tasks to address the goals and priorities of the diocese the rest of us have roles to play as well.



Mary Lou
Kilian

He included eight suggestions in his homily (printed on page 3) How about if we suggest eight more:

- If you're in high school, today's a perfect day to sign up for the diocesan Youth Rally, April 24-25 in Plattsburgh at www.rcdony.org/youth.
- It's also time to register for

a week of summer camp at Guggenheim. Once again, Kelly Donnelly will be serving as camp director so we know that the weeks will be packed with fun, faith-growing activities.

- Another amazing camp experience will take place June 28-July 4 at Wadhams Hall when Catholic Heart Work Camp comes to Ogdensburg. Visit www.heartworkcamp.com.
- Families have a new opportunity this year: a family pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont. See page 6 for more details
- Many Catholics in the diocese have been reading Sherry Weddell's book "Forming Intentional Disciples." A May 30 workshop in Potsdam will certainly offer many great ideas.

See www.rcdony.org/fid for more information.

• Once again, Wadhams Hall is sponsoring a summer directed retreat. Email inquiry@wadhams.edu for information.

• If you're able to venture a bit beyond our diocesan borders, a New Evangelization Summit with eight speakers including Dr. Scott Hahn and Dr. Ralph Martin will be held April 24-25 in Ottawa. Information is at newevangelization.ca.

• And, traveling a little further could bring you to Philadelphia in September to participate in the World Meeting of Families and to join Pope Francis at Mass.

Take your pick. You can't make a wrong choice!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

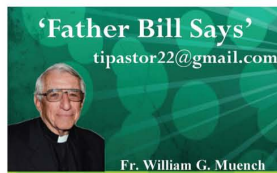
We've made it to the holiest of weeks!

We made it! All the way through Lent! So, how did you do? Are you a better person?

So, we have arrived at another Holy Week, the holiest week of the year. Each year during Holy Week, we journey with Jesus as we celebrate his Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. We celebrate our salvation. Jesus came to bring us God's love and saves us. It will be a painful challenge for him: he will suffer and die for us. Holy Week for us is a special time set aside to celebrate who we are. We are saved and loved. Jesus suffered for this, giving his very life. We mourn the sufferings of Jesus and his inability to teach all those he wanted to reach.

Now – all these years later – we celebrate for we are a loved people, a saved people. God cares about us. Jesus died to demonstrate the Father's great love for us.

So, you and I, modern day Christians, celebrate Holy Week. We recognize that we are saved. At the Second Vatican Council, the Bishops devised new liturgies for the Sacred Triduum so that we can celebrate these sacred events of our salvation with joy and



understanding.

On Holy Thursday, each priest celebrates his priesthood as he celebrates the Blessed Eucharist, a journey in spirit with those, original apostles, at the Last Supper. The most dramatic thing that happened at that original Last Supper was when Jesus washed the feet of his apostles.

In those days, as an act of hospitality, when you arrived at a home for a visit a servant came out to wash your feet. This was a desert country so people walked barefoot. On that special Holy Thursday, Jesus steps forward to take on the servant's task and washes the apostles' feet. Then he tells the apostles: "Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet – I who am Teacher and Lord –

then you must wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give you an example, as I have done, so you must do."

It does matter a great deal to each pastor today to bend down and wash a few parishioner's feet. It says a great deal: "I want to serve as Jesus did." The Holy Thursday Mass closes with a procession. A procession is simply a walk, a journey with the Lord. On Holy Thursday, this procession is a way of honoring the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist. Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist as the Last Supper with the apostles. Bread and wine – consecrated and blest – now the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The procession reminds us that as we carry the Blessed Eucharist around the Church so we must carry this presence of the Lord into our world. Now sacramentally united to each one of us we truly are the Body of Christ with a message for the world.

Following the procession, the people are invited to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Eucharist, praying in the presence of our God. Consider that for thousands of

years since the Last Supper and now this powerful sacrament has given meaning and power to the people of God.

On Good Friday, each pastor carries a cross into the service then he leads the faithful to come forward to venerate this cross of Jesus. From the very beginning of our priesthood, the cross of Christ has been our constant companion.

It is truly fitting then during Holy Week that I and all the priests honor and venerate the cross and seek the help and love of the Lord to help me carry my crosses.

Then at the Easter Vigil Mass, the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated in magnificent style with many Scripture readings to remind us who we are. We are the People of God.

One of the important parts of the Easter Vigil ceremony is the blessing of the Baptismal font and the Baptismal water. Then the Sacrament of Baptism is conferred on the catechumens, who have been preparing for Baptism during the past year.

The Easter Vigil is a magnificent ceremony – and each year as part of the vigil is the celebration of new life in the Sacrament of Baptism.

FOLLOW ME



PHOTOS BY BETTY STEELE

The priests of the diocese filled the front pews of St. Mary's Cathedral for the March 26 Chrism Mass. During the liturgy, Bishop LaValley led the priests in a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service.



Bishop LaValley breathes over the vessel of chrism oil, a gesture which symbolizes the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil.

At the Chrism Mass

Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the 2015 diocesan Chrism Mass held March 26 at St. Mary's Cathedral

The mission of the Church is the same for every generation, but her pastoral priorities have to be continually rethought in relation to the actual condition of the world in which we live. Such a reflecting process has been taking place here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, in a very focused manner, over the past couple of years through our Envisioning Process. As you know, I proclaimed our Diocesan Priorities and Goals to a packed Cathedral at last year's Chrism Mass. Since that time, so many of the faithful from across our diocese have stepped forward and are working diligently to facilitate the accomplishment of the goals that have been set for all of our parishes, in light of our local Church's priorities for the next five years. I am most grateful.

I believe that we have introduced a new corporate consciousness for the Church of the North Coun-

try that will fire up and unite even more closely our laity, our consecrated religious, and our clergy. St. Timothy urged his readers to "fan into flame the gift God has given us." This has meant that we are being called to re-form ourselves by incorporating the realities that are staring us in the face here in our Diocese. We will not grow by leaving things alone. So, we won't! We're fanning the flame! I think that St. Timothy would be proud of our mission focus!

We all have our part to play as members of the one family of faith. As I mentioned, many have already been asked to participate in our envisioning process as members of the several committees that have been working diligently so as to provide our parishes with all the background, resources, and assistance they will need to address our goals in our local communities. How can every person be a part of the Envisioning Process? I encourage you to consider some of these actions:

- Re-read my Pastoral Letter "Find Your Home in Christ."
- Pray daily for a keener

awareness of your call to be holy; pray for a strengthening of Faith Formation in Family Life; and pray for the Building of our Parishes with Living Stones.

- Volunteer when your pastor asks for assistance in implementing the goals in your parish, for instance, conducting the scheduled parish census.

- Seek daily the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother, our patroness, the Immaculate Conception, so that we keep focused on our Church's Priorities and on the attainment of the goals we have set.

- On Fridays or first Fridays of every month consider abstaining from meat as an expression of your solidarity in the mission of *Renewing Faith, Nurturing Hope and Discovering Love* in the Church of the North Country, a tangible sign of your trust in God's providence for us.

- Find opportunities to enflame your faith by reaching out to the vulnerable and hurting through participation in local food pantries, clothing stores, soup kitchens and other parish or community social outreach ministries.

- Avail yourself of every

opportunity to participate in adult faith formation classes offered in your parish.

- Spend time in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

With the proclamation of the Diocesan Vision last year, we have seen a new energy to recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ and to share the joy of our faith with our sisters and brothers.

We are indeed, hope-filled. No one should be denied hope: young people need hope; the elderly need hope; the hurting, the vulnerable and marginalized need hope; moms and dads, sisters and brothers, we all need reason to hope.

And, you know, it's no coincidence that our Scripture readings for this Chrism Mass are blatantly hope-filled. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus reads, during synagogue worship, that prophetic text from Isaiah, asserting that the hoped-for Messiah had been realized in Him.

Isaiah's vision was fulfilled in a way that far exceeded the prophet's profoundest hopes and wildest expectations. God's Spirit has been poured out upon Jesus in a unique way

to accomplish the divine plan that will affect the salvation of Israel and, indeed, all the nations. Talk about a reason for hope!

Hear again, from our first reading, how Isaiah spoke of this Messiah who would bring *glad* tidings to the lowly, heal the broken hearted, bring liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

He would announce a year of favor, a day of vindication. He would offer comfort to those who mourn, a diadem instead of ashes, anoint with the Oil of Gladness, offer a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit, bringing a lasting covenant.

And then the psalmist chants of forever singing the goodness of the Lord while the author of the Book of Revelation offers a hymn of praise to the One who has freed us from our sins by His Blood.

Then, again in our Gospel, Luke tells us that Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and, through the power of the Spirit, read of how the Anointed One was sent to bring: glad tidings to

CONTINUED ON NEXT

Chrism Mass

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed, proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord. Have more hope-filled words ever been voiced?

You see, where hope is absent, faith is suspect. Our hope is based on the Proclamation of this Good

News of Jesus Christ. As He rolled up the scroll, Jesus said: "this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your

hearing." We are hope-filled because we have seen and continue to see signs of grace in our Diocese.

We will not be intimidated or discouraged by those who abstain from God and who are indifferent to or even ridicule His Mystical Body. We will not be disheartened by those who are content with leaving things the way they have always been.

No, as Jesus rolled up the scroll, you and I roll up our

sleeves, extending our hands and hearts as we make our diocesan vision a reality for all to experience.

In the renewal of their priestly promises, my brother priests, who are sharers in Christ's own consecration, will renew their promise *to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, moved only by zeal for souls.*

My brothers, that pastoral zeal rests upon the hope you harbor deep within

your own heart. I pray that you find renewed vigor to engage and accompany your parishioners in our local Church's efforts to Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, and Discover Love by Finding our Home in Christ.

Our Church is so blessed, so indebted, so dependent on your deep faith and generous pastoral leadership.

The special blessings bestowed on the sacred oils this day will be soothing ointment and a source of

wisdom and strength for those who are anointed. The inward transformation that they signify will be powerful sources of grace for those anointed as our pastoral plan continues to unfold.

As the folks in Philadelphia make ready for the World Meeting of Families this fall, we echo their theme: Love Is Our Mission: This Diocese of Ogdensburg is a Faith Family Fully Alive--Yes-sir-ee!

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Cathedral music director hopes for diocesan choir

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer

OGDENSBURG - No voice or sound can be heard, yet St. Mary's Cathedral music director Christopher Gould is sending out a call across the North Country to those involved in music ministry.

It's an invitation to share their gifts by joining the choir for diocesan events.

To do so, Mr. Gould is not depending on his tenor voice. Rather, harnessing the power and draw of social media, the Ogdensburg native is using Facebook to bring the area's musicians together.

"Having helped with the music ministry for diocesan events in the past, I knew the call needed to be widened to the whole diocese because it's never been more than (those in) St. Lawrence County," he said.

"Social networking is so prevalent in society, I thought we should harness it," he said.

Newly hired in July 2014, the 25-year-old's goal for his position is to raise the level of musicianship at the cathedral and in the diocese by increasing the number of singers and instrumentalists.

"Each parish has its own individual music ministries, but when they come together at the cathedral, we are able to lift our voices in song and praise the Lord in unity. I find it so rewarding," Mr. Gould said.

The Crane School of Music graduate has invited music ministers to five events, the latest being the Chrism Mass March 26. The numbers of the choir have increased since his first diocesan event, September's Marriage Jubilee, he said.

Mr. Gould received his undergraduate degree in music education at Houghton College, a Christian liberal arts college in the Genesee Valley of southwestern New York.



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Christopher Gould, music director at St. Mary's Cathedral, plays the organ at the March 26 Chrism Mass. He has invited those involved in music ministry in parishes across the diocese to add their voices to diocesan events. Singers from Antwerp and Lake Placid were among those who joined him at this year's Chrism Mass.

He attributes the Catholic campus ministry, provided through the Diocese of Buffalo, with deepening his faith.

Upon graduating with his master's degree from Crane in 2012, Mr. Gould was first hired at the parishes of St. Agnes in Lake Placid, and St. Brendan in Keene, NY. When the cathedral position opened up he "felt compelled to throw my hat in the ring," he said.

"Although I had only spent two years in the Adirondacks, I felt led to apply for the diocesan job," said. "I'd been a cantor on and off for

eight years at the Cathedral, so it kind of felt like coming home," Mr. Gould said and called Notre Dame Church of Ogdensburg his home parish.

He credits his piano teacher, Rosemary Neal, former organist and choir director at Notre Dame, with inspiring him to become a music minister.

Information on upcoming diocesan events can be found at facebook.com/cathedralmusicians, or Mr. Gould can be contacted at 315-393-3930 or cgould@stmaryscathedral.net

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Diocesan Youth Rally

April 24

7:00 pm Concert

St. Alexander's, Morrisonville

April 25

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Youth Rally
Seton Academy, Plattsburgh



Keynote Speaker Jackie Francois Angel

For more information, visit rcodony.org/youth or call 315-393-2920 or 518-569-5711

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Diocesan Youth Rally to be held April 24-25

"Follow Me," the 2015 diocesan Youth Rally, will open April 24 with a concert at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville and close April 25 with a Mass at St. Peter's Church with Bishop Terry R. LaValley presiding.

Jackie Francois Angel, a speaker, singer/songwriter, and worship leader from Orange County, California, will perform at the 7 p.m. concert. She will also serve as keynote speaker and workshop leader for Saturday's program.

The doors of Seton Academy open April 25 at 8:30 a.m. for registration.

Prayers, announcements

and icebreakers will follow at St. Peter's Church.

Mrs. Angel will deliver her first address at 10 a.m., followed by a boys' workshop, then a girls' workshop and then a second address at 1:30, all at St. Peter's.

Mrs. Angel has been involved in youth ministry since she graduated high school, and she now travels the globe speaking to young people about God's love and leading worship for various events and ministries.

The afternoon schedule also includes a panel discussion, "Stories of journey following Jesus' footsteps," at Seton Academy, led by Sister

Rachel Daly and other newly professed Franciscan Sisters of Renewal.

Sister Rachel, a native of Peru and graduate of Seton Catholic, made her first profession with the order in the Bronx in September.

A question-answer session with Bishop LaValley will follow the panel discussion before the group moves to St. Peter's for the Mass.

The cost for the Youth Rally is \$30 which includes lunch, snack and a t-shirt. The cost for the concert is \$10.

Registration forms are available at www.rcdoy.org/youth.

Family pilgrimage July 18

All members of the diocesan family are invited to join a pilgrimage to Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte, VT, on July 18th. The event will celebrate faith and family at the beautiful lakeside shrine dedicated to St. Anne—mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and grandmother of Jesus.

Pilgrims are asked to arrive at the shrine at 11:00 A.M., and to bring their own lunches. A brief introduction will address the purpose of the pilgrimage; it will also familiarize pilgrims with the site, which saw its first Catholic chapel built in 1666. Following lunch and the outdoor Stations of the Cross, there will be time for families to walk the shrine grounds,

swim, and connect with one another.

The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before Mass, which will be celebrated at 4:00 P.M. by Father Doug Lucia, Diocesan Vicar for Family Life.

This event is sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Department, together with its offices of Pre Cana, Natural Family Planning, and Respect Life. The pilgrimage draws its inspiration from the theme of the upcoming World Meeting of Families: "Love is our Mission—The Family Fully Alive." The day is part of a larger initiative of prayer and support for the families of our diocese.

Pilgrims may make freewill donations to St. Anne's

Shrine. Those planning to attend, or those wishing further information, may contact the Family Life Office: startaglia@rcdony.org or at (315) 393-2920 Ext. 1420.

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, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY, 12923; e-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Bishop's Schedule

April 1 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 2 – Holy Thursday
9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 3 – Good Friday
9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
3 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 4 – Holy Saturday
9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
8 p.m., Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 5 – Easter Sunday
8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Environmental Stewardship

"I thirst." Jn. 19:38

On the cross Jesus said "I thirst." During his public life we often hear him using our thirst for water as a symbol of His thirst for us, and in turn our thirst for Him. To the Samaritan woman, he says "Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again." (Jn. 4:14).

Water also connects us to our sisters and brothers, for we will be judged by how we treat others, i.e. "I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink." Mt. 25:38
Of all the precious gifts given to us to steward, water is a basic right and has a preeminent place as it is essential for life. Stewardship of water is essential for justice and peace. Consideration of how the most vulnerable and voiceless will fare in a water-scarce world needs to be a concern for people of faith.

In his reflections on the celebration of WORLD WATER DAY (March 22) Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop Emeritus of San Angelo, board member of Catholic Rural Life, offers some practical ways to preserve and protect the gift of water in the manual: Water: Yours, Mine, Ours. It presents a three-part strategy for taking better care of water.

"First, CONSERVE IT, which means changing our Water Culture from one that takes and uses water for granted and freely wastes it, to a New Water Culture that considers it priceless. Conserving water, just like conserving energy, turns out to be the cheapest possible source of water or energy we could have. The water we don't use, but that is still available to us in the future, is free. The less we use, the longer the current supply and infrastructure will last." Consider taking a moment this week to be amazed at the gift of water and consider one new way of conserving it.

Rest in Peace

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

April 1 – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002
April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005
April 3 – Msgr. Philius Garand, 1942
April 4 – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984
April 5 – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992
April 6 – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965
April 7 – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

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Four diocesan priests make pilgrimage to Guatemala, El Salvador

In the footsteps of martyrs

By Father Andrew Amyot
Contributing writer

On January 12, 2015, Fathers Daniel Chapin, Patrick Mundy, Richard Sturtz and I from the Diocese of Ogdensburg journeyed to Guatemala and El Salvador to take part in a Maryknoll sponsored Pilgrimage Retreat. We were among the 14 priests and deacons from various dioceses of the U.S. to make the challenging journey.

Together with a team of Maryknoll priests and one brother, we would relive the heroic lives of men and women martyrs of the 20th century in Central America.

This eleven day spiritual journey, the 16th annual retreat/pilgrimage sponsored by Maryknoll has taken over 235 priests, deacons and one bishop to follow in the footsteps of the martyrs of Guatemala and El Salvador.

Keeping memories alive

This missionary program was inaugurated in order to keep alive the memory of many martyrs who gave their lives during this time of genocide. They were unwilling to leave their Mayan people to escape the killing fields that surrounded them.

The missionaries sought justice and the establishment of a culture of respect for human rights. These underprivileged and despised people were often deprived of their lands by the rich land owners who in turn paid them subsistence wages to plant and harvest the crops.

Mining and the building of hydroelectric plants robbed the people of whole villages of their productive lands with no compensation for their losses.

The church could not stand by and do nothing. Through their efforts, they



Father Andrew Amyot of Norfolk, Father Patrick Mundy, Plattsburgh; Father Richard Sturtz, Ogdensburg and Father Daniel Chapin, Croghan took part in a Maryknoll-sponsored pilgrimage retreat to Guatemala and El Salvador in January. Father Amyot writes about the experience in a two-part article that will conclude in the next issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

organized the people who began to legally fight back.

Because of the organized efforts of the people, the dictators of these two countries began to seek out and eliminate the leaders of this movement accusing them of being communists. The U.S. government would get involved training military squads and arming them with helicopters and modern armaments which were used to kill their own people and defuse the demands of the native Mayan population.

Catechists and priests were rounded up, tortured and killed. The bishops were alarmed that so many innocent lives were being lost. They appealed to the governments at home and in the U.S. to no avail.

After years of slaughter, peace efforts finally brought about the "end" of the killing.

The dictators of these two countries have never been brought to justice.

Pilgrimage begins

Our pilgrimage began with an evening orientation at the Maryknoll Center House in Guatemala City. The following day the group departed by bus to San Salvador where we had accommodations at a retreat house operated by the Sister of the Assumption. From there the bus would take the participants to the sites of the different martyrs.

On our first day in San Salvador, we made our way to the Divine Providence Hospital where Archbishop Oscar Romero resided. We visited the apartment where he lived and which is now a museum with some of his personal effects.

Among the items on display are the robes which he was wearing when he was shot on March 24, 1980 while celebrating Mass in the hospital chapel.

Nearby we visited the tomb of Father Alfonso Navarro, a close friend of Romeo. After the death of

this young priest and three other Jesuit priests, Archbishop Romero was prompted to speak out forcefully for justice and the need to honor the dignity of everyone especially the voiceless indigenous Mayan people and the poor.

The archbishop's Sunday homilies were broadcast throughout the country and beyond. We would later visit and pray at his tomb in the Cathedral.

Slain sisters, priests

Our next stop was the site where three American Sisters - Maryknollers Ita Ford and Maura Clark, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan - were slain in 1980.

Mass was celebrated in a chapel built on the site with Father Paul Schindler of the Diocese of Cleveland as celebrant and homilist.

He was among the first to respond to the news of the killing. Two of the sisters worked in his parish in

Puerto de La Libertad.

We next visited the Catholic University of Central America where six Jesuit priests were slain in 1989 together with their housekeeper and her teenage daughter.

Seven priests are buried in the university chapel, the seventh having been killed in a country parish outside of San Salvador.

The massacre of the Jesuit priests hastened the peace accord that would end the wholesale killings of many innocent people and the suffering of hundreds of thousands in El Salvador.

Present-day apostolate

We were privileged to visit a health clinic directed by a Maryknoll Sister, Mary Annel who in her capacity as a doctor helps many who live in this poverty stricken area and those infected with AIDS.

In the evening at the retreat house we had the pleasure of meeting with sisters, lay missionaries and priests who work in El Salvador and they described their present day apostolate.

We also heard talks from Msgr. Richardo Urioste, Retired Vicar General who served with Archbishop Romero and Gene Palumbo, a New York Times Bureau Chief who covered the martyrdoms and the war that raged on for so many years.

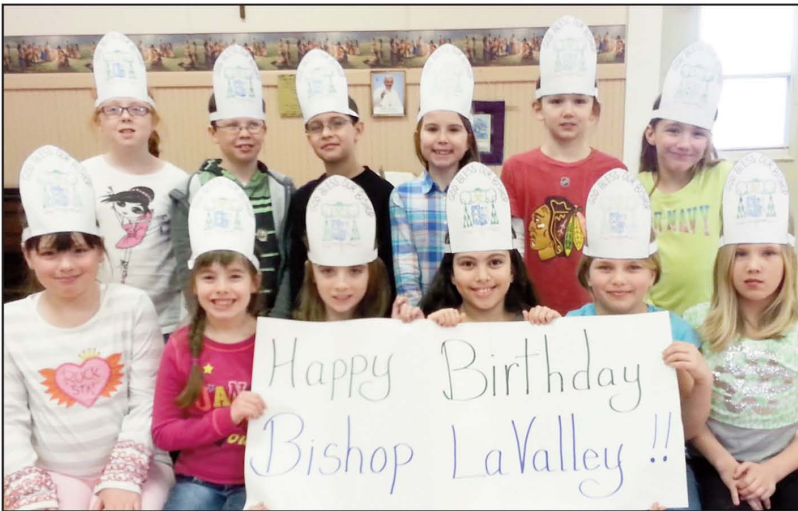
Part of the peace agreement in El Salvador was the construction of a Memory Wall (Monument of Memory and of the Truth).

This wall is a constant reminder of the atrocities that had taken place with the hope that this long war would never be repeated. 30,000 names are inscribed on black granite slabs. It is estimated that there may be as many more people still unaccounted for.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

HOLY WEEK.... HOLY CHILDREN OF GOD

FAITH OF CHILDREN



The Sacred Heart third grade religion class in Chazy has been learning about the sacraments, most recently, Holy Orders, as well as about vocations and service to the church. One of their many projects included making bishops miters with the crest of Bishop LaValley. They also wrote letters to the bishop thanking him for his service to Sacred Heart, as well as to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and wishing him a happy birthday March 26. Seated, from left, are Kaydence Rovers, Audrey Langlois, Julia Lynch, Sarah Folmann, Destiny Giddings and Cheyenne Giddings; standing, Samantha Gonyo-LaFountain, Avery Bochart, Evan Dwyer, Ava McAuliffe, Lexi Clark and Gabrielle Braun.



Third grader Gabe Collins led the students of St. Alphonsus Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake into the gym for their March 13 presentation of The Stations of The Cross.



Eighth graders at Holy Family School in Malone presented their 26th annual Passion Prayer March 27, featuring Kaden Barney as Jesus. The Lenten/Easter tradition began in 1989.



Nine-year-old Nicholas Wilson of St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams is shown with his parents Travis and Lisa Wilson and sisters Rylie, Olivia and Payton. Nicholas recently wrote a reflection about the way he sees God:

The Way I See God

My name is Nicholas Wilson. One of my friends does not believe in God..but I believe in God. I see God as a super hero. He made everything you can see. He also made you. He picks how you live your life. A good way to learn about God is to read the Bible. I see God as the king of everything. I see God as my best friend. God is greater than Superman, Batman and more. God is the best of them all!



PHOTO BY AMANDA MORGAN

Young people in grades six through 12 at St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams presented a shadow Stations of the Cross March 8.



Good

Friday

A Pontifical Collection

*Pope Francis asks
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Support Christians in the Holy Land

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or the work of the Holy Land Franciscans, visit:
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Protecting all God's creatures, respecting God's plan

Papal ecology

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Catholic Church supports the efforts of scientists to study the causes and effects of climate change and insists governments and businesses must get serious about specific commitments for protecting the environment.

Human ecology" was a phrase often used by retired Pope Benedict XVI, who was known for "green" initiatives, including installing solar panels at the Vatican

But Pope Francis, like his predecessors, does not pretend to have a technical solution to the problem. However, he does feel a responsibility to remind Christians of their religious obligation to safeguard creation, beginning with human beings who are created in the image and likeness of God.

Clearing his calendar for a week in late March, Pope Francis rolled up his sleeves to put the final touches on an encyclical letter about the environment; building on what he and his predecessors have said, the document - planned for publication early in the summer - is expected to present ecology as the ultimate pro-life, pro-poor, pro-family issue.

For Pope Francis, like Pope Benedict XVI, safeguarding creation is not simply about protecting plants and animals, or just about ensuring the air, water and land will support human life for generations to come. Those things are part of the task.

"We need to see - with the eyes of faith - the beauty of God's saving plan, the link between the natural environment and the dignity of the human person," Pope Francis wrote in a speech prepared



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

A woman and dog are seen amid garbage along a street in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb. 9. Pope Francis reminds Christians of their religious obligation to safeguard creation, beginning with human beings who are created in the image and likeness of God.

for young people in the Philippines in January.

Christianity teaches that God created the world and everything in it with a certain order and proclaimed it good. As stewards of God's creation, Pope Francis has said, people have an absolute obligation to respect the natural order.

Defending marriage as the lifelong union of a man and a woman, Pope Francis told a conference in November, "the crisis of the family has produced a human ecological crisis, for social environments, like natural environments, need protection."

"Human ecology" was a phrase often used by retired Pope Benedict XVI, who was known for "green" initiatives, including installing solar panels at the Vatican. He taught that "the book of nature is one and indivisible; it includes not only the environment but also individual, family and social ethics. Our duties toward the environment flow from our duties toward the person, considered both individually and in relation to others."

In his 2009 encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate," Pope

Benedict wrote that the church "must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone. She must above all protect mankind from self-destruction. There is need for what might be called a human ecology, correctly understood."

The "decisive issue," he wrote, "is the overall moral tenor of society. If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology."

Echoes of Pope Benedict's thought can be found in Pope Francis' frequent denunciations of the "throwaway culture." He sees people increasingly at ease throwing away not just plastic and paper, but wasting food at a time when so many people are starving.

Even more seriously, he has said, people have a similar "throwaway" attitude when it comes to people they don't find useful - including

the unborn, the sick and the elderly.

Meeting with U.N. officials in May 2014, Pope Francis insisted the defense of the family, the defense of the poor and protecting the environment are part of the same agenda of ensuring the survival and thriving of humanity.

The international community, he said, must address "the structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protecting the environment, ensure dignified and productive labor for all and provide appropriate protection for the family, which is an essential element in sustainable human and social development."

As often happens when things go wrong, Pope Francis has said, the poor pay the highest price for the destruction of the environment: the seas and rivers no longer provide fish; landslides send their makeshift homes tumbling down hillsides; the deserts expand, robbing sustenance farmers of even a meager diet.

Flying from Sri Lanka to the Philippines in January, Pope Francis told reporters

accompanying him that Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and a team from his office had prepared drafts of the ecology document.

During an early March visit to Ireland, Cardinal Turkson spoke about the principles underlying the pope's upcoming letter, insisting "this is not some narrow agenda for the greening of the church or the world. It is a vision of care and protection that embraces the human person and the human environment in all possible dimensions."

All people are called to be "protectors" of the environment and of one another, especially the poor, the cardinal said. The responsibility of care is both a matter of justice and a matter of faith; it is the natural result of being in a right relationship with God, with others and with the earth.

"When Pope Francis says that destroying the environment is a grave sin; when he says that it is not large families that cause poverty but an economic culture that puts money and profit ahead of people; when he says that we cannot save the environment without also addressing the profound injustices in the distribution of the goods of the earth; when he says that this is 'an economy that kills' -- he is not making some political comment about the relative merits of capitalism and communism," Cardinal Turkson said. "He is rather restating ancient biblical teaching."

At the heart of the "integral ecology" Pope Francis is calling for, he said, "is the call to dialogue and a new solidarity, a changing of human hearts in which the good of the human person, and not the pursuit of profit, is the key value that directs our search for the global, the universal common good."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope says prayers, not 'gossip,' needed for successful synod on family
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- No matter how weary, wounded or sinful a family has become, the church will always do everything to try to help family members heal, convert and reconcile with the Lord, Pope Francis said. The pope called on everyone to pray each day for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on the family and for the church so that it could be even more "dedicated and united in the witness of the truth of God's love and mercy for the families of the world, (with) no one excluded either inside or outside the flock." Prayers, "not gossip," are needed for the synod, and "I invite even those who feel distanced or those who aren't used to it to pray," he said at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square March 25.

St. John Paul's faith in young people 'beautiful,' says college student
PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) -- The moment before he helped carry a small vial of St. John Paul II's blood, Justin Waldron, 22, gently touched the relic in a moment of silent prayer. Catholics of all ages filled churches in Oregon to pray to God in the presence of the blood of one of the church's newest saints. Worshipers have asked for the intercession of St. John Paul, who had a special place in his heart for youths, families and older people. He established World Youth Day. "He is probably one of my favorite saints because he was so inspiring with the youth and he reached out to youth and taught them about God and taught them about the importance of their bodies," said Waldron, a senior engineering student at Washington State University's branch in Vancouver, Wash. He told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland, that the fact "a now-canonized saint was alive" during his own lifetime is "inspiring to see."

Cardinal: Pope 'tells it like it is,' is clear about church's message
NEW YORK (CNS) -- The church is transforming itself with Pope Francis leading the way by placing new emphasis on familiar tenets of the faith, according to one of his "classmates" from the February 2001 consistory of the College of Cardinals. "This Holy Father has been and will be faithful to the doctrine and teaching of the church," said Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington. "He says it clearly and I guess there are some people who don't like clarity.... He's not an obfuscator. He tells it like it is, because he wants people to hear it as it truly is." Cardinal McCarrick reflected on the first two years of this papacy March 19 at the American Bible Society headquarters in New York. "The phrase, 'What you see is what you get' is so true," he said. Yet, "it is so difficult to describe him. He's very simple, yet tremendously complex, a man of great depth and great ability, and enormous personal goodness," the cardinal said. Cardinal McCarrick said there is "a certain sense of self-definition" in the pope's words in the apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel": "My mission of being in the heart of the people is not just a part of my life or a badge I can take off; it is not an 'extra' or just another moment in life. Instead, it is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self. I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world." Pope Francis' focus on the chasm between the rich and the poor reflects his own deep concerns, as well as an often-repeated theme of the general congregation that directly preceded the pope's election in 2013, Cardinal McCarrick said.

'Golden thread' links Holy Year of Mercy and St. Faustina Kowalska

By Laura Ieraci
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The rector of a Rome sanctuary dedicated to Divine Mercy said he sees a "golden thread" connecting the upcoming Holy Year of Mercy and the message Jesus conveyed to St. Faustina Kowalska nearly 85 years ago.

Father Jozef Bart, rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, said the three most recent popes all "insisted on this message of mercy," starting with St. John Paul II, who canonized St. Faustina in 2000 and declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina was a Polish Sister of Our Lady of Mercy. She had visions of Jesus saying he would show mercy to those who prayed for it and shared it with others.

The Church of the Holy Spirit, just a block from St. Peter's Square, has a side chapel dedicated to Divine Mercy.

Father Bart, who was born in Poland but is a priest of the Diocese of Rome, said Pope Francis' Year of Mercy is the culmination of the church's official recognition of the message of Divine Mercy.

"It seems that heaven is in a great rush to come help this world that truly has many problems, that is sick and wounded," he said.

Pope Francis surprised Catholics March 13 by announcing the special Holy Year, which will begin Dec. 8, 2015, and end Nov. 20, 2016.

The biblical theme is "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

"Pope Francis does not simply want to dedicate a year to mercy or to call a

meeting of the bishops on mercy. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door so that it can be a year for mercy," he emphasized.

Pope Francis' Year of Mercy is the culmination of the Catholic Church's official recognition of the message of Divine Mercy.

God's mercy is for all of humanity - believers and nonbelievers alike - and Christians are called to bring this message to the world for all to receive, Father Bart insisted.

Reflecting on the challenge of bringing God's mercy to nonbelievers in a secular society, Father Bart described mercy as "a point of encounter with all peoples," particularly through what are traditionally called the corporal acts of mercy, such as tending to the sick, the hungry and the imprisoned.

Through these concrete actions, "I can reach all souls, whether they believe or not," he said.

In his frequent catecheses on mercy, Pope Francis seems to be "convincing us of the truth of mercy," said Father Bart. Fundamental to this pontificate is the call to "go out to the peripheries" to bring God's mercy to all people who suffer, he added.

Many people who have made mistakes in their lives "think there is no place for them in the heart of God," Father Bart said.

He attributed this to the human tendency "to erase from our hearts" those people who have been hurtful or who have made grave mistakes.

"But God will never do

that," he said.

He also spoke of the "great battle between good and evil today," and said human recourse to God's mercy is impeded by the devil, who wants to keep humanity enslaved by sin.

But God, through his mercy, grants people "new life" when they place themselves before him, even with all of their wrongdoing, mistakes, weaknesses and fragility, the priest said.

Father Bart acknowledged that the message of God's mercy is not new; it is the message of the Gospel. But the church's mission, at every point in history, is "to introduce humanity to God's mercy and to make this mercy known," he said.

And St. Faustina "shed new light and gave a particular vigor to the message of mercy preached by the church."

To live mercy is to have an open heart, to be compassionate and full of tenderness toward others, just as "Jesus ripped open his heart for us on the cross, before our hardness of heart," he explained.

A merciful heart is moved by the needs of others and springs to action to resolve their hardships, Father Bart said.

"We can speak about mercy day and night, but we have to do it," he said. "If behind our words there aren't concrete actions, then this is not the fullness of mercy."

He said its fullness can be achieved through proclamation, prayer and works. Though the most important aspect for the jubilee is prayer, he said.

"We must invoke God's mercy," he said. "We must ask that this mercy come, and that God will have mercy on us all."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Alleluia... Christ is risenalleluia

The Resurrection of Jesus from a tomb of solid rock is a pivotal event in world history. It's not a myth—it's a fact of history.

The tragic events that led up to it, were so understandable to the Apostles until his last torturous breath on Calvary's cross.

His closest friends and companions thought they knew all about him. Even though he had warned them of how it would all end, they had only half-listened.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

On Saturday night, as they had huddled in fear in that same place where Jesus had celebrated with them on Thursday, all they could think of was the soldiers coming to the garden had hustled him away.

They had run in the other direction, all except John who had stood firmly to the end at the foot of the cross.

And now, in the early hours before dawn, Mary Magdalene comes banging at the door with a

wild story of an empty tomb.

When Peter and John went to the tomb with her, only John really believed. Peter must have gone back to bed, until again some women reported seeing a "young man" at the tomb with news He was risen and gone to Galilee. It would take several personal appearances of Jesus to change his doubts to belief.

Today's first Easter reading is from the preaching of a changed Peter, now filled with the Holy Spirit, who tells a crowd that he has seen the risen Christ with his own eyes and eaten with

APRIL 5

Easter Sunday READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
Mark 16:1-7

him. He gives firm and unquestionable testimony to the central belief of Christian faith.

The second Easter reading is from St. Paul who, after being knocked from his horse and instructed by the risen Christ Himself, tells the Colossians what it's all about. And that we

must think of what's above, live as though already with Christ in glory.

An alternate reading for today tells us to be like fresh dough, made with new yeast, and ready to rise to new life.

Easter is not the end of the story of Jesus Christ - it's the beginning of His new life in His followers who have been baptized and anointed, with a transformed hope for the world whom Jesus redeemed by His blood.

Easter should "loosen up" our unwilling tongues to sing, and stir up our energy to live courageous lives of witness.

In the words of the Easter Sequence: "Christ indeed from death is arisen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia".

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TV REVIEW

A.D.: THE BIBLE CONTINUES

By Christopher Heffron
Catholic News Service

The opportunity to watch a biblical interpretation on the big or small screen can be a mixed blessing.

It's certainly something of a novelty, given the current television culture, to see the story of Jesus' earthly life - or its aftermath - unfold in a mass-media format. Yet audiences are at the mercy of the directors' vision of the New Testament - and of its leading personalities.

Franco Zeffirelli's sweeping 1977 miniseries "Jesus of Nazareth" artfully told the story of the Savior's birth, ministry, death and resurrection. But some critics at the time bemoaned its mostly lily-white roster of stars.

Director Mel Gibson's 2004 movie, "The Passion of the Christ," may have wooed audiences to the tune of \$600 million worldwide. Yet it was met with controversy over its harsh violence and what many considered the anti-Semitic lens through which Gibson focused on the events he recounted.

For most of the following decade, there was a lull in Scripture-related offerings -- and faith-hungry television viewers felt it.

Producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey have devoted the last few years of their careers to changing that.

With their production company, LightWorkers Media, they produced 2013's "The Bible," a 10-hour History Channel miniseries watched by over 13 million viewers, according to Nielsen. "Son of God," a feature film based on footage originally shot for the miniseries, was released to theaters a year later.

Now Burnett and Downey have given us the 12-week miniseries "A.D.: The Bible Continues," premiering on



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY ARENAS GROUP

Juan Pablo Di Pace portrays Jesus in the 12-week miniseries "A.D.: The Bible Continues," premiering on NBC Easter Sunday, April 5, 9-10 p.m. EDT.

NBC Easter Sunday, April 5, 9-10 p.m. EDT.

While the project will obviously be welcomed by audiences looking for faith-affirming television, the results are uneven.

"A.D." begins as Jesus (Juan Pablo Di Pace) is condemned to the cross by Pontius Pilate (scenery chews Vincent Regan). In the immediate wake of his death, the apostles, though united in mourning, are otherwise divided, aimless and scared. Relations between Jewish leaders and Roman officials are worsening by the day - a dynamic of mounting tension that the series captures well.

Much of the action in the first two episodes centers on Peter (Adam Levy), John (Babou Ceesay) and Simon the Zealot (Fraser Ayres) who are in hiding as they await Jesus' resurrection. Peter, struggling with doubts over his master's promised return, is also wrestling with the shame of

having denied him.

In these early moments, Levy is given the creative space to paint a portrait of a man crippled by despair and exhaustion, but clinging to shards of hope - and the actor never makes a false move.

The remaining apostles -- many of them portrayed by unknown players - realistically convey a kind of fight-or-flight panic.

Mary Magdalene (a powerful Chipo Chung) and Mary the mother of God (Greta Scacchi, who rises above her own miscasting) are unwavering in their faith in the Lord's promise.

And it's that subtle push-and-pull between the believers and the doubters that generates moments of truth and discovery.

But not all of the story lines are captured quite so well. Pilate, in a total departure from the Gospel figure, isn't a morally conflicted leader trying to keep the peace with the turbulent

masses. Instead he's a cartoonish, sepia-lit villain straight out of the "300" franchise.

Hampered by a lazy script, Regan, no slouch of an actor, is given little more to do in the series than oscillate between lethargy and rage. The latter is directed mostly at the high priest, Caiaphas (Richard Coyle), Jesus' primary antagonist.

Some of Pilate and Caiaphas' heated exchanges -- so overwrought they feel as though they've been lifted from an old episode of the 1980s nighttime soap "Dynasty" -- disrupt from the central narrative. A safe haven for viewers can be found with the remaining apostles.

Jesus' initial return is handled with admirable restraint. But when he departs again at the Ascension, the darkened skies open to a light show resembling an aurora borealis on steroids.

Such overdone special effects only complicate a sim-

ple story. Jesus came to redeem, after all, not to dazzle.

Indeed, it's precisely the least garish moments that are most effective: Mary Magdalene's almost wordless reunion with the risen Lord is simply stunning; Peter's inner battles are conveyed beautifully in Levy's pained face; and Ceesay's representation of John's quiet indignation provides some of the series' most memorable scenes. In these moments, "A.D." will truly resonate with audiences.

Burnett and Downey should be commended for presenting Christian audiences with spiritually rich programming. Even so, they would be wise to apply a less-is-more approach as the series progresses. Additionally, there are a handful of intense moments -- including the Crucifixion -- that might be too graphic for younger viewers.

The series, to its credit, encourages us to consider the sheer gravity of Jesus' sacrifice -- which is a powerful tool for Lenten reflection. Similarly, as the risen Jesus appeals to his brothers to go out into the world and risk death to share the Good News, viewers are likely to feel an inner spiritual urge to apply this missionary command to the circumstances of their own lives.

Burnett and Downey's project is, in sum, an admirable -- though flawed -- glimpse into fledgling Christianity as the first evangelizers bravely move forward, their hope renewed by the Resurrection.

The miniseries continues Sundays through June 21, 9-10 p.m. EDT each night.

Heffron is a guest reviewer for Catholic News Service. He writes about television and pop culture for St. Anthony Messenger magazine and Franciscan Media.

ADIRONDACK

RUMMAGE SALE

Lake Placid – Rummage sale to be held.

Date: April 25

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes School Gym

Features: Donations may be dropped off at school starting April 6

Contact: call at 523-3771 or email at info@stagneselementary.com

CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

Date: April 26

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

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3;

under 5, free

APOSTLES FOR LIFE PRAYER

Plattsburgh – The Annual Apostles for Life Prayer Service to be held.

Date: April 3 (Good Friday)

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: 66 Brinkerhoff St., near Planned Parenthood

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh – Divine Mercy Sunday to be observed.

Date: April 12

Schedule: Exposition begins at 12:15 p.m. in the Church; Sacrament of Reconciliation Chapel from: 1:15-2:15 p.m.; Video: Jesus, I Trust in You, Emmaus Room at 12:20 p.m.; Divine Mercy Chapel and Prayer Service at 2:30 p.m. and concludes with Benediction. There will be a Blessing of religious objects.

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

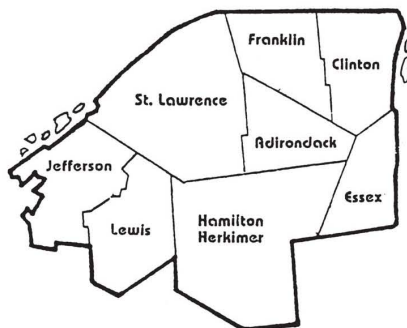
Features: Introduction to the Foundations of Healing, History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and practical experience prayer ministry Rooms available for overnight guests. Commuters welcomed.

Contact: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594.3253

SPRING BRUNCH

Altona – Holy Angels church to have an all you can eat buffet spring brunch.

Date: April 12



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children under 12, \$3

Features: Baked Virginia Ham, Pancakes and more. Bake sale and craft tables.

Call 236-5848 to reserve craft table.

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

RUN FOR THE ROSES GALA

Altona – Seton Academy will have their second annual gala.

Date: May 2

Time: 5 p.m. to Midnight

Place: Rainbow Banquet Hall

Cost: \$40 per adult, or \$300/table of 8

Features: To benefit Seton Academy and Seton Catholic. Dinner choices include roast beef, stuffed chicken breast, or vegetable stir fry. There will be

a cash bar and cake for dessert. Program will feature a "hat" walk if you care to show off your creative side. Sign up before April 16.

Contact: 518-825-7386 to sign up.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to begin First Saturday Devotion.

Date: May 9 – Nov. 2015

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Features: Fr. Jack Downs will preside at Mass. This devotion is for the reparation of sins committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and was instituted when Mary revealed herself to the children at Fatima. By meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary, we will prayerfully seek God's intervention for the many crises facing our world today.

Contact: RSVP for lunch to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

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,

FRANKLIN

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – Divine Mercy Sunday to be observed.

Date: April 12

Schedule: The 11a.m. Mass at Notre Dame Church (St. André's Parish), Malone, will open the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. From noon until 3 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard 1 p.m. to 2:50. At 3 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung and there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Contact: Fr. Joseph Giroux, at the St. André's Parish Office, (518) 483-1300.

HOLY FAMILY GALA

Malone – Holy Family School will be having a Gala.

Date: April 18

Time: Cocktails at 6 p.m., Dinner at 7 p.m., dancing following dinner.

Place: Holy Family School

Cost: Adults, \$75

Features: Dinner by Donovan's Steak and Ale. Environment by Fountains Enchanted Florist.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: April 30

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

WAY OF THE CROSS

Clayton – The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Mary's Parish to present "Way of the Cross".

Date: April 3

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: A dramatic multi-media presentation of the Passion and Death of the Lord. Through the use of special lighting, inspirational music, drama, and soul-searching meditations, it becomes a prayerful vehicle for the Lord's spirit to forgive, heal, and renew.

IHC OPEN HOUSES

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

Primary/intermediate schools: 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.

Jr./Sr. high school: April 21 at 6 p.m., May 20 at 6 p.m. July 15 at 6 p.m., Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.,

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 April 12 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & a procession. Bring images to be blessed

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

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.

NEW Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

Features: Liferight is incorporated as a pro-life educational organization. The office has a wide variety of videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

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

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Date: April 12

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: The film *Pope of Mercy*, will be shown in the church hall at 2 p.m. Reconciliation will begin at 2:30. At 3 p.m. The Divine Mercy Celebration will include: The Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Exposition, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, homily and Benediction.

Features: Rev. John Mikalajunas, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church of Utica, will be the Guest Celebrant. A cover dish reception will follow in the church hall.

Contact: 348-6260.



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

Easter Alleluias!

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

I am most grateful for your Lenten and Easter sacrifices which are such a blessing to the Church as it serves the poor of the Missions. Throughout the world, day after day, we find suffering of all kinds and the devastation wrought by natural disasters around the globe. The media reminds us daily of profound hunger, poverty, disease, war and violence. There is also the suffering that comes from not knowing of the great love of our Lord.

Yet, in the Mission Lands, local priests, Religious Sisters, Brothers and lay catechists reach out to the suffering in Jesus' name, offering them His love and His message of hope. They remind them that God does not abandon us, helping them to experience in their "Good Friday" world, the hope and joy of Easter Sunday.

Words of faith and hope like "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" are heard joyfully and prayed throughout the Easter Season. Our readers and supporters are the Alleluia hope for mission families, helping them to know the hope that comes only from the Lord Himself. Prayers and gifts for our brothers and sisters in Mission countries support the day-to-day work of bringing the love of Christ to the poor. I believe that time has shown us that the survival power of the poor proves that God is present in the midst of their struggles.

Thanks to you, Easter Alleluias will be sung by missionary catechists who are helping people to know the love of Christ through their service. People are being served in villages, schools, medical outposts, orphanages, refugee camps and crowded cities throughout Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and Latin America

Your gifts to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith accompany those who bring this Good News to the poor and suffering. In gratitude for your love of the missions, I will be remembering you in prayer during the Easter Season. I ask the risen Christ to bless you, your loved ones and our friends in the missions. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

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



OBITUARIES

Brushton - Benjamin Michael Andre, 23; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Burke - Frances (Wood) Flynn, 88; Funeral Services March 23, 2015 at St. George's Church.

Canton - Thomas M. Calnon, 85; Funeral Services March 26, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Canton - Tony Scalise, 97; Memorial Services June 19, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Churubusco - William G. Tavernia, 81; Funeral Services March 27, 2015 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery.

Deferiet - Randy D. Stevens, 54; Funeral Services March 27, 2015 at St. Rita's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

Harrisville - Lloyd V. Dashnaw, 81; Funeral Services March 27, 2015 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Gouverneur.

Lowville - Jane Nortz Lormore, 75; Funeral to be held at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Diane "Nin" (Dupraw) Cayea, 72; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Malone - Bernard J. Bannon Jr., 83; Funeral Services March 24, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone - Constance G. (Butzler) Bessette, 72; Funeral Services March 23, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena - Floyd DeShane, 89; Funeral Services March 28, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Morrisonville - Dames J. Phaneuf Jr., 86;



Funeral Services March 24, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church.

Norfolk - James F. Bond, 89; Funeral Services March 28, 2015 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood - Roger L. Betters, 62; Funeral Services March 30, 2015 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg - Thelma (Gagnon) Ewart, 95; Funeral Services March 23, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg - Paul L. Hanna, 75; Funeral Services March 26, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in the Kendrew Cemetery.

Ogdensburg - John H. Missert, Sr., 87; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg - Kathy M. (Woods) Moore, 59; Funeral Services March 28, 2015 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg - Edward Theodore Wicks, 74; Funeral Services March 21, 2015 at Notre Dame Church.

Plattsburgh - Grace E. (Franklin) Peryea, 87; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Port Henry - Wendy Jean (Sleeper) Genier, 57; Funeral Services March 23, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

Star Lake - Garry L. Newtown, 80; Funeral March 25, 2015 at French Funeral Home; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Watertown - Joanne (Viola) Maphey, 78; Funeral Services March 26, 2015 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Wellesley Island.

Watertown - Francine Parsons Moncalieri, 50; Funeral Services March 31, 2015 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Watertown - Thelma B. (Richardson) Oddi, 87; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown - Rita (Gay) Sutton, 84; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at Cleveland Funeral Home.

Watertown - Robert L. Wade, 72; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home.

West Chazy - George B. Gonyo, 88; Funeral March 23, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Willsboro - Richard T. Sheehan, 73; Funeral Services March 25, 2015 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.



Pilgrimage to Italy & Sicily

12 Days: November 9-20, 2015

Hosted by: **Fr. Andrew Amyot**

\$3479 from Montreal

(Air/land price is \$2969 plus \$510 government taxes/airline fuel surcharges)

TOUR INCLUDES:

Roundtrip airfare from Montreal, Government taxes/airline fuel surcharges of \$510, First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Comprehensive Sightseeing and much more!

Visit **Palermo, Agrigento, Siracusa, Taormina, Sorrento, Pompeii & Rome including Papal Audience**

For a brochure & more information contact
Fr. Andrew Amyot at: Tel: (315)384-2064
Email: fraamyot2@twcny.rr.com

SPACE IS LIMITED! CALL TODAY!!

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



Children in grades kindergarten through fourth who attend religious education classes at St. Alphonsus Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake led a presentation of The Stations of The Cross March 13. Pictured at left, kindergartners Gauge LaValley and Nolan Wilson lead the crowd in the Our Father. Father Doug Decker, pastor, invites the various grades to each tell The Way Of The Cross in a meaningful way to their age group. The



previous week, the 9th and 10th grade students were in charge and they chose to relate each Station to a situation relevant to a teenager's life. The high school students in photo at right, seated from left are, Katie Zurek, Angeleigha Giacovelli and Ben Casagrai; standing, Andrew Trudeau, Quinn Shaheen, Craig La Brake, Jackson Clement and Dante Giacovelli.

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Massena – Church of the Sacred Heart & St. Lawrence will be having a Divine Mercy Devotion.

Date: April 12

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: Reconciliation will be at 3:30 p.m. on April 11

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus Council 11544 will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: April 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Visitation Parish Center

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

Menu: Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, omelets, ham, sausage, home fries, toast, juice, coffee and tea.

CRAFT FAIR

Ogdensburg – St. Joseph's Home is holding its 1st Annual Mother's Day Craft Fair.

Date: May 9

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: E. A. Newell Golden Dome

Cost: \$3; Children under 12, Free

Contact: to be a vendor contact Sandy Porter at 394-0463; space is very limited.

TRINITY SCHOOL GALA

Massena – The first annual Trinity Catholic School Gala, April in Paris, has been planned

Date: April 18

Time: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Cost: \$60 per person

Features: Imagine a night on the town, in an elegant Parisian atmosphere, with fine wine, full bar, a five-course dinner, dancing and comedic entertainment. Tickets for this event are on sale now after Masses and in the school office.

Contact: www.TrinityCatholicSchool.net

DINNER AND THEATER SHOW

Brasher Falls – A dinner and theater show will be held.

Date: April 25

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus

Cost: \$30; Seniors (55), \$27. Must be paid by April 15

Features: "A Tomb with a View". There will be a cash bar. This will benefit the heating equipment fund.

Contact: Terry Grant 389-4116

PARISH CENSUS

The Ogdensburg parishes of St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church along with St. Raphael's, Heuvelton and Ss. Philip & James, Lisbon will be conducting a door-to-door census as part of the diocesan "Find Your Home in Christ" census initiative.

Dates: starting the week of April 13th and concluding the week of May 4th.

Features: Parish volunteers will be wearing identification tags. When they come to your door, please welcome them. Your kindness is appreciated.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

Ogdensburg – Catholic Heart Work Camp has announced that they are putting on a week of camp in Ogdensburg

Date: June 28 to July 4

Features: Groups of high school and college students and their chaperones from across the Northeast will be converging at Wadhams Hall to take part in 5 days of service, prayer, fellowship, and fun.

Contact: www.heartworkcamp.com for more information and to register your group.

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

Cost: \$450 which includes retreat, lodging, food and linens

Directors: Rev. Roger McGuinness, Rev. Douglas Lucia, Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Looby, GNSH, Sr. Marlene Butler, GNSH

Features: The directed retreat is offered in an atmosphere of silence, with for

real one-on-one meeting with a spiritual director, along with daily Mass.

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

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

Potsdam – Keith Strohm of the Catherine of Siena Institute will offer a one-day conference based on Sherry Weddell's book Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus.

Date: May 30

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4

Place: Potsdam Student Union Multi-purpose Room.

Features: The workshop focuses on the need to awaken the personal faith of laity so that they will become more capable of putting their gifts and talents to use in the parish. The workshop will be appropriate for commissioned lay ministers and Formation for Ministry candidates, parish and diocesan staff, deacons and deacon candidates, parishioners interested in deepening their own faith and becoming more active in Church ministry and parish life

Cost: \$40 per person (includes lunch).

Contact: Registration may be made through www.rcdony.org/fid or by contacting the Office of Evangelization at 315-393-2920, 1380.