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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 43

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 15, 2015

Children: 'the greatest blessing'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) --Children are never a "mistake" and no sacrifice is too great for an adult to make so that children can feel their worth, Pope Francis said.

During his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square April 8, the pope continued his series of talks about the family, dedicating a second

catechesis to children.

He described the great suffering and difficulties many children around the world experience as "a Passion."

Children are the greatest blessing God has bestowed upon men and women, he said. Yet, many children are "rejected, abandoned, robbed of their childhood

and of their future," the pope noted, adding that it is "shameful" when people say it is "a mistake" to bring a child into the world.

"Please, let's not unload our faults on children," he said. "Children are never 'a mistake.'"

The hunger, poverty, fragility and ignorance of

some children "are not mistakes" but "only reasons for us to love them even more, with more generosity," he said.

Pope Francis wondered aloud about the value of international declarations of human and children's rights if children are then punished for the mistakes of adults.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Diocesan census initiative



Final plans are being made in parishes across the diocese for the *Find Your Home in Christ* census initiative. In a letter about the process, Bishop LaValley said, "This census of every home in our parishes is crucial in addressing our diocesan priorities addressing vocations, family faith formation and pastoral planning. This newly acquired information will allow us to make good decisions about tomorrow. Neighbor to neighbor census taking is truly evangelization at work. Such visits will increase your faith and confirm your own love for the Church. It will energize your participation in the life of your parish." In addition to the bishop's letter, this week's *North Country Catholic* features updates on the census process in parishes across the diocese and a reflection about value of the census as a tool for evangelization. The diocesan census is one of the goals established in the Pastoral Vision promulgated in 2014.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 4-6

Bishop's Fund meets 2014-15 goal

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced April 14 that contributions from nearly 10,000 donors to the 2014-2015 Bishop's Fund Appeal have pushed the total cash received and pledges promised beyond the \$1,275,000 goal.

At this time, 96.80% of the goal has actually been received with \$67,495.60 in pledges yet to be fulfilled.

"Our donors understand the far reaching impact of the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal and respond so charitably," the bishop said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Climate Ambassador

Dr. Gerry Gaciuch to speak about "faith communities and climate"

April 19 at SSI motherhouse

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

EASTER FUN IN CHATEAUGAY



PHOTO SUPPLIED

On Easter Sunday the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay Youth Group and Confirmation class hosted an Easter egg hunt after Mass for the younger children of the parish. Above, Luke Dalton, Kobe Recore and Austin Bickford stop to check out their prizes. Pope Francis' message for Easter appears on page 10

FOR THE CHILDREN: Promise to protect... pledge to heal... pages 8-9

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Finding a safe home in Christ

It's always a pleasure to be able to announce that once again, the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal has met its goal, at least in cash and pledges. (Nobody in the Bishop's Fund office will relax until all those generous pledges have been fulfilled!)

The Bishop's Fund is more important than ever as we work to meet the diocesan priorities and goals that have been established for our church in the North Country.

All of our efforts to create a culture of vocations, strengthen faith formation in families and build parishes

with living stones require dollars to match the faith and hard work of our people.

Mary Lou
Kilian

Each diocesan department – Family Life, Evangelization, Vocations, Education and the rest – has a role to play in realizing the diocesan vision that we've heard so much about: "Find your Home in Christ, Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Christ."

Donors to the Bishop's Fund insure that all those responsibilities can be met.

And speaking of "finding your home," this week's *NCC* also offers three pages of infor-

mation about the *Find Your Home in Christ* diocesan census initiative that's happening in each of our parishes over the next few months.

We can all pray that the enormous amount of work involved in this door-to-door operation will yield enormous rewards.

The diocesan and parish leaders whose comments appear in this week's paper certainly believe that it will.

Yet all the important accomplishments of the diocese, supported by the Bishop's Fund and the work of pastors and parishioners, will mean nothing if the most vulnerable among us aren't protected.

In the centerfold of this week's paper, we welcome the annual report from the Safe En-

vironment Office highlighting the efforts made by the diocese to create a climate of safety for the children entrusted to our pastoral care.

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, the diocesan safe environment coordinator, notes that the report "highlights the month of April as both a National Awareness and a Diocesan Awareness of the serious issue of child abuse among us."

"Once again," Sister Ellen said, "we will look at the statistics that bear out the commitment of so many to protecting our children."

We know that we have done much in this area but we also know that we can't rest until every child is protected and every victim is healed.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Easter season - it's all about happiness

All Christians find the source of their happiness as a Christian in the resurrection of Jesus. This resurrection of Our Savior brings a new strength to our faith as a follower of Jesus, the rock on which our faith is based.

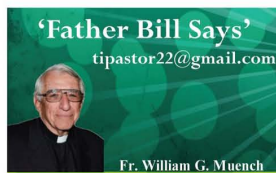
We celebrate liturgically the resurrection of Jesus for several weeks after Easter; this is the Easter Season. Actually, the Church considers every Sunday as a feast day in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

This is the happiness of being a Christian – our faith in the resurrection of Jesus. To understand the feeling the resurrection generate each of should call to mind the happiness of your life.

I hope you can remember that happiest day of your life. Remember the joy of that day. And realize that the resurrection of Jesus is so central for each of us, Christians – this the joy of following Jesus.

Understanding the resurrection of Jesus gives new strength and meaning to all that we believe as Catholics and Christians.

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything for those



original apostles and for all of Jesus' apostles through the centuries. We believe and we accept all the responsibilities of the Christian life because we believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

And we live that Christian life with joy and happiness. We can get an idea of the happiness of the apostles on that first Easter when we consider the happiest day of our own life during the years.

I remember the happiest day of my life. It has now been 18 years ago. I suspect I have told you the story before but I will never forget that day.

Susan and Paul, my niece and nephew, invited me to join then at the birth of their second child – William. For me – it was a spectacular time for me. I didn't know what to expect that evening however, I have not forgotten even the smallest

of details. I was indeed fortunate and found real joy and happiness that day.

I am certain that there was so much love and joy in that room that night among all there – family, doctor, nurses. I truly remember my joy being there as a new life joined my world. I was allowed to hold the child and to offer a prayer and blessing. Such a moment.

This was happiness with my family and I am certain it was the happiness that I should have because Jesus rose from the dead.

The happiness of the resurrection of Jesus should flood our churches at Easter. These days Easter should be a day of joy and happiness in each and every Church.

I hope each of you experienced that happiness at your Easter Mass or at the Easter Vigil. I joined in that happiness when as a pastor there was a Baptism of a catechumen at the Easter Vigil. It is a moment of happiness for that individual and his or her family but also for the pastor as a priest to see your parish grow.

As a church, this is another source of happiness as we join together celebrating the resur-

rection of Jesus.

Despite the controversies and concerns that are a part of the Church's history, our Catholic Church is a church of joy and happiness. Jesus conquered death and then rose to new life after such a horrible crucifixion.

The joy of the resurrection of Jesus changed everything and changed how each of us, followers of Jesus recognize how valuable each life is. Jesus taught often that every life is so very special and has an eternal value.

His resurrection verified how special life is. He made it very clear by his life, death, and resurrection that in faith Jesus emphasized the importance and value of each life is. Everyone matters – everyone can and must do what they can to make the world a better place.

So, Easter is all about happiness. Our happiness should be very evident in the way we live our lives, the way we accept the responsibility of being true followers of Jesus.

May we have the spirit and joy that makes us a force for good, each and every one of us.

With cash and pledges from nearly 10,000 donors

Bishop's Fund reaches \$1.75 million goal

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced April 14 that contributions from nearly 10,000 donors to the 2014-2015 Bishop's Fund Appeal have pushed the total cash received and pledges promised beyond the \$1,275,000 goal.

At this time, 96.80% of the goal has actually been received with \$67,495.60 in pledges yet to be fulfilled.

"My prayers of gratitude are joined with the hundreds of individuals and families of our North Country who have benefited from such gener-

ous giving," Bishop LaValley said. "Our donors understand the far reaching impact of the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal and respond so charitably.

"I am particularly grateful to our pastors for their own personal sacrifice and strong leadership in promoting this annual appeal," the bishop said.

As Bishop LaValley proclaimed at the Chrism Mass on April 9, 2014 the priorities for the Diocese of Ogdensburg are: *Creating a Culture of Vocations,*

Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones.

Support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal is essential in meeting these priorities through the following ministries and programs: Education of Seminarians; Family Life; Natural Family Planning; Respect Life Ministry; Formation for Ministry Program; Office of Evangelization; Continuing Education and Formation of Priests; Priest's Graduate Studies; Vocations; Permanent Deacons; Deacon

Formation; Tuition Assistance Program; Campus Ministry Program; Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools; Christian Formation; Youth Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; Guggenheim Center; Department of Worship and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

"Please continue to pray for the success of this year's appeal, remembering that any funds raised over our goal will be used to further supplement the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund," said Valerie Mathews, diocesan director

of the Bishop's Fund. The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund provides emergency assistance to families and individuals across the diocese.

"If you have made a pledge to this year's Appeal, we encourage you to complete your pledge before June 15, 2015," Mrs. Mathews said.

"If you have not made a gift or wish to make an additional gift, donations can be mailed to: Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made at www.rcdony.org/development."

Speaker to address 'Faith Communities and Climate'

WATERTOWN – Dr. Gerry Gacoch, the New York State ambassador for the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, will lead a presentation on "Faith Communities and Climate" April 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 in the Hearthside Hospitality Center at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

The event is sponsored by the diocesan Council of Consecrated Religious and the Watertown Faith and Ecology Group.

Dr. Gacoch, is chief of cardiology at the Rochester Heart Institute at Rochester General Hospital. He helped found the Care of God's Creation Ministry at Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford, N.Y., and hopes to help Catholics learn about Catholic Social Teaching with its particular commitments to care for God's Creation and exercise an option for the poor.

He belongs to Doctors Without Borders and has volunteered in several developing countries

Dr. Gacoch is one of 19 ambassadors available to offer presentations on the moral implications of climate change consistent with



Dr. Gerry Gacoch

Catholic teaching. Pope Benedict XVI discussed the teaching in his World Day of Peace Message of 2010, *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. The U.S. Catholic bishops also reflected on the subject in their statement, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*.

The Catholic Climate Covenant, the organization

responsible for the ambassador program, plays a pivotal role in the U.S. Catholic response to the enormous challenge of climate change.

The Catholic Climate Covenant and its many partners, including the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has developed strategies to foster the spiritual formation and education of Catholics, to create resources, programs and projects that engage youth, families and parishioners, and to spur action that leads to public policy change at local, national and international levels.

The Catholic Climate Ambassador program is intended to accelerate these efforts by raising the awareness of Catholics around the U.S. who worship in our parishes, learn in our schools and lead our many ministries.

The ambassadors are charged with promoting the Catholic Climate Covenant: The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.

The April 19 event is free, and open to the public. To reserve a place, please call 315-782-3460 or email srbethsj@gmail.com.

98 AND COUNTING!



Eileen Docteur, who turned 98 on March 22, was honored by parishioners of All Saints Church in Chaumont. Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Pierre Aubin, pastor, offered her a blessing and a box of chocolates which she loves. Mrs. Docteur is shown above with her daughter Verna Docteur.

FOLLOW ME

The Diocesan Census

Find Your Home in Christ... neighbor to neighbor

Soon, parishes throughout the North Country will conduct a door-to-door census of all the households within each parish.

Bishop Wadhams, while reflecting on his assignment to be the first Bishop of this new Diocese of Ogdensburg, wrote: "I know the task I have before me... this is a land of long distances. The people cannot be reached by railways or stage-coaches. Even good wagon-roads are few. But I tell what I mean to do. I



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

shall get a good pony that will carry me anywhere; and you take my word for it, it will not be long before I visit every family; and every man and woman, barefooted boy and yellow-headed girl in my diocese will know me. Yes, sir-ee!" (Early Ritualism..., 169, Walworth, 1893)

Bishop Wadhams' goal is our goal. Yes, sir-ee! This very ambitious undertaking is absolutely critical. So that we can invite others to find their

home in Christ, we must know who they are and where they live, not proselytizing, but inviting them to know us and to join us in worship.

This census of every home in our parishes is crucial in addressing our diocesan priorities addressing vocations, family faith formation and pastoral planning.

This newly acquired information will allow us to make good decisions about tomorrow. Neighbor to neighbor census taking is truly evangelization at work. Such visits will increase your faith and con-

firm your own love for the Church. It will energize your participation in the life of your parish.

The census will remind your neighbors that the local Church is vibrant, that we seek to address their concerns and provide support for the local folk.

As Pope Francis continually reminds us: "we cannot passively and calmly wait in our Church buildings; we need to move from a pastoral ministry of merely conserving things [the way they have always been], to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry." (*The Joy of the Gospel*, #15, 2013)

Finally, we are hope-filled, knowing that this is God's work with His Spirit as our constant companion.

You are vitally important in helping others to find their home in Christ: renewing faith, nurturing hope and discovering anew God's love for every one of us.

Thank you so much for offering your time, your joy-filled, can-do attitude and, most importantly, for your prayers when your pastor seeks your assistance.

God be with you as your parish family sets out on this exciting journey of our local Church.

Census prep underway in Jefferson Deanery

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

WATERTOWN - The buzz when priests, deacons and lay parish leaders gathered in the summer and fall of 2014 was the *Find Your Home in Christ* door-to-door census set as a goal of the Pastoral Vision promulgated in the spring of 2014.

The buzz was accompanied by a reasonable amount of hand-writing as pastors worried about implementing the mandate.

St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, was invited by Bishop Terry R LaValley to lead a committee of individuals from across the diocese

in creating a template for parishes to use in their census. That work was completed late last summer.

Over this past fall and winter pastors and other parish leadership attended workshops conducted by Sister Shirley Anne and members of the team to hear how the committee envisioned the census would be conducted by individual parishes.

The planning done and a completion target of August 2015 looming, parishes are now gearing-up to do the work.

Jefferson Deanery parishes are, for the most part, planning to knock on doors from May 4 to May 17. Some parishes have opted to split



the effort to accommodate the fluctuation in parish activity that summer cottage and camps bring.

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Pierre Aubin, pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont, told the *North Country Catholic*, "our census visits will take place from April 19 to May 3, and from July 19 to August 2 so we can take care of the year round and the summer people."

St. Cecilia's in Adams and Queen of Heaven in Henderson will run their campaigns after Memorial Day and con-

duct a second round, if needed, later in the summer.

All four City of Watertown parishes, Carthage, Copenhagen, Clayton, Alexandria Bay, Evans Mills and all the parishes associated with them will use the May 4 to 17 window.

Each parish is tailoring the scheme created by the diocesan committee to their particular circumstances. Some will create leave-behind packets of material while other parishes have created their own contact sheets for distribution.

Some parishes will conduct pre-census opportunities for parishioners to meet volunteers face-to-face in advance of the door-to-door effort. These are primarily individuals already registered and active in the parish who need to update their census information.

Jefferson Deanery is sponsoring a two-day training session in June for all parishes in the diocese interested in updating their un-

derstanding of Parish Data System and the opportunities for pastoral information available through the census section of the widely-used data base. Contact St. Patrick's, Watertown for more information about that.

Every parish has or will shortly conduct training sessions for the volunteers who will visit door-to-door in the parish. Confidentiality is being stressed in those training sessions and volunteers are being prepared for the variety of greetings they may encounter as they move two-by-two through their parish.

The goal of a Diocesan-wide census is to identify the Living Stones of our parishes and, as Bishop LaValley said in his Pastoral Letter *Find Your Home in Christ*, let "every person in the entire North Country know that there is a faithful Roman Catholic living nearby who joyfully invites them to become a vibrant member of the Body of Christ we know as the Church."

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



f Find us on Facebook!



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown of Hammond, diocesan point person for the *Find Your Home in Christ* census initiative, leads a training session April 9 for volunteers from St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg.

'Friendly faces of faith' on the move in the diocese

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake along with parishes in Lake Clear and Bloomingdale and a mission in Gabriels, learned something new as he and his parishioners prepared to conduct the *Find Your Home in Christ* diocesan census this spring.

"We discovered that the parishes here cover 647 square miles (out of curiosity I found that Manhattan is just 23 square miles)," Father Ratigan. "Of course, most of

that is undeveloped forest or farm land. It is so exciting to think that we are organizing to visit every home in that area and let them know the Catholic Church is alive and well."

"The census initiative is an exciting time for everyone," Father Ratigan said. "The volunteers get to reflect on their role as subtle witnesses to their faith. Just getting out there and representing the church is an exciting opportunity for them to reflect on their faith."

"I absolutely know that many seeds will be sown in this process and the faith

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

'A wonderful opportunity for evangelization'

By Marika Donders
Diocesan director of New Evangelization

Most of our parish churches (except for the few that have already completed theirs) are in the preparation stages of conducting a door-to-door parish census. You may have seen bulletin announcements or sign-up sheets at your parish. For many of us this is something new and the idea of going door-to-door may make us a little uncomfortable. But it is a wonderful opportunity for evangelization in more ways than one.

Evangelization is all about sharing the good news that Jesus Christ loves us and has saved us. If we're going to reach out to people and share our faith, we must meet them where they are. They will not come to us. We must go out. For many of us this is scary and we have all sorts of objections: we don't want to bother people or maybe we are worried that we don't know enough. Perhaps we worry about not being received well.

I participated in parish census almost 25 years ago and I had all these objections plus the additional excuse that I am a massive introvert. Surely there must be extroverts who like going out and meeting lots of people. You know what? When we went door-to-door, some people didn't want to be bothered and they didn't answer the door. Some came to the door and weren't interested and said no-thank-you, I'm not interested. Some people did have questions that I couldn't answer, but they were happy to be told that there was someone at the parish who could. Some were grateful for contact information or being able to request that someone at the parish give them a call. Some wanted to meet with the pastor or DRE.

But of all the people we met, the ones I remember most are the people who were overjoyed that we came to them. There was the homebound woman who didn't know that there were Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who could bring her Communion

or simply visit and pray with her.

You and your parish will be transformed and strengthened in faith, simple by going out, by sharing the good news

There was the man who had been away from Church and had wanted to return to the faith, but was worried that he would not be welcome. There was the young mother with the newborn baby who needed information about who to contact to have the baby baptized. Even if we just meet one such person, it will mean the whole world to them.

The census will change your parish even if no one returns. The census is a parish-wide communal effort that even if you are not going door-to-door, you should be involved in. Just the fact that the entire parish (actually the entire diocese) is working together on this project, will affect our parish culture!

In the parish census in which I participated, the collaborative effort of the census strengthened and enlivened the parish community. Besides the people going door-to-door, there were teams of prayer warriors including homebound parishioners who offered up their rosaries and prayers for the people going door-to-door and those they would visit.

The effort included teens who collected the cards and entered the info into a database. There were those who compiled the prayer requests which were forwarded to prayer groups and those who processed requests for more information and requests for visits or meetings.

The collaborative effort awakened a renewed sense of mission and the result was a stronger parish. Just the effort of meeting the neighbors helped everyone feel more connected and part of a larger world.

As a result of the census, people who had been away did come back to church. Some were just waiting for

an invitation. New people showed up at Masses. The parish created a new hospitality ministry to welcome them. To meet the needs of the new parishioners, new ministries were begun and others, such as RCIA and adult faith formation were revitalized. Parishioners who previously had been happy to be passive participants at church realized that they had gifts and talents that could make a difference to their community.

If asked to participate in the census do not be afraid to go out of your comfort zone. Become part of it. I will be going to visit my neighbors. If you are not part of the door-to-door teams visiting neighbors, pray for those who are. Pray for those they will meet. Will they all be open to hear? Probably not, but maybe a seed will be planted that someone else will water. Even if no new parishioners come from the effort, you and your parish will be transformed and strengthened in faith, simple by going out, by sharing the good news.

Friendly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

will be rekindled in many hearts," he said. "I can't wait to see the fruit that comes of this process."

The Church is alive

Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, also has high expectations for the census.

"I think this is a great way for all people - not just Catholics - to know that the Church is here and we're praying for everybody," he said. "The church is alive and we're concerned about our own people and everyone else in the community.

"The census project will also give us a chance to invite those who have been alienated from the faith or who just don't go to church any more to rediscover their faith and come back," he said.

In Ogdensburg, parishioners of St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church, will be working together on the census, beginning this week.

"We've set up a team from both parishes in Ogdensburg and have held several meetings," Father Morgan said. "We got the maps of residences in the city and divided our volunteers into teams. The meeting to train the volunteers was held last Thursday and the census will be conducted from April 13 through the week of May 4. To let everyone in the community know what was going to happen we placed an ad in the Advance and blurbs on the radio."

Challenging process

The three parishes in Plattsburgh are also working together on the census and most of the parishes in the Clinton Deanery have adopted the same time table, from April 26 to May 23.

Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's and dean of Clinton Deanery, acknowledges that the process will be challenging.

"It's going to be a lot of work," he said. "In Plattsburgh alone there are 7000 residences and it will be tough to get volunteers who have to knock on thousands of doors and find people at home.

"People don't visit their neighbors like they did in times past so we have to assure our volunteers that they are not Jehovah's Witnesses or politicians; they are just going to say hello as friendly faces of faith," Msgr. Duprey said.

"Just the act of doing that is 'reaching out' and the church has to go out and be missionary," the pastor said. "That's what we hear from our bishop and our pope and from Jesus. This process will be a good beginning.

The census will also give pastors a better idea about who belongs in their parish, Msgr. Duprey said. "Every time I make a hospital visit, there are always two or three people who call themselves parishioners of St. Peter's who aren't on our list."

As part of the preparation in Clinton deanery, a letter was sent to all the churches, synagogues and mosques in the region to let religious leaders know what was happening.

"We assured them that we will not be proselytizing," Msgr. Duprey said. "Our people will be just friendly faces of faith."

In Potsdam/Colton

The parishioners of Potsdam and Colton, where Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin is pastor, are also working together.

"We have a committee that's met several times, in preparation for the May 31-to June 14 undertaking," Msgr. Aucoin said. "Right now, we're working on routes and we'll send a postcard to every resident in the area to let them know what's happening. We'll follow this up

with a letter just to registered parishioners with a message from the bishop on one side and one from me on the other.

"We're also preparing door bags that we'll leave at the homes which will include Paulist Press pamphlet offering reasons to consider the Catholic Church and other material," he said. "We're also adapting the 'Find your home in Christ' census card with an additional phrase 'Find Christ in your home.'"

Msgr. Aucoin agrees with Bishop LaValley's view that the census will remind people in the community "that the local Church is vibrant, that we seek to address their concerns."

He also believes the census will be of great value to the parish as "we find out who people are and how to reach them," he said.

Rest areas

Father John R. Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes in Lake Placid and St. Brendan's in Keene, described some of the unique challenges in his rest community.

"We have a big summer crowd here," Father Yonkovig said, "so we're planning to conduct the census in the spring and make another sweep in the summer. We have people who are rarely in their homes and some whose home in Lake Placid is a second home and they are occasionally here for Sundays so they are hard to track down.

"Sister Shirley Anne (Brown, the point person for the diocesan census) will be leading a training session for the deanery April 19 but we've made a preliminary start," he said. "Already, we've seen an update of contact information and surfaced people who thought they were registered but they weren't and that's been of great value."

At a new parish

At this stage, in Malone, Father Joseph W. Giroux, said "we've gathered most of our materials, but we're still re-

cruiting volunteers and looking at maps and lists.

"We plan to be training folks at the end of April, and start sending out home visitors on May 9," he said.

"This still being the first year of our newly united parish here in Malone, doing the census should be a great blessing for St. André's - and not just for all the data it will provide," Father Giroux said.

"I'm hoping it will be a way for us to get to know our parishioners better, while also helping our parishioners to get to know the new parish," he said.

Rest in Peace

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

April 15 - Msgr. Peter O. LaRose, 1918; Rev. Alfred J. Chevalier, 1996

April 16 - Deacon Vernon J. Chamberlain, 1993

April 17 - Rev. Peter J. Devlin, 1915; Rev. Vernon L. Doe, 1975; Rev. C. Albert Richardson, 1988; Msgr. Joseph G. Baily, 2000

April 19 - Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Larabee, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961

April 20 - Rev. James Igo, 2007

April 21 - Msgr. Michael E. Fogarty, 1936

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required: preregister 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:

April 15- 5 p.m., St. James Church, Gouverneur

Bishop's Schedule

April 15 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4:30 p.m., Visit to the Massena Boys & Girls Club

April 18 - 6 p.m., Gala at Trinity Catholic School in Massena

April 19 - 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 20 - Rector's Dinner at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio

April 21 - Board Meeting Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus

Environmental Stewardship

"My word is like the snow and the rain that come down from the sky to water the earth. They make the crops grow and provide seed for the planting and food to eat." Isaiah 55:10

As we witnessed recently on the news the drought in California, where much of our fresh fruits and vegetables are grown, has become severe. The residents are being urged to plant drought resistant landscaping to replace the thirsty lawns.

In the pamphlet "Water Conserving Tips" produced by Texas Water Development board they give several helpful suggestions.

- Check with your local garden centers for suggestions of plants and landscaping shrubs that requires little or no watering in North Country.

- Use lots of mulch around trees and shrubs. It will retain moisture, reduce on-off and helps with weed control.

- If washing your car, use a bucket of soapy water and a hose nozzle that shuts off the water while you scrub.

To learn more about our changing climate and how we as good stewards can do to protect it, see Calendar Events for presentation "Faith Communities and Climate" given by the NYS Catholic Climate Change Ambassador on April 19 at Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown.

Each time we bless ourselves with Easter holy water, let it be an opportunity to give thanks for this precious gift and a reminder of our responsibility to care for it.

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PURSUING JUSTICE

Catholic social teaching: the death penalty

This is the second in a series of articles on issues of Catholic social teaching as explained by the New York State Catholic Conference. The conference was founded to translate Catholic teachings into action in the public policy arena. These teachings, which are centered on the innate dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God, form the basis of the Conference's legislative agenda.

This Week's issue is the death penalty

Summary

In June 2004 the New York Court of Appeals struck down New York's death penalty statute, holding it unconstitutional under the New York State Constitution. In October 2007 the Court affirmed that ruling, and the last remaining death sentence in the state was vacated. Thus, New York State may not impose the death penalty at the current time.

However, a more long-term solution continues to be needed to ensure that the death penalty is repealed from the statutes of New York State. In December 2007, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to legislatively abolish capital punishment, followed by New Mexico in 2009 and Illinois in 2011. New York State should follow their lead.

Conference Position

The Catholic Conference supports abolition of the

death penalty in New York State to ensure that executions never again take place in the state.

Rationale

In 1995 Pope John Paul II specifically addressed the death penalty issue in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*.

He said, "[T]he nature and extent of the punishment must be carefully evaluated and decided upon, and ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity: in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society. Today, however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare, if not practically nonexistent."

The official *Catechism of the Catholic Church* incorporates this principle.

The Catholic Conference advocates for social policies which are committed to human life and which affirm the value and dignity of each individual. The Church teaches that every human life is sacred and made in the image and likeness of God, even one who may have committed a heinous crime.

Measures such as capital punishment, euthanasia and abortion are disrespectful of human life on a variety of levels.

The death penalty represents a short-term, violent "solution" to the very deep problems of crime, poverty, unemployment, lack of edu-

In the Words of the bishop

On capital punishment

Catholic teaching makes a distinction between society's right to inflict the death penalty and the need to do so. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "...the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor." This need is, however, practically non-existent today because of the possibilities which the state has for effectively rendering the criminal incapable of doing further harm. (CCC, 2266) The death penalty deceives us into thinking that we can defend life by taking life. Retribution, "just" punishment, and revenge are not found among the list of Christian virtues. Ultimately, God alone punishes evildoers.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

cation and resources. Moreover, there is ample evidence that the death penalty has been imposed unjustly and that it is often used in a discriminatory manner against racial, ethnic and economic groups, two consequences that further erode respect for human life.

In *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II urges "a system of penal justice ever more in line with human dignity and thus, in the end, with God's plan for man and society."

Over the past ten years, many new developments have emerged highlighting the injustice of the death penalty.

Recent cases of wrongful death penalty application, in which new DNA evidence was used to overturn murder convictions and free innocent prisoners, are gruesome reminders that our criminal justice system is not foolproof.

In early 2000, so many wrongful convictions came to light in the state of Illinois that Governor George Ryan was persuaded to impose a moratorium on executions in that state. The Governor of Maryland became the second governor to impose a moratorium on capital punishment, and more than 3,400 cities, towns, local governments and organizations across the country have called for a moratorium on executions.

While nearly all European and North, Central and South American countries have abolished capital punishment, the United States has not.


Over the course of the last 20 years, 530 human beings have been executed at the hands of state governments in America. The barbaric methods used include lethal injection, electrocution, gas chamber, hanging and firing

squad. Capital punishment is irrevocable; once society kills unjustly, there is no way to remedy that wrongdoing.


Based as it is on respect for the human person, the Church's opposition to the death penalty also includes profound respect for the victims of crime, their family and friends.

Respect for the inherent humanity of a person who has committed evil acts should in no way be interpreted as a defense of his or her crimes.

According to Gallup's 2011 public opinion poll, support for the death penalty has dropped to its lowest level in 39 years.



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PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL



Dear Friends in Christ:

The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues in our efforts to create a climate of safety for all the youth entrusted to our pastoral care. We remain committed to fulfilling our pledge: to promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse; to guarantee an effective response to allegations of sexual abuse; to implement procedures that protect the faithful in the future; and to hold accountable those who have harmed our children.

The Church offers immediate and ongoing pastoral care to those who have suffered such abuse. I encourage these individuals to contact our Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Terrienne Yanulavich, at 518-483-3261 to report such abuse and for assistance with the healing process. We are deeply sorry for any past failures in addressing properly the sinful acts by Church leaders that have been perpetrated against our youth.

Because We Care deeply for the vulnerable among us, the Church of Ogdensburg continues to review our policies and explore ways to ensure that our children are protected from all who would harm them. Under the direction and fine guidance of Sister Ellen Donahue, SA, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, we are diligently working to ensure that the national and diocesan policies established to provide safe environments for our children are implemented fully here in the North Country. With the strong support and cooperation of our pastors and pastoral staff, we have taken seriously this responsibility. For the last thirteen years, independent audits have been conducted here to determine compliance with these policies. Every year, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been found to be compliant.

I am grateful to all those individuals who assist with the implementation of our safe environment programs in our Diocese. Many individuals spend countless hours in our parishes and schools to train adults in providing safe environments for our children and youth. Their continuing cooperation and prayers help us all keep the promise to protect and the pledge to heal. As Jesus, the Good Shepherd, showed constant care for the vulnerable, your local Church, working with our parents, is seeking to do likewise.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



WHAT HAS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN?



Our Commitment to Children's Safety:

- Safe Environment Policies & Procedures
- Mandatory Background Checks/References
- Annual Training for Staff, Parents and Children
- Reporting Procedures Implemented
- Children's Activities Supervised
- One-on-one Instruction Monitored



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Precious little girl addressing Pope Francis, visiting Manila. Her Message: "The children are not guilty of anything."

DIOCESAN STATISTICS 2014 NATIONAL AUDIT JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

- 4,733 students attended Christian Formation
- 2,100 students attended Catholic schools
- 743 youth attended Guggenheim Summer Camp
- 176 adults and children attended Family Guggenheim
- 37 Safe Environment training sessions were held
- 679 Background checks were performed

WHAT HAS THE CHURCH DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN NATIONALLY?

The Church has done more to protect children than almost any other organization in the U.S. Of the 195 dioceses/eparchies, 188 participated in the 2014 National Audit.

- 2,181,959 employees and volunteers have been trained to recognize the behavior of offenders and take action, and 4,484,609 children have been trained to recognize the behavior of offenders and what to do about it.
- 2,182,801 employees and volunteers who have contact with children have undergone background checks.
- 160,273 educators, 251,189 other employees, 35,308 priests, 16,006 deacons, and 6,568 Candidates for Ordination have had their background evaluated.

The Church has worked hard to protect children, but more needs to be done.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP??

➤ **YOU can be trained in safe environment practices.** Free Virtus safe environment training dates are printed in the North Country Catholic weekly with locations across the Diocese. Or, go to www.rcdony.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on Safe Environment Office, then click on Virtus trainings. PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO REGISTER.

➤ **YOU can monitor the computer use in your home.**

 www.youtube.com/user/childluresprevent

 "Child Lures Prevention/Teen Lures Prevention"

Internet filter and/or parental control software:

www.netnanny.com OR www1.k9webprotection.com (free)

Protect any device connected to a single home network: www.opendns.com

Most importantly, spend time with your children, helping them to know safe places on the Internet.

CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS

- 315,000 children served by Children's Advocacy Centers in US
- 30,000 children reported sexually abused in the Northeast (Nat'l Children's Alliance)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MODERN DAY SLAVERY

- 12.3 million people live in forced labor, sexual exploitation world-wide
- 14,500-17,500 trafficked into US each year
- 100,000 U.S. children commercially sexually exploited in America each year
- NY State: 904 calls this year, 271 of which were Human Trafficking Cases

www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/state/new-york/

INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND FLYERS:

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Pope's Easter message

Humility is key to understanding Easter, sharing its joy

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - To enter Christ's empty tomb like the disciples and see that he has risen, Christians today also must "bend down," Pope Francis said in his Easter message.

"Love has triumphed over hatred. Life has conquered death. Light has dispelled the darkness," he told tens of thousands of rain-drenched pilgrims in St. Peter's Square April 5.

Rain fell and fell hard throughout most of the outdoor Mass. While most people had umbrellas, their flimsy plastic ponchos were no match for the wind and downpour. The ciboria used to distribute Communion to the crowd were covered with plastic wrap, only partially pulled back when the faithful approached.

Still, they stayed for the Mass and for the pope's solemn Easter blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Pope Francis did not give a homily during the morning Mass, but his Easter message before the blessing picked up a theme he had begun at the Easter vigil the night before: The mystery of Easter cannot be understood -- and the Christian faith cannot be lived fully -- without humility.

"By his death and resurrection, Jesus shows everyone the way to life and happiness: this way is humility, which involves humiliation," Pope Francis said. "This is the path which leads to glory. Only those who humble themselves can go toward the 'things that are above,' toward God."

To enter into the mystery of God's love, he said, "we need to 'bend down,' to abase ourselves. Only those who abase themselves under-



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis waves to the crowd during his Easter message and blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 5.

stand the glorification of Jesus and are able to follow him on his way."

Obviously, he said, that often involves being counter-cultural. Instead of putting ourselves first, he said, "Christians, by the grace of Christ, dead and risen, are the seeds of another humanity, in which we seek to live in service to one another, not to be arrogant, but rather respectful and ready to help."

"This is not weakness, but true strength!" the pope said. "Those who bear within them God's power, his love and his justice, do not need to employ violence; they speak and act with the power of truth, beauty and love."

As is traditional for the "urbi et orbi" message, Pope Francis offered prayers for an end to war and violence in specific countries, mentioning by name Syria, Iraq, the Holy Land, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Congo, Yemen

and Ukraine.

In better news, the pope said, "in hope, we entrust to the merciful Lord the framework recently agreed to" in order to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

The pope prayed that it would be "a definitive step toward a more secure and fraternal world."

As he had at every Holy Week and Easter service, Pope Francis offered special prayers for persecuted Christians, asking that "Jesus, the victor over death," would ease their suffering.

Pope Francis' Easter celebrations began in the dark of a rainy night April 4 in the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica. Hot embers glowed until the Easter fire was lit and with it the paschal candle. As a deacon carried the candle into the church, Pope Francis followed with a large taper.

Although only the pope

and the deacon had candles, the basilica was aglow with smartphone and tablet displays as people tried to get photos. However, as the pope neared the front of the basilica, the congregation - mostly nuns, priests, bishops, cardinals and ambassadors close to the altar -- was more disciplined and the impact of scattered lit candles grew.

While the pope was busy with the Easter liturgies, he sent Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, out to the city's train stations, shelters and streets with Easter cards for the homeless. He handed out about 300 envelopes, each of which included an undisclosed amount of money.

During the Easter vigil Mass, Pope Francis baptized, confirmed and gave first Communion to 10 people, who ranged in age from 13 to 66. Four were Italian, three

were Albanian and one each came from Cambodia, Kenya and Portugal.

Pope Francis rubbed the chrism oil all over their foreheads and, during the confirmation rite, tenderly gave each one a kiss on the right cheek.

As with his "urbi et orbi" message, Pope Francis' homily during the Easter vigil, which lasted just over two and a half hours, focused on the humility required of Christians.

The only way to enter into the Easter mystery, he said, is with humility, "to come down from the pedestal of our 'I' which is so proud, of our presumption; the humility not to take ourselves so seriously, recognizing who we really are: creatures with strengths and weaknesses, sinners in need of forgiveness."

"It is good for us, on this vigil night, to reflect on the experience of the women" who went to Jesus' tomb Easter morning to anoint his body, he said. Entering the tomb is to enter "into the mystery which God has accomplished with his vigil of love."

"We cannot live Easter without entering into the mystery. It is not something intellectual, something we only know or read about," he said. "It is more, much more!"

Entering the mystery means being able "to wonder, to contemplate; the ability to listen to the silence and to hear the tiny whisper amid great silence by which God speaks to us."

To enter the tomb and enter the mystery takes courage, the pope said. It "demands that we not be afraid of reality, that we not be locked into ourselves, that we not flee from what we fail to understand, that we not close our eyes to problems or deny them, that we not dismiss our questions."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Students pray for safety of Pope Francis more than 1 million times

DESTREHAN, La. (CNS) — The prayerful protection of Mary has been showered upon Pope Francis 1 million times over, thanks to students and their friends at St. Charles Borromeo School in the New Orleans Archdiocese. On Holy Thursday, April 2, just before the start of the school's monthly rosary, religion teacher Lisa Benoit, accompanied by seven students bearing numbered placards, made a joyful announcement: The school's 2014-2015 goal of praying 1 million Hail Marys for the safety of Pope Francis had not only been met, but exceeded. The count: an incredible 1,031,840 Hail Marys. "I thought it was going to happen after Easter break, but so many people have been helping and adding to our numbers," said Mary Schmidt, school principal, as students cheered and clapped in their pews. "I'm thrilled!" Schmidt added. "What a wonderful send-off for Easter!" Students at the Destrehan elementary school, outside of New Orleans, launched the prayer effort last September in response to media reports that identified the pontiff as a potential target of the Islamic State, known as ISIS. "We are always trying to impress upon the children how powerful prayer is," Schmidt said. "We tell them all the time that the prayers of little children are especially powerful, because Jesus listens in a special way when they pray."

Gospel, Vatican II can help religious face challenges, cardinal says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Consecrated men and women can face their current challenges by turning to the Gospel, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and papal teachings for guidance, said Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz. The prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Institutes for Apostolic Life spoke April 8 at the opening of an international conference in Rome of about 1,200 religious formation directors. The theme of the April 7-12 conference was "Living in Christ according to the Way of Life of the Gospel." It was drawn from "Perfectae Caritatis," the 1965 conciliar decree on the renewal of religious life. Cardinal Braz told those present they must embrace the future with hope, despite the challenges of fewer vocations, aging memberships, economic difficulties, globalization, relativism, marginalization and feelings of being socially irrelevant. He also spoke of the challenge to be the Good News in new places and cultural contexts. It is in these difficulties that consecrated men and women must "activate their hope, fruit of the faith in the Lord," he said. This hope is not based on "numbers or works but on the one (God) in whom we have placed our trust," he said. The Gospel must be the "vade mecum" or handbook of consecrated life, and the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the teachings of the popes can serve as guidelines on how to face these challenges, he said.

Sharing best practices, new classroom tools

By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

ORLANDO, FLA. (CNS) — Sharing success stories and honoring exemplary Catholic educators nationwide is the engine that drives the annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association.

"One of the things we do here is highlight best practices always with the understanding that people have to adapt and make this their own," Christian Brother Robert Bimonte, NCEA's president, told Catholic News Service a day before the official start of the NCEA 2015 Convention & Expo, set for April 7-9 in Orlando at the Orange County Convention Center.

An extensive awards program and a series of some 342 workshops and professional development sessions were on tap for the NCEA event, with a fair amount of the conversation dedicated to topics such as Catholic school financial support; technology use; Catholic identity in schools; social media; bullying; legal issues; and the growing importance of the Latino population in the U.S.

"What works in Philadelphia doesn't necessarily work in Omaha and what works in Omaha doesn't necessarily work in Orlando or Los Angeles — which is not to say anything is better or worse (than another thing), but there are 175 dioceses in the country, and, as one wise

bishop I used to work for used to say, 'If you have seen one diocese, you have seen one diocese,'" Brother Bimonte said.

At National Catholic Educational Association convention

"There are 175 variations on a theme and no two are exactly alike and everybody has their own history, their own culture and their own tradition."

Brother Bimonte said the NCEA staff worked with the organization's executive committees to identify and highlight priority areas of concern for guest speakers to address as part of the convention's religious and professional development objectives.

Some 6,000 attendees were expected, exceeding earlier expectations by 1,000 attendees.

Brother Bimonte said that concerns over how best to continue funding Catholic schools is an ongoing challenge nationwide and is perhaps the single biggest concern facing Catholic educators. He estimated that at Catholic schools, students' tuition only covers half of real per-pupil costs. So there is increasing pressure to find new ways to make up the shortfall.

Traditionally, tuition, parish/diocesan subsidies and fundraising efforts have been the "three pillars of Catholic school funding," he

added.

"Compounding that is the increasing need for financial aid so that you have (students) who cannot afford tuition," said Brother Bimonte.

"You have parishes and dioceses stretched and the pastor today is faced with many needs other than the cost of the Catholic school," he told CNS. "Bills need to be paid and teachers need to receive a decent salary so we are trying to help look outside the traditional sources of funding, so that leads to development and institutional development."

According to its website, NCEA was founded in 1904 as a professional education organization providing leadership, direction, and service to fulfill the evangelizing, catechizing and teaching mission of the church. Keynote speakers at this year's convention included Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of the Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services; and Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph and the author of "Dead Man Walking," who was to lead a Priest Day reflection following the convention.

There is always a strong turnout of clergy and religious and bishops at the event as well, organizers said.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Understanding the power of suffering

As Pope Francis told us at the Easter Vigil Mass in Rome, these weeks following the Feast invite us to "enter the mystery" of the empty tomb.

Remember, the body that was placed there was a battered, bloody victim of torture. The burial clothes still attest to that. It was a transformed, glorified Christ that appeared over and over again to many people.

Nevertheless, Jesus proudly displays his wounds to the apostles in today's Gospel.

Make no mistake - his suf-

fering and wounds are the source of power that will transform us--and the world.

In scene in the first reading takes place some years later. It's Solomon's Portico in the Temple just after Peter has cured the lame man.

As the man leaps for joy, a very large crowd gathers (later reports put the number at three thousand).

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, declares that it is God who has worked this miracle, and that what they have seen is another proof that the man, Jesus, whom they

crucified, was truly God's Son.

We can imagine how those words must have pierced many hearts with terrifying guilt. They were the ones who had cried "Crucify Him!" just a short time ago.

Memories of God's terrible punishments in years past must have crowded their minds.

What were they to do? Peter's words reassure them. Since they acted out of ignorance, God offers them salvation if they repent and believe. They must be baptized in His Name, and in the Father and the Holy Spirit.

And they must spread the Word. This is the mission of every follower of Jesus!

APRIL 19

Third Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

1 John 2:1-5:1

Luke 24:35-48

The Gospel for this Sunday is even more exciting. This is Luke's account of the commissioning of the apostles. Scene one takes place in the upper room, where the two disciples to whom Jesus appeared on their way to Emmaus, have just returned, breathless and bursting with the news that Jesus is alive.

Even as they speak, Jesus

suddenly appears to the whole assembly, throwing them into consternation and fear. With powerful persuasion, Jesus convinces them that he is not a spirit, but a human person, very alive.

He proudly shows them the wounds in His hands and feet. He asks them for something to eat. They give Him a piece of baked fish which he eats in their presence!

Part of the mystery is the power of suffering. How many martyrs through the years have, by their suffering, moved many to embrace the truth of Jesus Christ? May my suffering endured for Jesus' sake, help others to accept His mercy and His love.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

RESPECT LIFE

Assisted suicide is still suicide

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death for all Americans. It does not discriminate: it takes life without regard to age, income, ability, race, or gender. In the U.S., someone attempts suicide every 32 seconds, and someone completes a suicide every 14 minutes.

Thankfully, the New York State Office of Mental Health recognizes suicide as a serious public health concern and has established suicide prevention as a top priority. Our state spends literally millions of dollars on efforts to prevent suicide.

There are in-depth suicide prevention education and training programs, crisis hotline numbers to call, coalitions and resources in every corner of the state.

The bottom line of all such efforts is to prevent death, to create supportive environments and instill hope in people who are drowning in a sea of hopelessness.

Paradoxically, groups that favor the legalization of physician-assisted suicide say New York is a state where there is "strong interest among lawmakers" and "tremendous public enthusiasm" to make suicide a legal option for the terminally ill.

To accomplish this goal, three dangerous pieces of legislation have been introduced so far this year that would allow a doctor to give a lethal prescription to a terminally ill patient who wishes to commit suicide. A lawsuit has also been filed

to throw out New York's current ban on assisted suicide.

Do they not see the contradiction?

Let's review:

- We know that being bullied is a factor that can lead to suicide among teenagers, so we roll out anti-bullying campaigns in schools and tell the teens, "You are valuable, you are special, you are loved."

- We know that persons who are incarcerated often feel isolated and hopeless, so we train the prison employees to recognize the risk factors, make interventions and referrals, and support inmates with suicidal thoughts.

- We know that bridges are often a place where depressed people go, so we build in extra safety precautions to prevent death, like netting and cameras, telephones and signs that read "Life is Worth Living."

- We know that people

facing terminal illness may feel burdensome, and an overwhelming loss of autonomy, so we give them some pills and say, "Go ahead, kill yourself."

Huh? The message that assisted suicide sends to people who are terminally sick is that some lives -- their lives -- are not worth living. They are officially burdens on society and so they are unworthy of the protection of the law. They are dispensable.

People living with disabilities take particular exception to this line of thinking. They know that patients in the final stages of a terminal illness often become unable to do things for themselves, like dressing, eating and bathing. They are therefore "dis-abled."

The legalization of physician-assisted suicide would

offer this particular population suicide assistance, while the rest of the population is provided with suicide prevention. And that amounts to discrimination against people with disabilities.

Just like any other person feeling hopeless, depressed and suicidal, a person with terminal illness needs a supportive environment and hope for the future.

We need to envelope these people with good medical care offering pain relief and symptom management; with time and attention to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs; and most of all, with comfort, love and compassion.

We need to respect their lives to the very end. We need to refuse to legitimize suicide. Because no human life is expendable.

Kathleen M. Gallagher serves as Director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference.

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AT THE MOVIES

THE LONGEST RIDE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Though it's likely to prove a crowd pleaser, the romantic drama "The Longest Ride" (Fox) amounts to little more than a sentimental soap opera.

Reliant on contrived methods of dramatization, director George Tillman Jr.'s adaptation of Catholic author Nicholas Sparks' novel also includes late plot developments that send an ambiguous signal about marital fidelity.

Amid lush rural scenery and a glorification of contemporary cowboy culture such as might be featured in a pickup truck commercial, Wake Forest University senior Sophia (Britt Robertson) falls for professional bull rider Luke (Scott Eastwood). Shy Sophia has only to witness Luke's cattle-subduing stamina during what is literally her first time at the rodeo for love to start bucking her world.

The ride home from Sophia and Luke's initial get-together takes an unusual

turn when they stop to rescue 90-year-old Ira (Alan Alda) from the roadside wreckage of his car, thereby saving his life. At Ira's feebly voiced behest, Sophia also retrieves a wicker box that turns out to contain a series of letters young Ira (Jack Huston) wrote to the girl of his dreams, Ruth (Oona Chaplin).

What better way to pass Ira's stint in the hospital than for Sophia to read these epistles aloud to him? Screenwriter Craig Bolotin can certainly think of none, so we get Ira's back story.

Ruth was a vibrant Jewish refugee from Nazi-occupied Vienna whose exile in Greensboro, North Carolina, was softened by her budding relationship with Ira. But Ira's battlefield heroism during World War II shortly after the two became engaged led to a problem that threatened their impending marriage.

When she's not providing Ira with the opportunity to narrate his saga, Sophia agonizes over the barriers that seem to obstruct her own path to happiness. These in-

clude the fact that she's soon to depart the Tar Heel State for far-off New York City where she's landed a prestigious internship at an art gallery -- but whether her beau, alas, will not be following.

Worse yet, homespun Luke, it seems, don't cotton to Kandinsky and such.

The device of using Ira's letters to Ruth to tell their story has a fatal flaw: Unlike the audience, after all, Ruth would presumably not have needed Ira's elaborate written explanations to understand events she herself had just experienced. On the other hand, touches of humor do keep things moving along.

Circumstances between Ira and Ruth take a turn that can be read either as undercutting or supporting nuptial faithfulness. Though the outcome is a morally positive one, steps along the way to it suggest that wedding vows can legitimately be set aside if they seriously impede a spouse's self-fulfillment.

The film contains brief combat violence with mild



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Britt Robertson and Scott Eastwood star in a scene from the movie "The Longest Ride."

gore, a few scenes of semi-graphic premarital sexual activity, partial nudity, a couple of instances of profanity. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/PURE FLIX

Ted McGinley stars in a scene from the movie "Do You Believe." Storytelling takes a back seat to sermonizing in this competent ensemble drama that turns on a Chicago pastor's (Ted McGinley) preaching about the centrality of the Cross in the lives of Christians and the need to put faith into practice. He and his wife (Tracy Melchior) do so by taking in a pregnant teen (Madison Pettis) who has been living on the streets. The movie features some action violence and mature references, including to abortion. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

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ADIRONDACK

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Paul Smiths – The Catholic climate ambassador of New York State will speak at a science, art and music festival

Date: April 18

Place: Paul Smiths

Speaker: Gerry Gacloch, MD, the Catholic climate ambassador for New York State.

Features: Four students developed a 15-minute TED-style presentation on Adirondack climate change that is specifically for anyone in the local faith community. A full schedule of the talks, music, and poetry that will be offered in the auditorium at the Paul Smiths VIC is online at <http://www.samfest.org>

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's K of C will host an all you can eat spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 18

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine's Parish

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6 to 12, \$2.5; Children under 5, Free; Family, \$20

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

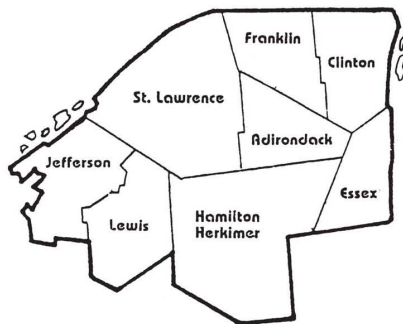
RUN FOR THE ROSES GALA

Altona – Seton Academy will have their second annual gala.

Date: May 2

Time: 5 p.m. to Midnight

Place: Rainbow Banquet Hall



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.

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. A cash bar and cake for dessert. Program will feature a "hat" walk Sign up by 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 olaplayerhouse@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

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 Entertainment.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – A Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: April 18

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.

Date: April 27

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Hearthsides Hospitality Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Speaker: Rev. Fred Garry, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Watertown. Rev. Garry has done a considerable amount of grief counseling. His topic will be "The Time of Grief".

APRIL ULTREYA

Watertown – Cursillo Community celebrating April Ultreya.

Date: April 16

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Patrick's Chapel

Features: Cursillistas' reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.

FAITH COMMUNITIES AND CLIMATE

Watertown – The diocesan Council of Consecrated Religious, and Watertown Faith and Ecology Group will speak about Faith Communities and Climate.

Date: April 19

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthsides Hospitality Center

Speaker: Climate Ambassador, Gerry Gacloch, MD, Chief of Cardiology Rochester General Hospital's Heart Institute. Dr. Gerry, the NYS ambassador from Catholic Coalition on climate change.

Contact: To reserve a seat, please call 315-782-3460.

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 Parish 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

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.,

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

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Lowville – A Spring rummage sale will be held.

Schedule: April 16, 3 p.m. to 6 and April 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Covered dish luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m., bag sale starting at noon.

Place: St. Peter's Church

LEWIS EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: April 16

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, Rosary, Benediction.

K OF C BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – The South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having an all you can eat pancake brunch.

Date: April 19

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

BULLHEAD FEED

Harrisville – A Bullhead Feed to be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Date: April 24

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Cost: Adults, \$12.50 for Fish dinner, \$10.50 for Ham, ages 12-5 \$7.50; under 5, Free

Features: Choice of Ham or Bullheads, salt potatoes, coleslaw, roll, dessert, beverages, take-outs available

ST. LAWRENCE

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.



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

Soap

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

(Adapted with permission from the Missionary Childhood Association in Argentina)

A missionary was walking down the street and met up with the owner of a soap factory. While they were talking, the owner of the soap factory said, "The Gospel that you preach can't be very good because there are still many bad people in this world."

The missionary noticed a child nearby who was playing in the dirt. The child was covered from head to toe in mud. The missionary responded to his friend, "Your soap must not be very good because there is still a lot of dirt in the world."

The man responded, "Well, it can only do its job of cleaning if and when the person uses it."

"Exactly!" replied the missionary.....

Making the world a better place for everyone is our duty. The Holy Father is particularly concerned with our commitment to children in the Mission Lands. It is our calling through baptism. Pope Francis requests of us all, "... Poverty calls us to sow hope.... Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures."

Be assured of the gratitude that our missionaries around have for the Diocese. They are doing the work of the Lord, protecting God's Children. I am so grateful for their efforts and deeds. I am also grateful to the people of the Diocese for the generous support.

"Soap" can be found in the Spring 2015 Issue of *It's Our World* is published by the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. The newsletter is used for the MCA program.

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OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — Joan Ann Betters-Snow, 76; Funeral Services April 9, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

AuSable Forks — Lena (Fournier) Rondeau, 82; Funeral Services April 8, 2015 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton — Linda Anne White, 80; Funeral Services April 1, 2015 at Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton — Timothy F. Dartnell, 68; Funeral Services April 11, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Clayton — Gary G. Mellon, 73; Funeral Services April 6, 2015 at Cummings Funeral Services, Inc.; burial in Depauville Cemetery.

Clayton — Mary "Theresa" (Foley) Roden, 89; Funeral Services April 7, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Edwards — William W. "Wally" Hurley, 85; Funeral Services April 7, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Evans Mills — Arthur L. "Bud" Schrod, Jr., 85; Funeral Services April 10, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

Hogansburg — Cynthia A. Cree Cook, 60; Funeral Services March 31, 2015 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid — Mona Stevens Dixon, 61; Funeral Services April 11, 2015 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Arthur Frederick Thompson, 89; Funeral Services April 13, 2015 at St. Agnes Church; cemetery at St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Janice Dame Wilson, 86; Funeral Services April 11, 2015 at St. Agnes Church.

Massena — Verda A. (Cunningham) Breitbeck, 75; Funeral Services April 4, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Marcia M. (Connelly) Eggleston, 54; Funeral Services April 6, 2015 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Aileen M. (Collins) Lonkey, 80; Funeral Services April 9, 2015 at the Phillips Memorial Home.

Massena — Claire M. Viau, 87; Funeral Services April 6, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Mineville — Mary Lou (Burhart) Jacobs, 68; Funeral Services April 4, 2015 at All Saints Church.

Moers Forks — Mabel Hamilton Bourdon, 88; Funeral April 6, 2015 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Union Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Stephen T. Duso, 70; Funeral Services April 9, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium, Plattsburgh.

Ogdensburg — James F. Compo, 52; Funeral Services April 6, 2015 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Parishville.

Ogdensburg — Samuel J. St. Pierre, 25;

Funeral Services April 10, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Harold Paul Switzer, 49; Funeral Services April 3, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Ronald F. Bardon, 75; Funeral Services April 10, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Francis F. "Goldie" Golden, 90; Funeral Services April 8, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Mausoleum.

Port Leyden — Dorothy M. "Kessler" Kraeger, 90; Funeral Services April 8, 2015 at St. Martin's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Constableville.

Potsdam — Sarah Ellen Fadden, 49; Funeral Services April 6, 2015 at the Seymour Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Saranac Lake — Adelaide (Vagnarelli) Nadler, 96; Funeral Services April 7, 2015 at St. Bernard's Church.

Watertown — Rocco C. Alteri, 92; Funeral Services April 8, 2015 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Rollin T. Gallagher, 87; Funeral Services April 10, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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GOOD FRIDAY CROSS-WALK



PHOTOS BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON
About 100 people took part in the annual Cross-Walk in Watertown on Good Friday. The walk begins at St. Patrick's Church and winds its way around the city to various "stations" for prayer. At left, Father Donald Robin-



son, pastor of St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's, listens as Elizabeth Smith, one of the organizers of the ecumenical Cross-walk, leads the prayer at St. Patrick's. At right, the participants make their way down the street, taking turns carrying the cross.

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

SPRING GETAWAY RAFFLE

Ogdensburg - St. Joseph's Foundation announced a Spring Getaway Raffle to benefit the Foundation.

Features: Tickets are on sale now at St. Joseph's Home 950 Linden Street or by calling 393-0780. Spring Getaway Raffle includes: Overnight Stay for two at Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort, \$25 Resort Reward, \$25 Slot Play, Dinner for two at The Place, Dinner for two at Little Italy, Dinner for two at Bonnie Castle Resort, Lunch Cruise for two on Uncle Sam's Boat Two Nation Tours, Four tickets for two to tour Single Castle, Hair Cut and Color from Radiance Hair & Day Spa, 30 Minute Hydro Massage from Glow Skin-care & Spa, Gas Credit Card from Bradley's Service, Hanging Flower Basket from both Farrand's Flowers & Event Planning and Basta's Flowers & Gifts.
Cost: Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5.

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY

Plattsburgh - The annual diocesan Youth Rally has been set

Schedule: Opens April 24 at 7 p.m. St.

Alexander's Church in Morrisonville for concert. Opens April 25 at 8:30 p.m. at Seton Academy for registration and closes with a 4 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's Church.

Features: Jackie Francois Angel will perform at concert and serve as keynote speaker and workshop leader for Saturday's program. 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 profession Franciscan Sisters of Renewal. A question-answer session with Bishop LaValley will follow before the group moves to St. Peter's for the Mass.

Registration: 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."

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 opportunity for daily one-on-one meetings with a spiritual director, along with daily Mass.

Contact: For more information please email inquiry@wadhams.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 Multipurpose 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 candi-

dates, 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.

FAMILY PILGRIMAGE

A diocesan family pilgrimage has been planned by the Diocesan Family Life Department, together with its offices of Pre-Cana, Natural Family Planning, and Respect Life

Date: July 18

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte, Vermont.

Features: A brief introduction will 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 p.m. by Father Doug Lucia, Diocesan Vicar for Family Life.

Contact: 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.