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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 45

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 29, 2015

## Of marriage and family

VATICAN CITY (NS) -- God's plan for fruitful, everlasting unions between a man and woman has been lost in a world filled with skepticism, distrust and hostility, Pope Francis said.

A culture that does not value "the stable and life-giving covenant between a man and woman is certainly a loss for everyone. We must bring

honor back to marriage and the family," he said April 22 during his general audience in St. Peter's Square.

But much also must be done to return respect and dignity to women, who are often exploited, objectified and understandably skeptical of the possibility of harmony between men and

women, he said.

The pope continued his catechesis about the family with the second of two talks on the complementary nature of men and women. The Book of Genesis shows how God created the heavens and earth, and then a special creature made in his likeness to care and watch over the

earth. Even though man was "the culmination" of God's creation, still "something was missing," the pope said.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam "is free, is master, but he is alone and God sees that this 'is not good.' It's like a lack of communion, a communion is lacking, a lack of fullness," he said

## AT THE YOUTH RALLY

Opened Friday with concert



PHOTO BY VALERIE DALTON

Jackie Francois Angel opened the 2015 diocesan Youth Rally with a concert Friday evening at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville. She also served as the keynote speaker for Saturday's program at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh. Full coverage of the Youth Rally - including Bishop LaValley's homily at the closing liturgy - will be published in next week's *North Country Catholic*.

## A trinity of Trinity principals

Trinity Catholic School in Massena honored three past principals for their dedicated service at its first annual gala, "April in Paris," held April 18 at the school.

Joan Rufa and Michele Bombard paid tribute to Dan Case and St. Joseph Sisters Mary Eamon Lyng and Shirley Anne Brown, for their efforts in securing the future of Catholic education in Massena.

Among the 200 guests was Bishop LaValley, a former parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Massena.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Seton Schools to see change

Because of rising enrollment, sixth grade class is moving to high school from elementary school

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## GRADE SCHOOL GARDENERS



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Justin Babbie and Patrick Bosley, students at Holy Family School in Malone, learn about planting vegetables under the watchful eye of teacher Sharon LaFlesh. Holy Family is one of nine Catholic schools across the diocese taking part in the "Teaching Gardens: Healthy Food from Seed to Table," program. The schools are sharing a \$39,400 grant from Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic Health Plan, to build their gardens. See pages 8-9 for full coverage.

**HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE:** Bishop LaValley to lead 2016 trip to Italy... p. 5

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COUNTRY  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Here we go again!

No one is more surprised than the editor that the *North Country Catholic* is sponsoring another pilgrimage to Europe.

Of course, our trips to Italy and Ireland were fabulous, life-changing experiences but they were also *exhausting*, pushing the resources of our two-person office to the limit and beyond!

But my "never again" has turned to "never say never" and I'm giving all the credit/blame to Pope Francis.

When the Holy Father announced that 2016 would be a Holy Year of Mercy, I started hearing voices.

First there was the voice of my husband with whom I had planned a trip to Rome as a way to celebrate our retirement "someday."

Mary Lou  
Kilian

"I really think we should go during the Holy Year," Tom said, "while we have Pope Francis."

"Well," I said when the shock subsided, "the best way to do that is on a pilgrimage."

"Maybe Bishop LaValley would want to go again," he said.

"Hmmmm," she said.

A couple hours later, I had a chance to talk with Bishop LaValley and made the proposal with the warning that, despite the date on the calen-

dar, my request was not an April Fool's joke.

"Just think about it," I said. The voice I heard back still surprises me a little. "I don't need to think about it," the bishop said. "Let's do it."

So, we're doing it. Next April 5, we hope to be joined by dozens of fellow pilgrims to begin what is sure to be a trip of a lifetime.

We'll start our Italian journey in Venice and move on to Florence, Siena, Orvieto, Assisi and Rome, celebrating daily Mass in some of the most historic churches in the world.

We'll also enjoy the cultural treasures of Italy as we view the works of Michaelangelo, ride on a gondola, walk through the Coliseum and the

Sistine Chapel and taste-test the gelato at every spot.

And, if all goes well, we'll each come home with the plenary indulgence that's associated with a pilgrimage to Rome during the Holy Year.

More information about the pilgrimage - with the bishop's personal invitation - appears on page 5 of this week's *NCC*. The full itinerary is available on our website, [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) or in the brochure we can send through the mail. Just give Christine a call at 315-608-7556.

One of our pilgrims from 2012 has some good advice for anyone considering the pilgrimage: "If you can manage it, GO!!! You will CHERISH the trip for the rest of your life."

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

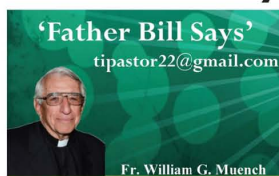
## Sharing faith with youthful enthusiasm

I am often asked where I find the ideas to share with people each Sunday. We priests are instructed to preach a homily each Sunday and the homily is to be based on the Scripture readings for the Mass. However, to make the message interesting, we search for some ideas that will make Jesus' message more alive to the people of a parish.

Recently, an idea sprung to my mind, right during Mass - out of the blue. I had a homily prepared and then another idea came to me.

Now I know what you will tell me - that I, a priest, should have realized that it was simply God's way of letting me know that God had a better idea for me that day to share.

What happened was this: I had carefully prepared a homily for a weekend Mass, one of the Sundays of the Easter season. Then at the first Mass that weekend another idea jumped out at me when I proclaimed the opening prayer of the Mass, the collect. Right away, I recognized a better thought than what I had prepared.



Fr. William G. Muench

Here is the prayer: "May your people exult forever, O God, is renewed youthfulness of spirit so that rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope in the rejoicing of the day of resurrection."

In this prayer, the Church encourages us all to pray for that Easter hope that gives us all confidence to live in the joy of Our Savior by developing a spirit of youthfulness.

Right away I realized that this would be a perfect challenge for the people - discovering Christ's life and love by becoming more youthful.

Jesus said as recorded in the Gospels "Unless you become like a little child, you will not enter the Kingdom of God."

The Spirit of Easter that Jesus brings to us in his resurrection is a youthful spirit. This is the

way we are able to live a good life and bring message to this world - when we live in that youthful spirit.

So, I quickly thought about what it means to be youthful. First of all, I thought of enthusiasm. A youthful spirit doesn't do things halfway; a youthful spirit means being excited and joyful. A disciple of Christ discovers in faith the joy and excitement of the message of Christ. It should take over his or her life.

This message of Jesus should put enthusiasm into efforts to make one's life better. With a strong faith this enthusiasm will make us friends of Jesus. As Christians, we are challenged to live like Jesus. May people see that spirit of Jesus in our lives. Pope Francis said this, "Christians should not look like people that just came from a funeral."

There is so much more in that idea of youthfulness. Youths don't like to be left out and a Christian does not want to be left out. When there are opportunities to bring Jesus into their world, they are ready to do something. This youth-

fulness brings an openness and readiness to accept the challenge of making the world a better place.

Youthfulness means a spirit of joy; it brings to our Christian way of life a spirit of joy and happiness. This joy truly brings Jesus' love and peace to all that we do.

From the Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People of the Second Vatican Council: - speaking of young people and their spirit -

*"Carried along by their natural ardor and exuberant energy, when awareness of their own personality ripens in them they shoulder responsibilities that are theirs and are eager to take their place in social and culture life. If this enthusiasm is penetrated with the spirit of Christ, animated by a sense of obedience and love towards the pastors of the Church, a very rich harvest can be expected from it. The young should become the first apostles of the young, in direct contact with them, exercising the apostolate by themselves among themselves, taking account of their social environment."*

# Bishop approves grade reconfiguration at Seton

PLATTSBURGH - Bishop Terry R. LaValley has approved an educational grade reconfiguration for Seton Academy Elementary School and Seton Catholic Central Jr./Sr. High School.

Effective with the start of the new school year in September, the Seton Schools will be officially moving the incoming 6th grade Class of 2022 from its traditional self-contained classroom at Seton Academy Elementary School at 23 Charles Street to the Seton Catholic Central Junior High at 206 New York Road.

Seton Academy will be accepting additional applications for their newly formed pre-kindergarten classrooms for 4 year olds in addition to grades K-5 while Seton Catholic is now accepting applications for grades 6-12 for the 2015-2016 academic year.

"We are proud to announce the expansion of our middle school campus by transitioning the 6th grade class," said Chris Hay, president of the Education Council of the Seton Schools. "This move will allow us to accommodate our increasing enrollment demands and position us for future growth as we implement our five year strategic plan."

Hay noted that Seton faculty pride themselves on their dedication to the mission of Catholic education and a personal passion of teaching and learning. Meeting the academic bar of New York State's new curriculum standards is not viewed by Seton faculty as an academic challenge as much as it is a personal commitment to success, he said.

A few highlights of positive alternatives to public school



PHOTO SUPPLIED

During Catholic school week the Seton Academy families created posters showing how they "find their home in Christ." Nick and Lydia Palma explain their poster to their friends, Alex Mason and Abby Pearl. The posters create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors to Seton Academy in Plattsburgh. Seton has seen an increase in enrollment this year, leading to a move of the sixth grade from the elementary school building to the high school for the next school year.

education at Seton include:

- All New York State education standards are exceeded with small class sizes
- Faculty are accredited and certified with smaller student: teacher ratios
- Emphasis on differentiated and individualized instruction
- Faith-based environment teaches good morals and welcomes all denominations
- 100% college acceptance rate

"We are now accepting applications for Pre-K and Kindergarten-grade 5 at Seton Academy and Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12) but spaces are filling up quickly, so please apply today to reserve your space today," said

Lynn M. Gilbert, director of Enrollment Advancement & Enrollment Management for the Seton Schools.



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- Confirmation

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## A FAMILY OF FAITH



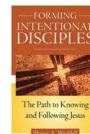
St. Patrick's Church in Watertown welcomed its third Marra brother as an active altar server over the Easter weekend. All three: Philip, age 12; Joshua, 10; and Jack, 8; are the sons of Ticia Marra, St. Patrick's liturgical music director. The boys are shown above with their grandfather, Deacon Kevin Mastellon who also serves at St. Patrick's.

Forming  
Intentional  
Disciples  
Conference

Join us on May 30, 2015  
for an all day workshop  
with

Keith Strohm of the Siena Institute

*This practical conference and workshop will help you understand the meaning of the New Evangelization and the urgent need for our parishes to become houses of discipleship. The workshop focuses on the need to awaken the personal faith of our laity so that they will become more capable of putting their gifts and talents to use in the parish communities.*



May 30, 2015 from 8:30am -4:00pm  
Potsdam Student Union Multi-Purpose Room  
For more information and to

Register online at [www.rcdony.org/fid](http://www.rcdony.org/fid)

for more information: contact the office of evangelization  
[mdanders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdanders@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 ext 1380

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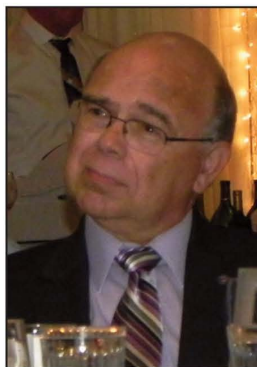
*For efforts in securing the future of Catholic education in Massena*

## Principals honored at Trinity Catholic's Gala

MASSENA - Trinity Catholic School honored three past principals for their dedicated service at its first annual gala, "April in Paris."

Joan Rufa and Michele Bombard paid tribute to Dan Case and St. Joseph Sisters Mary Eamon Lyng and Shirley Anne Brown, for their efforts securing the future of Catholic education in Massena.

Over 200 guests, including Bishop Terry LaValley and St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, were present to help honor these three leaders of Catholic education.



Dan Case

of his brightest students, a forensics star, with a brilliant mind for numbers and trained by Jesuits, would be following in his footsteps," she said.

Mrs. Rufa went on to praise his efforts with undertaking the challenging task of running a K-8 Catholic school for six years and then courageously assisting the blending of Sacred Heart School and St. Joseph School when the decision was made to consolidate the two schools in 1983.

"Fortunately for Trinity Catholic, God had placed the right person at the helm of Sacred Heart School; a leader who exemplified extreme hu-

mility, loyalty and service above self," Mrs. Rufa said. "He was a leader who worked diligently to assure this newly consolidated school would be a success and Catholic education in Massena would remain alive and well."

Dan Case lives in Massena with his wife, Linda and is still helping out Trinity Catholic when he can. Mr. Case is currently serving as a member of Trinity Catholic's Strategic Planning Committee for Finance.

### Sister Mary Eamon

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph for 51 years, was also honored for her contributions to Catholic education over the last 46 years.

Sister Eamon served as principal in Massena during two different periods of time. She was principal of St. Joseph's School from 1977-1983 and principal of Trinity Catholic School from 1988-2000. Sister Eamon was greatly loved and respected by the parents, students and teachers during her time as principal at St. Joseph's and Trinity Catholic.

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng also played a significant role in the consolidation process of St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart School. At the time, many parents were concerned about their children transferring into a newly formed school. Sister Eamon guaranteed a solid enrollment for Trinity Catholic by visiting every family; listening to their concerns and dispelling their fears. Her optimism and perseverance convinced each family not to abandon a Catholic education for their child.

When Sister Mary Eamon Lyng returned to Massena as principal at Trinity Catholic School, she initiated several improvements and accomplishments such as: the New Window Campaign, the Trinity Truck raffle and the Ellen



Michelle Bombard, right, delivered a tribute to St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, the first principal of Trinity Catholic School in Massena.

McKenna Scholarship Fund.

One significant achievement, while she was principal, was Trinity Catholic's recognition as a National Drug Free School. Students and teachers were invited to the White House, in 1989, to receive this prestigious award.

Mrs. Rufa presented Sister Mary Eamon Lyng her award stating, "Sister refers to the time she spent in Massena as '18 years of joy!' This is an accurate description of her years of service. Sister's time in Massena was '18 years of joy'--the joy she spread with her loyal devotion, spirit of optimism and steadfast faith."

### Sister Shirley Anne

Sister Shirley Anne Brown was also honored for her extensive and impressive service to Catholic education throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Diocese of Syracuse. In September of 1983, Trinity Catholic School opened with Sister Shirley Anne Brown as its first principal. It was her daunting task to unite two School Boards, two faculties and two school cultures into one.

Sister Shirley Anne accomplished this with integrity and grace; as well as laying the groundwork for a cutting edge curriculum and high ac-

ademic standards.

Under her leadership, Trinity Catholic began a Pre-K program, a program for Talented and Gifted Students, the Great Books Program and was the first school in Massena to offer a full day kindergarten. Sister Shirley Anne's administrative efforts and guidance was largely responsible for Trinity Catholic School being named a New York State School of Excellence.

Michele Bombard honored Sister Shirley Anne with these words, "The poet Maya Angelou said, 'if you're lucky, once in a great while, one visionary's solitary fantasy can transform a million realities.' Trinity was one of those lucky ones; for without a doubt Sr. Shirley Anne's vision for Trinity Catholic School touched the future of so many lives and virtually saved Catholic education in Massena."

The three past principals were chosen to be honored at Trinity's very first gala because they were the "trinity" of leaders who selflessly put their egos aside and vigorously acted as stewards for the future. Their dedication, loyalty and sacrifice helped guarantee a choice in education for all families in Massena and its surrounding communities.



St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng was honored by Joan Rufa during the Trinity Gala.

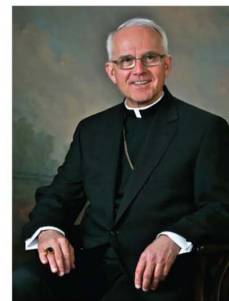


# Bishop LaValley to lead Holy Year of Mercy Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

April 5 - 17, 2016

Rome • Venice • Florence  
Siena • Assisi • Orvieto

**\$3999 from Montreal**



Dear Friends,

Why not join me and other pilgrims on a journey of a lifetime—a pilgrimage to Italy during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy? A highlight of our travels will be four days in Rome where we will enter St. Peter's Basilica through the Holy Doors and also visit the other three major basilicas. We hope to have an audience with Pope Francis and tours of the Sistine Chapel, the Coliseum, the Vatican Museum, as well as visit many other spectacular places holding sacred and cultural treasures. Our pilgrimage will, also, see us at such awesome locations as Venice, Florence, Siena, Orvieto and Assisi.

A Holy Year offers unique opportunities for spiritual growth. This Holy Year Pilgrimage to Italy promises to be a time for prayer, an increase in faith, and a whole lot of enjoyment for all the pilgrims. The frosting on the cake: gaining the plenary indulgence associated with such a pilgrimage during a Holy Year.

I hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting and spiritually enriching time together.

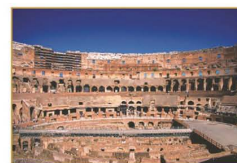
**\$100 Early Booking  
Discount if Reserved by  
May 24, 2015**



Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Bishop LaValley*

Bishop Terry R. LaValley



Call 315-608-7556 or

Visit our website [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for more information

# Catholics and the challenge of a changing climate

By Sister Bethany Fitzgerald  
Diocesan Faith and Ecology Group

**WATERTOWN** - Dr. Gerry Gacoch, chief of cardiology at Rochester General Hospital and NYS Climate Ambassador for Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, spoke to more than 50 people at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse April 19 on how our Catholic social teachings can shed light on one's response to climate change.

Dr. Gacoch combines his medical profession as a doctor with his appreciation for the beauty of the earth and the needs of people affected by climate change. The Adirondacks are among his family's favorite places to vacation. As a medical doctor he has volunteered seven times in Haiti as well as in Belize and El Salvador.

Dr. Gacoch stated that 98% of scientists today affirm the reality of global climate change and that human activity has contributed to it, while 2% still debate it.

To illustrate the situation, he posed a question: "Suppose you were very sick and consulted 100 doctors for their diagnosis and treatment. The results were 98 of them agreed on the cause and a treatment. However, two were not sure about the cause and advised more tests to see what might develop over time. What would you choose to do?"

Many facts regarding the effects of global warming both on the natural world and on the human community were presented. The rising temperatures from greenhouse gases are happening more rapidly than predicted and we are seeing the effects, i.e., melting glaciers, extreme flooding, drought, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires throughout the world. Most global warming that has occurred in the last fifty years is attributed to human activity.



Dr. Gerry Gacoch, center, chief of cardiology at Rochester General Hospital and NYS Climate Ambassador for Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, speaks with some of the participants of the April 19 "Faith Communities and Climate" presentation he made at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown.

A three-minute film on "Who is Under Our Carbon Footprint?" revealed that the poor are most affected by global warming and are least able to bear the burdens. Loss of homes, destruction of productive land and loss of jobs weigh heavy on those who already live on the edge of poverty.

Popes from Pope John XXIII to our present Pope Francis as well as the bishops have been consistent with their call for care for creation and preferential option for the poor.

In 2009, Ten Commandments of the Environment was written by Pope Benedict, and "Global Climate Change: Plea for Dialogue Prudence and the Common Good" was issued by US Catholic Bishops in 2001. The Vatican installed solar panels on the audience hall in 2008 and pledged to become the first "carbon-neutral" state in Europe. (Bishop Terry installed solar panels to power his residence last August). Pope Francis' en-

cyclical on the environment will be coming out soon.

We must tread more lightly and understand the consequences of every step, consuming less, advocating for the responsible stewardship of God's Creation and for those who come after us.

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming programs:  
**May 8** - 6 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, Peru

## Bishop's Schedule

**April 29** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

**April 30** - 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown

**May 1** - 10:50 Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

**May 2** - 11 a.m., Confirmation at St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden  
4 p.m., Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown  
5 p.m., Blessing of the new Knights of Columbus Hall in Watertown  
6 p.m., IHC Gala at Hilton Gardens in Watertown

**May 3** - 10:30 a.m., Confirmation at St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington  
5 p.m., Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Canton

**May 4** - 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. Stephen's Church in Croghan

**May 5** - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

**May 6-7** - Deacon Convocation at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid

## Rest in Peace

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

**April 27** - Michael F. Ambrose, 1934

**April 28** - Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

**April 29** - Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

**April 30** - Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

**May 1** - Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

**May 2** - Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

**May 3** - Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

**May 4** - Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

## Environmental Stewardship

### "Water, water everywhere but . . ."

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI "Attention needs to be paid to the world-wide problems of water and to the global water cycle system, which is of prime importance for life on earth.

The ecological problems of water must be dealt with not only because of the chilling prospects of environmental degradation on the horizon; the real motivation must be the quest for authentic world-wide solidarity inspired by the values of charity, justice and the common good."

While we watch the return of the green grass with the lovely spring rains, the Holy Father reminds us that our attention regarding fresh water needs to go beyond our own backyards.

Did you know that in our country, the average person uses about 21 gallons of water a day for our standard of living??

In the world's poorest countries, people use just 2.5 gallons a day to wash, clean and cook?

How many gallons of water do you think you use a day?

Take a few moments this week to be grateful for the sounds of rain around you.

Consider the many ways that water is a vital part of your day, beginning with moment you rise in the morning until you retire at night. Consider ending your day with St. Francis' prayer: "

Praise be my Lord for our sister Water, who is very serviceable to us, and humble and precious and clean."

## To Report Abuse

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

**Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth  
Counseling Services of Northern New  
York, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY,  
12923; e-mail: [terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-  
483-3261; or Father James Seymour,  
the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-  
393-2920, ext. 1340

Are your child's immunizations up to date?

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Fidelis Care is working to keep our members and the community healthy.

**Measles and Chickenpox are just two of the diseases that you can prevent by having your child immunized.**

Children under the age of 2 don't have all the defenses they need to fight off infection. Immunizations (shots) protect them from dangerous childhood diseases like:

- Whooping Cough
- Hepatitis
- Rotavirus
- Mumps
- Diphtheria
- Flu
- Polio
- Measles
- Chickenpox
- Tetanus and more...



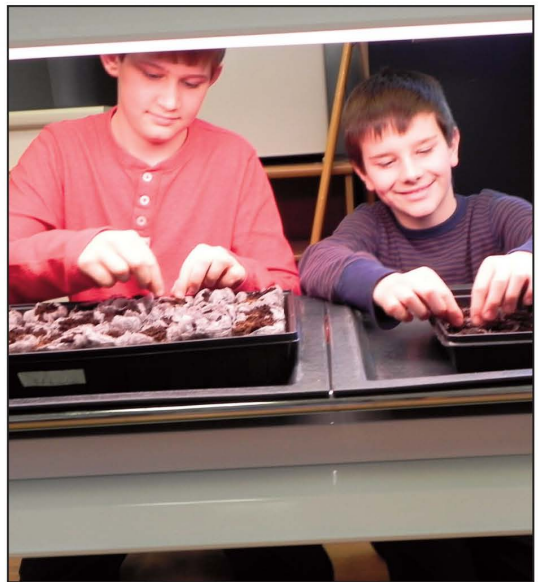
**Is Your Child Covered?** Fidelis Care offers New York State sponsored free or low-cost health insurance coverage for children under 19 through the Child Health Plus program.

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To learn more about applying for health insurance including Child Health Plus and Medicaid through NY State of Health, the Official Health Plan Marketplace, visit [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or call 1-855-355-5777.

# From Garden to Table



This year's Earth Day project at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga is the creation of a garden, planned, created and maintained for the school and community. A \$4100 Fidelis Corporation Grant was awarded to St. Mary's School to purchase GrowLabs, gardening supplies and educational materials. This was a portion of a \$39,400 Fidelis grant awarded to nine Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. St. Mary's Middle School won another grant through the Eastern NY Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association for the portable beds for vegetable gardens, to be moved upon the re-opening of St. Mary's School this August. Organic herbs and crops for the school breakfast and lunch programs are the hope for the near future. Pictured are David LaPointe, Kennice Rich, Jack Michalak and Sara Zelinski.

Ryan Deshane and Connor Terry of Trinity Catholic School in Massena plant their seeds and leave them to grow in the school's GrowLab.

## 'Teaching Gardens' growing at schools across the diocese

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

Children at Catholic schools across the diocese are getting their hands dirty on the way to keeping their bodies healthy as they take part in "Teaching Gardens: Healthy Food from Seed to Table."

Nine elementary schools are sharing a \$39,400 grant from Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic Health Plan, to conduct the program.

Among the goals of the "garden to table" experience are:

- to provide a firsthand experience of the parts of a plant and the role of each part in order to select and properly incubate and grow a healthy plant to maturity;
- to provide an experience of building and preparing a garden for planting;

- to nurture and grow a garden from seed to mature plant;

- to understand the difference between organic gardening and the use of chemicals;

- to relate the growth of vegetables as part of a healthy diet as a component to avoid obesity;

- to experience the vegetables grown as part of a real meal in the cafeteria or equivalent setting;

- to reinforce good nutrition as a major component of a preventive health program.

Karen Donahue, assistant superintendent of schools, is the diocesan program coordinator. Among the ways she has assisted the schools is by placing group orders for GrowLabs, which allowed the students to begin the planting process during the winter, and by offering advice about resources available for the project.

The schools "are creating a learning garden that will provide healthy food for the cafeteria and family dinner table," Mrs. Donahue said. "Through Common Core based hands-on experiences students are developing life-long expertise and skills in consumer gardening.

"Culminating events will take place at each location and focus on locally identified activities such as family events that showcase the 'fruits of our labor,'" Mrs. Donahue said. This might be "a community dinner event featuring vegetables from the garden, a family fun night that features salsa grown and made by the students or expanding the food service program offerings to include vegetables from the garden."

### At the schools

Each of the schools was asked to select a grade or

mix of students to take the lead in constructing and maintaining a teaching garden.

At Trinity Catholic School in Massena each of the grades is responsible for growing one or two of the selected vegetables: asparagus, rhubarb, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, beans and herbs.

Father Donald Manfred, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, offered a plot of land next to the church and the local Home Depot donated gardening tools for the children.

Over the summer, families will tend the plants with the expectation that the vegetables will be canned and frozen. In the fall, the food will be served in the cafeteria.

Trinity students will be asked to submit a recipe using their vegetables and will vote on favorite recipes which could become a per-

manent part of the cafeteria's food offerings.

At Holy Family School in Malone, Jaime Pelkey has been serving as the garden coordinator.

So far, the Holy Family gardeners have secured a location outside the school and reached out to Bonesteel's Garden Center, owned by a family with children at Holy Family.

Mr. Bonesteel has offered education session on basic gardening facts for the faculty.

The middle schools students took a field trip to the garden center and planted a variety of seeds that will be stored in Bonesteel's Greenhouse until the garden beds are made.

"Our plan is to have 12 raised beds and plant corn on the perfect spot in our new 'outdoor classroom!'" Ms. Pelkey said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





The fifth and sixth graders at Augustinian Academy in Carthage are shown helping Mrs. Carney and Mrs. Schexnayder build their school's GrowLab for the gardening project.

# Garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The children at St. James in Gouverneur are still in the research portion of their garden project as they prepare to plant an "ABC garden."

Principal Clara Cummings said the students are learning about plants and vegetables that will grow in this area, and will choose one for each letter of the alphabet to insure a wide variety.

## About Fidelis Care

Fidelis Care is the New York State Catholic Health Plan, serving more than 811,000 children and adults of all ages with quality, affordable health insurance in 59 counties statewide.

Fidelis Care offers free or low-cost coverage through the State's Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, and Medicaid Managed Care programs, as well as through a variety of Medicare and Dual Advantage plans.

The Teaching Gardens grant is the fourth grant awarded through Fidelis Care's Catholic Schools Grant Fund aiming to improve health and wellness programs in diocesan schools.

As a result of funding from

Fidelis, elementary school students have access to yearly data from physical fitness assessments and the opportunity to set fitness goals; have cafeteria and snack programs that are

more healthy and nutritious; experience periodic health assemblies and fairs as well as participate in regular class and/or school wide walking programs.



Connor Smith and Logan LaVigne of Holy Family School in Malone start their planting.

# BARSTOW

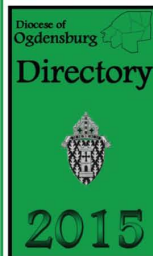
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CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Francis meets with representatives of the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious in his library in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican April 16. The same day the Vatican announced the conclusion of a seven-year process of investigation and dialogue with the group to ensure fidelity to church teachings. The outcome resulted in revised statutes approved by the Vatican.

## Vatican, LCWR announce successful end of process

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Vatican approved new statutes and bylaws for the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious, ending a seven-year process of investigating the group and engaging in dialogue with its officers to ensure greater harmony with church teaching.

Conference officers met April 16 with Pope Francis, the same day the Vatican announced the conclusion of the process, which included oversight for three years by a committee of three bishops.

LCWR has more than 1,500 members, who represent more than 80 percent of the 57,000 women religious in the United States.

Four LCWR officers spent 50 minutes with Pope Francis, discussing his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," which, they said, "has so deeply impacted our lives as women religious and our mission in the world. Our conversation allowed us to personally thank Pope Francis for providing leadership and a vision that has captivated our hearts and emboldened us as in our own

mission and service to the church."

"From the beginning, our extensive conversations were marked by a spirit of prayer, love for the church, mutual respect and cooperation," said a joint statement of the LCWR officers and the U.S. bishops appointed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to oversee the conference's reform.

LCWR promised that materials it publishes first will be reviewed to "ensure theological accuracy and help avoid statements that are ambiguous with regard to church doctrine or could be read as contrary to it." In addition, programs sponsored by the conference and speakers chosen for its events will be expected to reflect church teaching, the statement said.

In addition, it said, the doctrinal congregation, the bishops and LCWR officers had "clarifying and fruitful" conversations about "the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist; the place of the Liturgy of the Hours in religious communities; the centrality of a communal process of contemplative prayer practiced at LCWR assemblies and other gatherings; the relationship between LCWR and other or-

ganizations; and the essential understanding of LCWR as an instrument of ecclesial communion."

The new statutes, the statement said, sought "greater clarity in expressing the mission and responsibilities" of the conference as a body "under the ultimate direction of the Apostolic See" and as a group "centered on Jesus Christ and faithful to the teachings of the church."

Sister Sharon Holland, LCWR president and vice president of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was unable to attend the meeting at the Vatican April 16. However, the Vatican released a statement from her expressing pleasure that the process had reached a successful conclusion.

The process involved "long and challenging exchanges" that were "conducted always in a spirit of prayer and mutual respect," she said. The process brought the sisters, the bishops and Vatican officials "to deeper understandings of one another's experiences, roles, responsibilities and hopes for the church and the people it serves. We learned that what we hold in common is much greater than any of our differences."

## Remember when you first met Jesus

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In every relationship, including one's relationship with Jesus, it is important to remember that "first encounter," that initial, life-changing moment of love, Pope Francis said.

### Pope's prayer suggestion

Celebrating Mass April 24 in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis used the first reading's account of the conversion of St. Paul to begin a homily about a whole list of encounters Jesus had with individuals in the Gospels.

After John and Andrew met Jesus, they stayed with him "the whole evening" and became his disciples; Simon became Peter, the "rock" on which Jesus built his church; one man with leprosy healed by Jesus came back to thank him; and a woman was healed just by touching the hem of Jesus' robe, the pope said.

"Look at the many stories there (in the Gospel) and see how Jesus encounters people, how he chooses the apostles -- all the encounters with Jesus there," the pope told the small congregation.

Catholics should read their Bibles, paying special attention to those stories of encounters and look at details that might be similar to their own meeting with Jesus even though "everyone has their own" story to tell.

"He never forgets, but we forget our encounter with Jesus," the pope said. "This would be good homework: Think, 'When did I really feel the Lord close to me? When did I feel I had to change my life or be better or forgive someone? When did I meet the Lord?'"

"This is a beautiful prayer and I recommend you do it every day," the pope said. "And when you remember, rejoice in it because that memory is a memory of love."

## Need for dialogue seen

VATICAN CITY (CNS) --- The Vatican said interreligious dialogue with the Muslim community must be strengthened given "the barbarism underway" by terrorists claiming to be Muslims.

The statement, issued by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, comes after hundreds of Christians have been killed in recent months, often barbarically, by Islamist extremist groups in the Middle East, Libya, Nigeria, Kenya and several other African nations. Most recently, more than 20 Ethiopian Christians were killed by Islamic State militants in Libya. Thousands of other Christians in war-torn

regions have been run out of their homes by Islamist groups.

Pope Francis and other church leaders have called on the international community to come to the aid of persecuted Christians in these regions. In the face of the atrocities, the pontifical council said some people are questioning whether interreligious dialogue with the Muslim community should continue.

"The answer is yes, more than ever," said the council in its April 22 statement. "First, because the vast majority of Muslims do not recognize themselves in the barbarism underway."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope to visit Cuba first before heading to United States in September

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will visit Cuba in September before his trip to the United States. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters April 22 that the pope has "received and accepted the invitation from the civil authorities and bishops of Cuba" and has decided to visit the island before going to the United States. The pope is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Washington late Sept. 22 and will visit Washington, New York and Philadelphia Sept. 23-27. Visiting Cuba and the United States on the same trip abroad signals Pope Francis' continuing interest in encouraging the normalization of relations between them. In December, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced their nations were working toward re-establishing official diplomatic relations. Both leaders credited Pope Francis with helping to secure the deal. The pope had been following and supporting the talks. He had also written personal letters to both leaders, and the Vatican hosted a secret meeting between representatives of the countries last fall.

## Parents of slain child oppose death penalty for marathon bomber

BOSTON (CNS) -- The parents of Martin Richard, the youngest victim killed in the Boston Marathon bombings two years ago, are asking that the death penalty be taken "off the table" for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. On April 8, Tsarnaev was found guilty on all 30 counts related to the attack that killed three people and severely injured 260 others at the finish line of the 2013 marathon. The penalty phase of the trial began April 21 at the U.S. District Court in Boston and was expected to last about four weeks. Jurors will decide between sentencing Tsarnaev to death or to life without parole. In a letter published in the Boston Globe April 17 titled "To end the anguish, drop the death penalty," Bill and Denise Richard asked that the Department of Justice bring the case to a close. "We are in favor of and would support the Department of Justice in taking the death penalty off the table in exchange for the defendant spending the rest of his life in prison without any possibility of release and waiving all of his rights to appeal," they wrote. "We understand all too well the heinousness and brutality of the crimes committed. We were there. We lived it. The defendant murdered our 8-year-old son, maimed our 7-year-old daughter, and stole part of our soul," they wrote.

## Pope accepts resignation of Bishop Finn

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri, who was convicted in 2012 on one misdemeanor count of failing to report suspected child abuse. The Vatican announced the bishop's resignation April 21, specifying it was under the terms of the Code of Canon Law, which says, "A diocesan bishop who has become less able to fulfill his office because of ill health or some other grave cause is earnestly requested to present his resignation from office." The Vatican offered no further comment. The pope's acceptance of Bishop Finn's resignation comes after members of the Pontifical Commission for Child Protection announced that one of their priorities was to ensure measures were in place to promote the accountability of bishops in protecting children and upholding the Vatican-approved norms for dealing with accusations of child abuse made against church workers.

# Cardinal George touched nation, world with his intellect, leadership

CHICAGO (CNS) - To say that Cardinal Francis E. George was an intellectual would be an understatement. To try to quantify his impact on the Catholic Church in the United States and in the world would be an understatement.

"He's the closest thing in recent American church history to what you would think of as sort of the all-star European cardinal intellectualist," veteran Vatican journalist John L. Allen Jr. told the Catholic New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper, in December 2013. "Prior to George in Chicago, the American Catholic Church has never really produced such a thing."

Cardinal George, who retired in 2014 as Chicago's archbishop, died April 17 after a long battle with cancer. He was 78.

The late churchman's intellectualism was sharpened during stints teaching philosophy at several Catholic universities across the nation, and then further honed when writing doctoral dissertations in philosophy and theology.

"He is acutely aware that words carry meaning. They shape ideas, and ideas shape actions," Father Thomas Baima, vicar for ecumenical and interreligious affairs for the Archdiocese of Chicago and vice rector for Mundelein Seminary, said during an October 2013 speech on Cardinal George.

Probably the most famous words spoken by Cardinal George came during a talk before a group of priests, in which he warned about the dangers of a completely secularized society. The comment went viral, leading Cardinal George to write about it in an Oct. 21, 2012, column for the Catholic New World.

"I am (correctly) quoted as saying that I expected to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. What is omitted from the reports is a final phrase I added about the bishop who follows a possibly martyred bishop: 'His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the church has done so often in human history.'

"What I said is not 'prophetic' but a way to force people to think outside of the usual categories that limit and sometimes poison both private and public discourse."

However, papal biographer and columnist George Weigel believes Cardinal George's writings and speeches sounded a warning bell early on, especially on threats to religious freedom.

"His calm insistence that there were and are deep cultural problems in American democracy was a needed wake-up call for many," Weigel wrote in a December 2013 email to the Catholic New World.

His American peers looked to his intellect and leadership, electing him to a three-year term as USCCB president in November 2007. Just this January, the Knights of Columbus presented Cardinal George with the organization's highest honor, the Gaudium et Spes award.

That respect extended to the Vatican itself, which valued his global view shaped by his work as head of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate for 12 years, said Allen.

He was not without his critics, however. Father Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and rector of Mundelein Seminary, noted in a talk about Cardinal George delivered to the seminary on the 50th anniversary of his priesthood that both "liberals" and "conservatives" often felt stung by Cardinal George's words, when he was merely calling for life true to the Gospels.

"What he proposes, finally, is neither liberal nor conservative Catholicism, but 'simply Catholicism,' which means the faith in its fullness, mediated through the successors of the Apostles," Barron said.

For all of his accomplishments, however, Cardinal George remained unassuming. Law professor, pro-life advocate and author Helen Alvare recalled meeting him when he was bishop of Yakima, Washington, and was surprised at his small apartment and humble furnishings.

"The other thing I noticed about his living quarters was there were more books than anything else," she told the Catholic New World in December 2013.

"That lifelong intellectual pursuit will shape 'the George legacy,'" Allen said.

"What we'll mean by that is the recovery of a kind of sixth sense of what it means to be Catholic," he said

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## After Paul - the church would never be the same

Soon after the early Church began to grow, a major event occurred. Saul of Tarsus, one of the most feared and hated persecutors of Christians, miraculously converted to Christianity.

No one could have predicted the startling accident that befell Saul on his way from Jerusalem to Damas-

cus. He was knocked off his horse, and struck blind by a divine shaft of light that left him blind and helpless.

He was directed by a Voice to seek out one Ananias who would give him further

directions. The rest is history.

After some time in prayer and solitude, Barnabas, a man respected and trusted by the Christians, brought him to Jerusalem, and introduced him to Peter and the other leaders.

At first, distrust and fear kept them at a distance, but gradually he was accepted.

Despite many severe trials, Paul's theology prevailed. The Church would never be the same again.

It was surely a miracle of grace that often-bitter fighting between various fac-



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

tions did not split the Church apart and destroy it.

Furthermore, many were sorely tested when friends and relatives opposed them or even betrayed them to the authorities.

What saved the whole enterprise was surely the teaching we find in today's second reading. John tells his followers "...love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." We must not merely "mouth" the beautiful teaching of Jesus, but work on the difficult task of living those words.

All of the disciples must likewise have found consolation in the powerful image of today's Gospel. I

n the great farewell address of Jesus at the Last

## MAY 3

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

## READINGS

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8"

Supper, He tells his disciples: "I am the vine; you are the branches".

Think about it! As a branch cannot survive if it is separated from the vine, neither can we survive if we sever our connection with Jesus. He is constantly strengthening us with grace, just as a vine gives life moment by moment to its branches.

Sometimes we take to ourselves all the credit for the resulting growth within us. We even try to control the directions in which our faith life is shared. We like to pick our own ministries, rather than allow the Lord through the Church have a say in the decision.

Then, when our activities are "pruned" through failure—or a call to another ministry, we can complain or become bitter.

At those times, we need to be more trusting, and realize that perhaps God's Providence has broader plans for our growth and the growth of His kingdom. This is what Jesus meant by "pruning". Let's hope it's all for a closer grafting on the Vine.

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## OUR READERS WRITE

## Surviving siblings

As I have written previously, Silent No More Awareness has taken on a yearlong monthly healing project, and April focuses on the healing of surviving siblings.

There are two components to this dynamic. First addresses the mother and father of the aborted child and, second, the surviving sibling and the family relationship challenges.

The surviving sibling oftentimes experiences a profound sense of emptiness, anxiety and guilt.

Sibling survivors struggle to understand their value as a human being in light of their siblings' lives discarded through abortion.

This is an extremely important and rarely discusses example of the collateral damage from the abortion blast.

According to Philip Ney, MD, his observations of psychiatric patients led him to believe that some people were deeply affected by surviving when someone near and dear to them, usually a sibling, died from a pregnancy loss, especially as a result of abortion.

The surviving sibling oftentimes experiences feelings of impending doom, guilt about surviving, pessimism about the future, not trusting caregivers and other existential symptoms were experienced due to this loss.

There is help and healing available for surviving siblings and their parents: silentnomoreawareness.com and survivingsibling.wordpress.com

NANCY BELZILE  
WILLSBORO

especially children (with proper supervision) and the elderly. Don't forget chairs, hats and water.

Please actively encourage your families, friends and neighbors to come too! Also, please ask local pastors to include this in their coming church bulletins.

Thank you for prayerfully considering attending this vital Life Chain and may God richly bless you and your families. Please join us as we pray an hour with Jesus to save many Lifetimes!

PEACE & JOY OF JESUS,  
CHRIS LAROSE NEV  
POTSDAM

## LIFE CHAIN in Potsdam

One in four pregnancies ends in death for the unborn child by abortion; 3200 babies are killed by abortion every day in America!

The child living in the womb is one of us and helpless, Jesus tells us to help those in greatest need or else! (Matt 25:45-46)

For the love of God, please, won't you join with courageous defenders of innocent life, who will be making a visual statement for the unborn babies.

Our prayerful witness is scheduled for Saturday - May 9, 2015 from 1 to 2 pm in downtown Potsdam along Market and Main Sts.

We will gather (get signs) around 12:45 pm at the parking lot across Main St. from the Roxy Theater.

We hope for sunny skies, but this Life Chain will happen regardless of the weather. Any sacrifice we make will pale compared to what the little ones endure from the cruel hands of the abortionist!

We encourage all ages to participate,

## Letters to the Editor

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

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
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# Christopher Awards are announced

The newsmagazine "48 Hours" and the documentary series "NY Med" are among 20 Christopher Awards winners announced April 21 by the Christophers, which is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition of service to God and humanity.

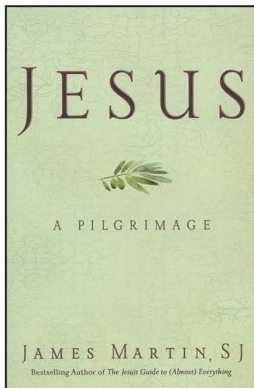
The awards, to be conferred at a May 13 ceremony in New York, are presented to writers, producers, directors, authors and illustrators whose work affirms the highest values of the human spirit.

The James Keller Award, named after the Christophers' founder, will be presented to Patrick Donahue, founder of the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation. The award recognizes individuals who put their faith into action and change the world for the better.

Donahue's newborn daughter Sarah Jane was shaken so violently by a hospital nurse that the baby lost 60 percent of the rear cortex of her brain. After researching ways she and other children like her could be helped and treated, Donahue helped launch the International Academy of Hope, making it the first and only school for kids with brain injuries and brain-based disorders in New York City.

"NY Med" will be given the Christopher Spirit Award, for individuals or projects that exemplify the Christopher motto, "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." The series focuses on health care professionals and their patients at New York City's Presbyterian Hospital and University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey.

The Christophers called the show "riveting television with heart-pounding moments that can rival any action series. And by highlighting simple ideals like love, service, and gratitude, it provides a vital prescription to heal viewers' spirits from some of the



"Jesus: A Pilgrimage" is a 2015 Christopher Award winner in the category of books for adults

hopelessness and darkness in the world."

Winners of Christopher Awards come in four different categories, films, TV programs, books for adults and books for young people.

#### Film winners were:

- "The American Nurse," which offers an in-depth portrait of five nurses whose empathy and selflessness lead them to serve those dealing with miscarriage, aging, war, poverty and prison life.
- "Selma," the story of the march on Selma, Alabama, for voting rights, a watershed moment in the American civil rights movement.
- "St. Vincent," in which a 12-year-old schoolboy makes a case for sainthood for his curmudgeonly neighbor, in whom the boy sees goodness despite his smoking, drinking, cursing and cavorting with a prostitute.

#### TV winners were:

- "48 Hours: The Whole Gritty City," which profiles New Orleans music programs that channel students' energies away from the streets and into positive directions.
- "The Flash," the TV ver-



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

David Oyelowo, center and Carmen Ejogo star in a scene from Christopher Award winning movie "Selma."

sion of the DC Comics series that allows a man to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a hero after a science experiment goes awry.

- "The Gabby Douglas Story," which highlights the roles that faith, family and perseverance played in the gold medal-winning gymnast's journey to the 2012 Summer Olympics.

- "POV: When I Walk," in which filmmaker Jason DaSilva chronicles his own debilitation after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at age 25, along with the love of his wife, Alice, who has helped him endure.

- "Sacred Journeys with Bruce Feiler," which followed military veterans injured during wartime to seek physical, emotional and spiritual healing in the waters of Lourdes, France.

- "Signed, Sealed, Delivered for Christmas," the story of four postal detectives who try to answer a little girl's let-

ter to God while dealing with emotional wounds from their own pasts.

#### Books for adults

- "Fully Alive," in which Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver reveals why people with intellectual disabilities have been his greatest teachers in life, giving him a more meaningful way of seeing the world.

- "Haatchi & Little B," in which a boy with a rare genetic disorder and a disabled puppy, abused and left for dead, transform each other's lives.

- "The Invisible Front," in which a decorated Army officer combats the stigma of suicide and mental illness both in society and the Army.

- "Jesus: A Pilgrimage," Jesuit Father James Martin's account of his visit to the Holy

Land, inviting readers to encounter the Christ of history and the Christ of faith.

- "A Long Way Home," Saroo Brierley's own story of getting lost on a train in India at age 5, living on the streets for a year, being adopted by an Australian couple, and finally reconnecting with his Indian family 25 years later with help from Google Earth.

- "Mercy in the City," Kerry Weber's memoir on living out the corporal works of mercy on both coasts of the United States.

#### Books for young people:

- "I Forgive You," by author Nicole Lataif and illustrator Katy Betz, preschool and up.

- "Maddi's Fridge" by Lois Brandt, illustrated by Vin Vogel, kindergarten and up.

- "Here's Hank: Bookmarks Are People Too!" by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver, ages 6 and up.

- "Hope Springs" by Eric Walters, illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes, ages 8 and up.

- "Eliza Bing is (Not) a Big Fat Quitter" by Carmella Van Vleet, ages 10 and up. (CNS)

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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## CLINTON

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**Place:** St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email [Sjohnsadoration@aol.com](mailto: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. 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 2 – Nov. 2015

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Features:** Fr. Jack Downs will preside at Mass. By meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary, we will seek God's intervention for the crises facing our world

**Contact:** RSVP for lunch to [olaplayerhouse@gmail.com](mailto: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, Enchanted Florist.

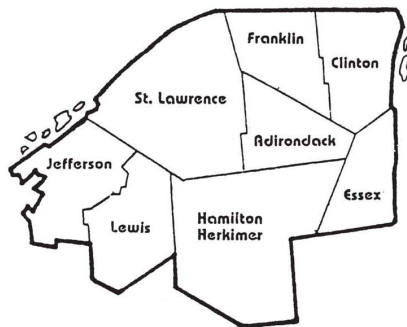
## FRANKLIN

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION**

**St. Regis Falls** – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held the first Saturday of each month.

**Time:** immediately following the 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

**Place:** St. Ann's Church



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](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

**Features:** Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Reparation Rosary of the blessed Virgin Mary, private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions, and refreshments are provided in the Church Hall.

**Contact:** 518-856-9656

## JEFFERSON

**PARISH DATA SYSTEM WORKSHOP**

**Watertown** – Jefferson Deanery is sponsoring a two day workshop on Parish Data System (PDS).

**Date:** June 3 and 4

**Place:** Bruce Wright Conference Center

**Features:** This is a follow-up to the Diocesan wide census. Pastors and parish staff will benefit from learning more about the use of census fields, sacramental information and reports. A registration form can be downloaded from St. Patrick's Watertown web site, <http://www.stpatrickwatertownny.org/news-and-events/pds-training.html>.

**Contact:** For further information e-mail Kathleen Mastell at [kbmastell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kbmastell@twcny.rr.com)

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

**Evans Mills** – Spaghetti and meatball dinner to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** May 2

**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

**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:** 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:** 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

## 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

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

**Massena** – St. Mary's Church will hold a special first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

**Date:** May 2

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Features:** The Glorious Mystery's will be prayed to Our Lady of Fatima and a private meditation will follow. Confessions will begin at 2:45 p.m. and the Saturday Mass Vigil will begin at 4 p.m.

**LIFECHEIN PLANNED**

**Potsdam** – Lifechain to be held.

**Date:** May 9

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 2

**Place:** Market and Main Streets

**Features:** Gather at 12:45 p.m. in the parking lot across from the Roxy Theater to pick up signs. You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer. Bring your whole family. Rain or shine.

**Contact:** Dan Paladin(CFC) [daniel.paladin@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.paladin@gmail.com) & Chris LaRose(St. Mary's) [clarose@twcny.rr.com](mailto:clarose@twcny.rr.com)

**K OF C BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** May 10

**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

**PARISH CARNIVAL**

**Gouverneur** – St. James Church is planning a carnival

**Dates:** May 7,8,9

**Features:** rides, games, food

**CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION**

**Norwood** – The Norwood Knights of Columbus Council #2309 together with St. Andrew's Parish of Norwood is hold-

ing a celebration of Corpus Christi.

**Date:** June 7

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Place:** St. Andrew's Church

**Features:** Bishop Terry R. LaValley as the principle Celebrant. Following Mass will be a procession around St. Andrew's Church, and conclude with benediction. There will be a light reception in the Meditation Garden. Everyone in the diocese is invited

**Contact:** Phil Regan 353- 9917 or Jim Murray 353 2796

**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 .

**PARISH CENSUS**

The Ogdensburg parishes of St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church along with St. Raphael's, Heuvelton and St. 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.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 10

**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room.

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

**Ogdensburg** – St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** Thursday before the First Friday

**Time:** 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel



## 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

# Missionary heart and hard work

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

Each year during the month of October, the Catholic World celebrates World Mission Sunday. A portion of the collection each year goes directly to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, or CNEWA. The President of the CNEWA is Reverend Msgr. John E. Kozar, a former National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Recently I heard from Msgr. Kozar in response to our Diocesan annual contribution to the CNEWA. Here is an excerpt from his letter that I thought I should share with you all since the donation is a direct reflection of our Diocese's generosity.

"CNEWA serves as an arm of the Holy See to provide pastoral and humanitarian assistance to the poor in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, parts of Eastern Europe and India. All of our outreach is done in the partnership with Eastern Catholic Churches in these areas.

We are in receipt of your generous donation from the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. World Mission Sunday affords our faithful an opportunity to breathe with both lungs: to support both Latin and Eastern Mission needs around the world.

On behalf of those in the Easter tradition who will benefit from the generosity of the faithful of your local church, I offer heartfelt thanks.

Please convey to the faithful the gratitude and appreciation of His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation of the Eastern Churches and also His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CNEWA.

The beneficiaries of this mission support are most grateful, and promise you a remembrance in their prayers. May God Bless you in all your labors. Many thanks for your Missionary Heart and your Hard Work....

God Bless You All!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

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## OBITUARIES

### David Minsavage

David "Savage" Minsavage, a graduate of Wadhams Hall Seminary College and a former counselor at Camp Guggenheim in the '80's, died April 9 after an eight month heroic battle with pancreatic cancer.

David was a math teacher and baseball coach at Hanover Park High School in New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, Christine and their four children, Pelagia, David, Peter and Tomas. David was 53 years old and would have celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary this summer.

There are many testimonials to David's life online. However, the most impressive words came from David himself. After being diagnosed with the pancreatic cancer in August, he wrote a letter to his friend Father John Yonkovig. The letter became the homily at his funeral: ...."I know that I have been blessed with such a full and incredible life and I thank God for each of you being a part of it. ....I hope that I can be remembered as someone who wanted to make the world a better place through laughter, song, praise, imparting knowledge and idealistic hope"....

**Brasher Falls** – Elizabeth G. "Bette" (Bryant) Sienkiewicz, 84; Funeral Services April 24, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Canton** – Maurice "Mick" Harrington, 72; Funeral April 20, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Margaret Rose (Thesier) 90; Funeral April 20, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chazy** – Ann Mae (Brown) LaPierre, 87; Funeral Services April 22, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Colton** – Harold G. "Bucky" Buck, Jr., 91; Funeral Services April 24, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Norwood.

**Colton** – Peter J. Murphy, 81; Funeral Services April 23, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Lyons Falls** – Elizabeth Glenn (Bruce) Cook, 74; Funeral Services April 22, 2015 at St. John's Church; burial in Wildwood Cemetery.

**Malone** – Hilda W. (Greeno) Kelley, 90; Funeral Services April 22, 2015 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Mineville** – Valeda J. (Brooks) Rabideau, 88; Funeral Services April 24, 2015 at All Saints Church.

**Morrisonville** – Daniel H. Brewer Sr., 84; Funeral Services April 23, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Peggy Ann (LaRose) Barr, 69; Funeral Services April 23, 2015 at the Fox and Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Eugene L. Fobare, 84; Funeral Services April 23, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Virginia K. (Morley) Martin, 89; Funeral Services April 20, 2015 at Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Joan E. (Barr) Rogers, 85; Funeral Services April 24, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Shirley M. (Summers) Shortell, 81; Funeral Services April 21, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Lawrence R. Bergeron, 88;

Funeral Services April 23, 2015 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Jaidyn Olivia Bigelow, infant; Funeral Services April 20, 2015 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Winifred M. "Winnie" (Bell) King, 84; Funeral Services April 20, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Robert Peter "Bob" Rougeau, 67; Funeral Services May 2, 2015 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Blanche Donahue Brown, 91; Funeral April 24, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Upper Lake** – Alan Robert Ayotte, 47; Funeral Services April 22, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

**Upper Lake** – Pauline (Payment) Hache, 97; Funeral Services April 27, 2015 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Upper Lake** – Nita Roseann (Trombley) St. Onge, 94; Funeral Services April 27, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

**Watertown** – Jacqueline (Marion) LaPierre Brett, 93; Funeral Services May 9, 2015 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

**Watertown** – Barbara R. (White) Mayne, 90; Funeral Services April 25, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Douglas "Doug" A. Medley, 50; Funeral Services April 21, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Linda "Claire" Guilbeau Peto, 77; Funeral Services April 24, 2015 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

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SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS....



Five students from Seton Academy in Plattsburgh participated in the PEAK festival on April 18. PEAK is an acronym for Parents, Educators, and Kids. The students took part in a variety of music workshops and presented a demonstration for parents and friends at the end of the day. Shown are Jack Crotty, Jaidin Hicks, Audrie Bilow, Aoife Lawliss, and Jonah Kontoes



Students of the Week for April 13 at St. Mary's School in Canton are shown with their principal Pamela Neal. The children are Pre K: Mareena Testani; kindergarten, Everett Palmer; first grade, Hayden Towle; second/third grade, Alexa Romano; fourth, Yeuki Mujuru; fifth, Halee Lennon; sixth, Brody Van Buren; and art class, Brody Van Buren.

# Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

## ST. LAWRENCE

### NOVENA FOR MILITARY

**Ogdensburg** - Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.  
**Date:** Tuesday afternoons  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

### LATIN MASS

**Potsdam** - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday  
**Time:** 12:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Church  
**Celebrant:** Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Massena** - Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.  
**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent  
**Contact:** 315-769-3137

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

#### INTERNATIONAL ROSARY

There will be a continuous praying of the Rosary throughout the world.  
**Date:** May 3  
**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral Chapel  
**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Features:** The Legion of Mary Members will be praying the 20 decades of the

Rosary. Our Blessed Mother is a force for Faith. Who better to guide us than she who is the Mother of Faith. Join the Legionaries for the praying of the Rosary for the intentions of Pope Francis and for world peace, if you are so inclined. If not, the Rosary may be prayed alone, with family, or friends.

#### 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

#### 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, SSI, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Looby, GNSH, Sr. Marlene Butler, GNSH  
**Contact:** For more information please email inquiry@wadhamms.edu

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:** contact Steve Tartaglia at the diocesan Family Life Office: startaglia@rcdony.org or at (315) 393-2920 Ext. 1420.

#### FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

**Potsdam** - Keith Stroh 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-

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