

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Vatican-Palestine accord supports two-state solution | PAGE 10

Survey shows more Americans with no religion | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 3

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 20, 2015

Pope: good manners are no joke

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The closer two people are to each other, the more care is required in respecting the other's freedom and feelings, Pope Francis said.

Even Jesus knocks at the door of a person's heart awaiting permission to enter, he said May 13 at his weekly

general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"Intimacy does not authorize you to take everything for granted," he said, starting a series of audience talks he said would look at the "real life" of families today.

The audience was held on the feast of Our Lady of Fa-

tima.

The pope began the gathering by praying silently before a statue of Mary and, after a Portuguese aide summarized his talk, the pope asked him to lead the Hail Mary in Portuguese.

Pope Francis' main talk focused on the three phrases

he often recommends families use frequently: May I? Thank you. Forgive me. The words are simple, he said, and hearing the pope advise their frequent use could make someone smile at first. "But when we forget them, it's no laughing matter, right?"

New clergy assignments announced

After a May 12 meeting with the Committee on Assignments, Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced several changes in clergy assignments.

Among the announcements were the retirements of Father John J. Looby, pastor in Chateaugay and Burke; and Father George F. Maroun, pastor in Carthage and Copenhagen.

Six new pastors were appointed along with changes for an administrator, parochial vicars and a permanent deacon.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

No fees for annulments

Bishop LaValley is following the lead of Pope Francis by eliminating fees for marriage annulments

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

WOMEN ARE CELEBRATED



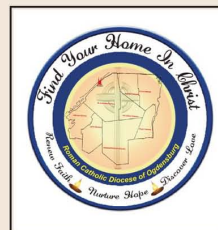
PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Maureen Lightfoot, Therese Kelly and Joan Flood were honored as Women of the Year at St. Mary's Cathedral at the parish's annual Celebration of Women held May 12. Pictured, from left, are Father Joseph Morgan, cathedral rector; Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, parish volunteer; Mrs. Lightfoot; Mrs. Kelly; Mrs. Flood and Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar.

FOR THE HOLY YEAR: Join Bishop LaValley on pilgrimage to Italy.... p. 16

FAITH AND FAMILIES

Part of vision of diocese



In Bishop LaValley's Pastoral Letter, "Find your Home in Christ" the second priority is "Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life." The challenge that has been placed before the family catechesis committee, chaired by Pamela Ballentine, the assistant director of Faith Formation, eastern region, is to "Provide Family Catechesis for the Seven Sacraments for every parish by February 1, 2016." There are ten individuals who comprise the family catechesis team. This week, Mrs. Ballentine writes about the work of the committee members "who journey from across the diocese to gather, dream and brainstorm on the tasks they have before them. These dedicated individuals work and minister day in and day out with families in their own respective parish communities," she said in addition to their work for the family catechesis committee.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSI

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping one week in Jan. and every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and

additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by

Thursday prior to

publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

In prayer for the shepherds in our midst

It's hard not to think about priests this week mainly because, for the most part, they aren't around!

From Monday through Wednesday, the priests of the diocese are all in the same place as they gather for the annual Presbyteral Assembly in Lake Placid.

During these days, the men will spend plenty of time praying together and we should be praying too - for them.

In particular, this is the time to pray for the priest jubilarians who are celebrating special anniversaries of their ordinations this year.

These priests - honored at the May 19 Jubilee Mass - will also be honored in the pages of the *North Country Catholic* next week.



Mary Lou
Kilian

Another group of priests who might welcome a few extra prayers are those who received new assignments last Wednesday.

While every newly ordained priest understands that his life will be filled with moves, it can't be easy to leave familiar communities and beloved parishioners to start a new life in a different part of the North Country.

So, for Fathers George Maroun and John Looby who

are retiring, the six new pastors and the younger priests on the move, "Lord, hear our prayer."

A couple weeks ago, on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis had a message for priests just after he ordained 19 new ones.

The pope spoke briefly about the day's Gospel reading about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. "The bad shepherd," he said, "thinks about himself and exploits the sheep. The good shepherd thinks about the sheep and gives himself for them."

The only aim of a good shepherd, the pope said, is "that of leading, nourishing and protecting his sheep."

By sending Jesus to lay down

his life for all humanity, he said, God showed the depths of his love for each person.

"His is the highest and purest kind of love because it is not motivated by any need, it is not conditioned by any calculation" and is not looking for anything in return, "Pope Francis said.

"It is not enough to contemplate and thank him," the pope said. "We must follow the Good Shepherd. In particular, those who have the mission of guiding in the church -- priests, bishops, popes -- are called to not assume the mentality of a manager, but that of a servant in imitation of Jesus."

How blessed we are that we are *surrounded* by priests just like this!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

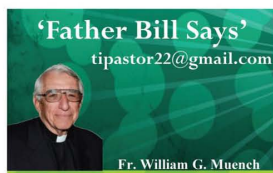
First Communion: special time for us all

Many parishes at this time of the year celebrate First Holy Communion. The children have been preparing and practicing so that now they can join the rest of their own family and the people of the parish going to the altar to receive the Blessed Eucharist. These children have watched their parents and brothers and sisters going to Holy Communion. Now, they will join them and be able to receive Holy Communion themselves.

As little ones, they were anxious; they wanted to join with the others at Holy Communion. They hated to be left out. I am certain you have heard some little children saying their mother or father, "why can't I have some."

I have noticed some little ones come up to me at Communion time, smiling and putting out their hands, hoping I would give them Communion. And then a parent would whisk them away. Now the task is to help them understand the sacredness and the meaning of the Blessed Eucharist.

I have often recounted interesting stories about little children at Mass. I remember one, many years ago. At Communion



Fr. William G. Muench

time, I noticed a man, carrying his daughter coming forward in the line - she must have been about four or five. As they got closer to the front, the young girl said, rather loudly, actually, in fact, it seemed like she shouted, "I want the Body of Christ." It was quite a moment.

I am certain that many parents had a moment. Everyone knew why they were going to Holy Communion that day. I pray that she still says that as she receives Holy Communion now.

First Holy Communion is a family sacramental time. Children in parishes everywhere are being guided by their parents to the altar of the Lord to receive the Blessed Eucharist for the first time and to experience the presence of the Lord in their lives in this special, sacramental way.

With the grace of God and

the loving guidance of their parents, these children will grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus that they will discover in the Blessed Eucharist.

We all know the wonderful story of Jesus welcoming the children. The Gospel says that the apostles thought Jesus was tired and so they were keeping the children away from him. When Jesus noticed this, he told them to let them come and he welcomed them. We can almost picture that interesting scene as they climbed up into Jesus' lap; they recognized how loving and caring he is. May these children discover this same loving Jesus as they receive their First Holy Communion.

First Holy Communion is an important event for all members of a parish. Each First Communion is a perfect time for each parishioner to renew his or her faith in the presence of Our Lord in this most special sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

This is a special time for each pastor also. It is an important occasion in each priest's ministry as he welcomes another group of children closer to the Lord. I know myself as a

priest that it is a time of prayer in hope and confidence that this will be the beginning of a deep friendship as these children come alive in the presence of the Lord - truly a rebirth in their faith. I am certain that I join with all pastors as they pray that all in their parish may have the same joy and excitement of receiving the Blessed Eucharist as these youngsters on the day of their First Holy Communion.

The Church will soon celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, that wonderful feast day when we all remember the institution of the Blessed Eucharist by the Lord with his apostles at the Last Supper. This is truly a feast to be celebrated with joy and a time of true rejoicing.

Our Lord wanted to remain with us - Jesus wants to be part of our lives for all times. Jesus comes to us in this sacrament when we truly receive His Body and Blood sacramentally.

May our faith always be strong enough that we never forget the meaning and glorious opportunity that is ours each time we receive Holy Communion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

New clergy assignments announced

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has approved the following changes after the May 13, 2015 meeting of the Committee on Assignments:

- Father John J. Looby, pastor of The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, will be retiring effective September 30, 2015. Father Looby will remain as sacramental minister for the parish with residence in the area.

- Father George F. Maroun, pastor of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen will be retiring effective

July 1, 2015. Father Maroun will be taking up residence at St. Bernard's Rectory in Saranac Lake.

- Father Donald A. Robinson, pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's Churches in Watertown has been appointed pastor of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen.

- Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton has been named pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's

Churches in Watertown.

- Father Howard J. Venette, Administrator of The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River has been named pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton.

- Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills with missions at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and St. Theresa of Avila in Theresa has been named pastor of The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout

River as well as pastor of St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington and St. Joseph's Church in Bombay. Father Kornmeyer will also be canonical pastor of The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay.

- Father Raymond J. Moreau, administrator of The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro has been named pastor of St. Mary's Church in Brushton and The Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor.

- Father Francis J. Flynn, in addition to his position as

pastor of St. Elizabeth's in Elizabethtown and St. Philip Neri Church in Westport, has been named pastor of The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro.

- Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Brushton and The Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor has been named administrator of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills with missions at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and St. Theresa of Avila in Theresa.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Two priests are retiring

OGDENSBURG - After a May 13 meeting with the Committee on Assignments, Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced the retirement of two priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg: Father George F. Maroun and Father John J. Looby.

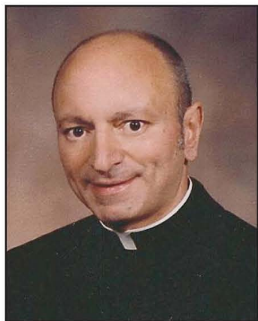
Father Looby, pastor of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay since 2009, has also been serving the diocese as Dean of Franklin Deanery.

Born Oct. 8, 1939 in Ogdensburg, Father Looby studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's in Baltimore before his ordination May 28, 1966 by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan.

Father Looby has served as assistant pastor in Waddington, Saranac Lake, Keeseville and at St. John's in Plattsburgh.

He joined the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate in 1973 and served as a diocesan missionary in Mollendo, Peru for two years.

Upon his return to the diocese, he was named administrator in Altona and then pastor in Black Brook and Wilmington, at St. Joseph's in Massena, St. Thomas More, Canton, and at Port Henry with additional responsibilities as administrator in Westport.



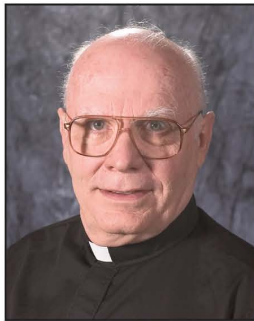
Fr. Maroun

In 1989 was named pastor in Dannemora until 2004 when he became pastor in Cumberland Head, a position he held until 2005 when he became pastor in Ellenburg until 2009.

Father Maroun, pastor of Carthage and Copenhagen since 2002, is a native of Tupper Lake, born Sept. 25, 1948. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and Christ the King Seminary. He was ordained May 4, 1974 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana

Father Maroun served as an assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral and Holy Family in Watertown before joining the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate.

He served at St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru, from 1982 until his re-



Fr. Looby

turn to the United States in 1988.

After a short sabbatical leave, he was named parochial vicar at St. Anthony's in Watertown and, in 1989, pastor in Norfolk.

In 1994, Father Maroun was appointed to the faculty of Wadhams Hall where he served as spiritual director and assistant professor of language and religious studies until 2002 when he moved to Carthage.

Father Maroun also served the diocese for 26 years in the Diocesan Mission Office. He was assistant director from 1978 until being named director in 1984, a position he held until 2004.

Profiles of Fathers Looby and Maroun will appear in upcoming issues of the *North Country Catholic*.

IS THE SPIRIT CALLING YOU TO? LAY MINISTRY?



FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Formation for Ministry is a two year program sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg providing Academic, Pastoral and Spiritual Formation Since 1990 for Catholic adults ministering or seeking to minister in their parish.

Now Accepting Applications for Classes Beginning September 2015 in: Clayton, Peru and Port Leyden

See Your Pastor for more information or
Contact: **Dr. Patrick J. Donahue, D. Min.**
Program Coordinator
Phone: **315-393-2920**

E-mail: pdonahue@rcdonv.org
Website: www.rcdonv.org/formation

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Yes! Please send me an Application for the
Formation For Ministry program.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: () _____ Pastor _____
Parish _____ City: _____
E-Mail: _____

*The Formation for Ministry program is a recipient of gifts
made to the Bishop's Fund Appeal*

Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life

Group addresses goal 'to provide family catechesis for the seven sacraments for every parish'

By Pam Ballantine

Point person for diocesan goal to provide family catechesis for the seven sacraments for every parish

I am always fascinated by the Gospel story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The disciples speak intimately of Jesus' death and their dashed hope that he was the Messiah. As they headed out of town, so frightened and hopeless, they do not recognize Jesus when they meet up with the stranger on the road. Jesus begins to walk with them, listen to them, converse with them. He met them right where they were on the faith journey. Without judgment, he drew closer and continued to give them what they needed. Jesus' one hope for them, to open their hearts and see.

When families gather for sacramental preparation, whether it is just adults or entire families, we can be sure that these people are in many different places on their journey. Some of these families are very active in the development of their spiritual life; some may not pay a great deal of attention to their own spiritual development. There are families who are deeply connected



to the Catholic Church, while other families have not been inside the church for years.

When friends and relatives gather for a child's Baptism, First Eucharist or for a Marriage celebration, it would be a grave mistake to treat them all as if they are on the same faith level. At a recent World Youth Day, Pope Francis stated, "How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!"

In Bishop LaValley's Pastoral Letter: "Find you Home in Christ" the second priority is "Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life." The challenge that has been placed before the family catechesis committee is to "Provide Family Catechesis for the Seven Sacraments for every parish by February 1, 2016."

There are ten individuals who comprise the family catechesis team, who journey from across the diocese to gather, dream and brainstorm on the tasks they have before them. These dedicated individuals work and minister day in and day out with families in their own respective parish communities. The team members include two pastors, Fathers Chris Looby and Dan Chapin, Deacon Mark Bennett, St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, St. Joseph Sister Helen Hermann, principal of Seton Academy; Jamie Burns, Catholic School teacher and Catechetical Leader at St. Mary's in Canton; Karlene Gonyea, Catholic School teacher and Catechetical Leader, St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga; Tina Coryea, Catechetical Leader of the Roman Catholic Community in Brownville and Dexter, St. Joseph Sister Diane Ulsamer, Special Faith Formation, Watertown Catechetical Office, RoseAnn Hickey, Confirmation Catechist, St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, also former Diocesan Youth Director, Summer Camp Director. Pam Ballantine, Assistant Director of the Faith Formation Office, Eastern Region is the Goal Point



Tina Coryea, catechetical leader of the Roman Catholic Community in Brownville and Dexter; and St. Joseph Sister Diane Ulsamer, director of Special Faith Formation, Watertown Catechetical Office, are members of the committee seeking to insure that family catechesis programs are available in every parish.

Person.

The committee meets monthly to develop strategies and models for family catechesis and formulate resource guides for each of the seven sacraments, including a comprehensive catechesis for Marriage Preparation. The committee will also review the current certification requirements for catechists and catechetical leaders and explore various on-line possibilities for certification and the ongoing formation of catechists.

In closing, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin states, "As Church leaders we must also speak words of commitment to families. An important responsibility for the Church is to support families in their mission as a 'church of the home.' This is where our theological vision of Christian family gives way to far-reaching, even radical pastoral implications. Thus, our pledge to families should be one of partnership."

Faith develops within the family, the domestic church. The Diocesan Of-

fices of Education, Evangelization and Family Life support this mission by assisting parishes, families and individuals in lifelong faith formation. We have a responsibility as parish leaders to know who our families are, find out what our families need, continue to evaluate our parish programs and their impact of the families and build on family strengths. It is also important to remember to keep families involved in the planning process of family programing and to be vigilant in continual communication with parents especially those who disappear after their children have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Our roadmap has been laid out before us. As we continue on our faith journey, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we will walk with the families of our diocese as they "Find Their Home in Christ." Renewing their faith, Nurturing their Hope and Discovering their Love.



Among the committee members are St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Hermann, principal of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh; and Father Daniel Chapin, pastor in Croghan.

Diocese eliminates fees for marriage annulments

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has issued a policy that eliminates fees to individuals seeking an annulment through the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal. The new policy will be effective as of June 1, 2015.

Bishop LaValley announced the new policy recently to those in pastoral ministry in the diocese. The move was inspired by remarks of Pope Francis and was supported by the Priest Council of the diocese.

"Pope Francis called on bishops to consider this move," stated Bishop LaValley. "The Pope asked us to show mercy and justice generously and freely, as Jesus does for each one of us."

An annulment is a declaration that a previous marriage is not spiritually binding,

and does not stand in the way of an individual remarriage in the Church. Annulments are only granted after a civil divorce has been final and there is no possibility of reconciliation between the parties.

"The work of the Marriage Tribunal is a healing ministry," said Bishop LaValley. "Our Judicial Vicar, Msgr. Harry Snow, and his staff have worked hard to keep fees to applicants as low as possible. This new policy makes it clear that the focus of the Marriage Tribunal is and always has been to help people to heal and move forward with their lives."

The fee for an annulment in the Diocese of Ogdensburg ranged from \$50 to \$400 prior to the enactment of this new policy. No peti-

tion was ever denied because of the inability to pay the fee.

The fee was far less than the actual cost of the annulment process, which includes the employment of canon lawyers, experts, of office expenses and salaries for office personnel.

"Practically speaking, there are significant costs associated with the work of the Marriage Tribunal, but I do not want finances to be a barrier to the spiritual well-being of anyone," said Bishop LaValley. "I hope people will approach the Tribunal without any hesitation due to financial considerations. The work of the Tribunal has always been to serve the needs of people, helping them to grow closer to God. I hope this new policy simply emphasizes that fact."

Lay ministers encouraged to 'keep fire of ministry alive'

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff Writer

WATERTOWN – Deacon Patrick Donahue, coordinator of the diocesan Formation for Ministry program, told commissioned lay ministers in Watertown they have been formed to surrender themselves to the work of Christ and must work to keep the fire of their ministry alive through prayer and study.

Deacon Donahue spoke to a group of 60 lay ministers at the spring meeting of the Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries.

The audience included several of the candidates for commissioning as Lay Ministers from the Watertown site.

The current class of almost 80 candidates will complete their two year course work this month at sites in Mor-

rissonville and Massena in addition to Watertown.

The dinner meeting of the ministers followed Mass in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse chapel.

Father Thomas Kornmeyer, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills, presided at the Mass assisted by Deacon James Chaufy from St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden.



Deacon Patrick Donahue, coordinator of the diocesan Formation for Ministry Program, was the speaker at a recent gathering of the Commissioned Lay Ministers of the Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries.

Information sessions for lay formation set

Deacon Patrick Donahue, D. Min, program coordinator of the diocesan Formation for Ministry program has announced that three information nights have been scheduled for the next cycle of the formation program which begins September, 2015.

The presentation will be offered at the 2015-17 program sites:

- St. Martin's, Port Leyden, June 9, 6:30 p.m. to 8 at St. Martin's Church, 7108 North St.
- St. Mary's, Clayton, June 15, 6:30 p.m. to 8 at St. Mary's Parish Center, 521 James St.
- St. Augustine's, Peru, June 18, 6:30 p.m. to 8 at St. Augustine's Parish Center, 3035 Main St.

Deacon Donahue will speak on "Co-workers in the Vineyard: Lay Ministry Today." The information nights are offered to help prospective candidates for lay ministry learn more about the program before completing the application process.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

FOR THE MOMS



On Mother's Day, the Youth Group of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, with donations from Stewart's Shops, hosted their third annual Mother's Day ice cream social at St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay. Here, Anna Dalton serves a tray of ice cream sundaes.

Fr. Muench

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The Holy Eucharist is central to our lives as Catholics. This is our best prayer. We are a sacramental Church so our sacraments are our best prayers. These sacraments, especially the Blessed Eucharist, are such prayerful moments as we join with the others of our parish as a community bringing the Lord into our lives.

At each Mass we unite ourselves with Jesus – just like at that Last Supper of Jesus – to celebrate and

unite ourselves with the Lord and with each other in such a magnificent moment.

I often challenge people at Mass, not to leave Jesus in Church but to take the Lord with us as we go out to make our lives better and our world a better place.

Jesus has given us the gift of the Blessed Eucharist so that the Lord truly become part with us in such a wonderful way. In this sacrament, we truly believe that we receive the Body and Blood of Christ who becomes truly one with us.

The Lord truly wants to be part of our lives giving us unique strength. We are a different person each time we come to Mass, each time we receive Holy Communion.

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!

www.twitter.com/Pontifex

 #Pontifex

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

To sign up to receive the *NCC* in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

Bishop's Schedule

May 21 – 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. James Church in Gouverneur

May 22 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

5 p.m., 50th Anniversary Mass for Rev. J. Roger McGuinness at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy

May 23 – 10:30 a.m., Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable

May 24 – 10:30 a.m., Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Waddington
3 p.m., Confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

May 27 – 11 a.m., Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Board Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

May 20 – Rev. Robert Booth, 1939; Rev.

P.A. L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1962

May 21 – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998

May 22 – Msgr. Claudius Gobet, 1961

May 24 – Rev. Antoine A. Amyot, 1927;

Rev. Julien Racette, O.M.I., 1937; Rev.

Joseph O. Levesque, 1938; Msgr. George L. Murray, 1942

May 25 – Rev. J. Hector Mignerone, 1958

May 26 – Rev. Thomas J. Kelleher, 1889; Rev. Steven H. Gratto, 2012

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440

To Report Abuse

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

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

Environmental Stewardship

Do you know why the Holy Father chose his name?

When people asked the Bishop of Rome why he wished to be called Francis, he shared the following in his Audience shortly after his election: "During the election, I was seated next to Cardinal Claudio Hummes: a good friend, . . . when the votes reached two thirds, (and) the Pope had been elected. . . My friend said: "Don't forget the poor!" And those words came to me: the poor, the poor. Then, right away, thinking of the poor, I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of all the wars, as the votes were still being counted, till the end. Francis is also the man of peace. That is how the name came into my heart: Francis of Assisi. For me, he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation; these days we do not have a very good relationship with creation, do we? He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man . . . How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!"

In another audience few days later Pope Francis stated: " . . . Church is likewise conscious of the responsibility which all of us have for our world, for the whole of creation, which we must love and protect. There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favor justice, promote reconciliation and build peace."

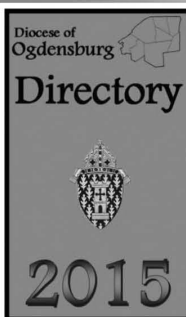
During this month we as Catholics are asked to support the faithful in poorer dioceses in our Country through the Home Mission Appeal. We can support them not only by our prayers and monetary donations but also by the way we live our lives. Care for the poor and care for the earth are intricately connected, part of the seamless garment in the Body of Christ.

How do you see our use of God's gift of creation affecting the rest of our brothers and sisters?



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Order your 2015 Diocesan Directory!



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

Make checks payable to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

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

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ directories

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**\$15.00
each**

Visit our website

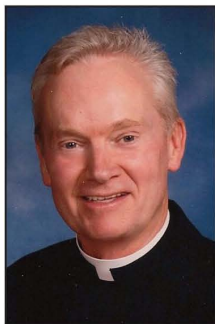
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

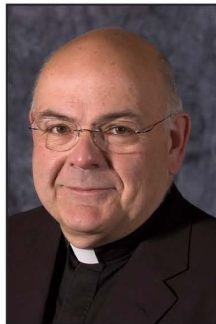


Find us on Facebook!





Father Robinson



Msgr. Aucoin



Father Venette



Father Kommeyer



Father Flynn



Father Moreau

Clergy changes include six new pastors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Father Bryan D. Stitt, administrator of St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington and St. Joseph's Church in Bombay will return to full time ministry as Director of Vocations and Director of Seminarians.

- Father Scott A. Belina, Parochial Vicar of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg has been named Parochial Vicar of St. Andre Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone.

- Father Justin Thomas, HGN, Parochial Vicar of St. Andre Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone has been named Parochial Vicar of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg and Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg.

- Deacon Brian T. Dwyer, Director of the Office of Youth Ministry, will be hired as Pastoral Associate for Chateaugay and for The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River.

With the exception of Chateaugay with the retirement of Father Looby and the hiring of Deacon Dwyer which will take effect on September 30, all other changes are to take effect July 1, 2015.

Profiles of the new pastors follow:

Father Donald A. Robinson

Father Robinson, new pastor in Carthage and Copenhagen, has been pastor at St. Anthony's in Watertown since 2001. He was given ad-

ditional responsibilities as administrator of St. Patrick's in Watertown in 2009 and pastor of St. Patrick's in 2010.

Father Robinson, a native of LaFargeville, was born Sept. 9, 1950. He earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Oswego and master's degree in reading education from SUNY Potsdam before beginning studies for the priesthood.

He graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and Christ the King Seminary before his ordination May 3, 1980 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Robinson has served as an associate pastor at St. Peter's in Lowville, Notre Dame in Malone and St. Anthony's in Watertown. He was also a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

In 1988, Father Robinson was named a member of the Wadhams Hall Seminary Faculty and diocesan vocations director.

At Wadhams Hall he was a history teacher and director of admissions. In 1996, Bishop Paul S. Loverde appointed him as vice-president of the seminary college.

Father Robinson also served as diocesan director of seminarians from 1995 until he was named pastor of St. Mary's in Champlain in 1998, a position he held until his arrival at St. Anthony's.

Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Msgr. Aucoin, new pastor of St. Anthony's and St.

Patrick's in Watertown, will also continue to serve the diocese as episcopal vicar for education and the new evangelization.

Pastor in Potsdam and Colton since 2010, he previously was principal of Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh from 2006.

A Massachusetts native, Msgr. Aucoin was born April 21, 1944. He studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Apostolic School in Watertown with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He completed his novitiate with the religious order in Canada and attended Laval University in Canada and Gregorian University in Rome.

Msgr. Aucoin was ordained March 14, 1970 as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart in Rome. In 1973, he was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He later earned a Masters in Education from Ottawa University and has completed Ph. D. course work in theology at St. Paul University, Ottawa. He also holds a New York State Permanent Certificate in School Administration and in School District Administration, as well as one in guidance and teaching.

Msgr. Aucoin's first pastoral assignment was as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown and as a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. In 1975, the priest was appointed director of the Family Life Department and, in

1977, principal of IHC. He has also been a chaplain at Fort Drum, pastor in Evans Mills, administrator in Lake Placid and pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

Msgr. Aucoin served as president of Mater Dei College from 1986 to 1988 until his assignment at St. Patrick's, Watertown. In 1991, he moved back to Ogdensburg to serve as rector of St. Mary's Cathedral and chancellor of the diocese. In 1992 he was named a monsignor and also served the diocese as Episcopal Vicar for Diocesan Services.

In 1994, Msgr. Aucoin was named pastor in Madrid and, two years later, was named rector-president of Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, a position he held until the seminary closed in 2002.

That year he was named Episcopal Vicar for Education and also served as director of the permanent deacon formation program from 2001 to 2013.

During 2003, he served as administrator of Norwood. From October of 2003 until June 2006, he was pastor in Alexandria Bay and Redwood before moving to Seton Catholic and then to Potsdam.

Rev. Howard J. Venette

Father Venette, new pastor in Colton and Potsdam, has been administrator of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River since 2012

Father Venette was born Jan. 14, 1958 in Chateaugay and began his studies for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall. He continued his education at the North American College at Rome and was ordained July 21, 1984 by Bishop Brzana at St. Patrick's in Chateaugay.

He served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Massena, St. Mary's in Potsdam, St. John's in Plattsburgh, Notre Dame in Malone, and Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh.

In 1994, he was named pastor in Harrisville and associate director of the deacon formation program.

He served the diocese as director of the permanent deacon formation program from 1995 to 2001.

In 1997, he became pastor in Colton and, in 2003, administrator in Brushton.

Father Venette left the diocese to join the Society of St. Peter a traditional Latin Rite Society in communion with Rome in June of 2004. In June 2009 he was excommunicated from the Diocese of Ogdensburg and incardinated into the Society.

Father Venette returned to Ogdensburg in July of 2012 and served as temporary administrator in Waddington and Madrid before becoming administrator of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River.

His incardination back into the Diocese of Ogdensburg was effective May 1, 2013.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

COLLECTION TO BE HELD MAY 23 AND 24, 2015

SUPPORT

THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL



STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



Pastors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Father Thomas E. Kormmeyer

Father Kormmeyer, new pastor of The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River as well as pastor of St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington and St. Joseph's Church in Bombay and canonical pastor of The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, has served as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills with missions at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and St. Theresa of Avila in Theresa since 2012.

Born April 2, 1958 in Constableville, he was raised in Boonville. He graduated from Wadhams Hall in 1980, entered the U.S. Army and served for four years before returning to seminary studies at St. John's Seminary in Boston. He was ordained May 26, 1990 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Kormmeyer has served as parochial vicar in

Saranac Lake, Sacred Heart in Massena and Notre Dame in Malone.

In 1999, he was named administrator in Long Lake and Newcomb and pastor in those communities one year later.

Father Kormmeyer served as pastor at Saranac Lake, Lake Clear and Bloomingdale with missions in Gabriels and Paul Smiths before coming to Evans Mills, Philadelphia and Theresa.

Father Francis J. Flynn

Father Flynn, pastor in Elizabethtown and Westport since 2012 will take on added responsibilities as pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro.

Previously he served as pastor of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River from 2002.

A native of Massena, he was born Nov. 1, 1944. He

studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers and at the North American College at Rome.

Father Flynn was ordained in December of 1969 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In 1970, he received an STL degree from the Gregorian University in Rome.

Father Flynn's first assignment was as an assistant pastor at St. John's in Plattsburgh. In 1973, he joined the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate, serving in Mollendo, Peru, until 1981.

Upon his return to the United States, Father Flynn was associate pastor at St. Joseph's in Malone. In 1982, he was named pastor in Lake Clear and campus minister at Paul Smiths College.

Father Flynn left the diocese in 1984 to work with the Maryknoll order for two years. Upon his return, he was assigned to North Bangor where he served as pastor until 1995 when he was

assigned as parochial vicar at St. Augustine's in Peru. For several months in 1996 he took part in a sabbatical program in Jerusalem.

Upon his return in June 1996, he was named pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Campus Parish in Potsdam. In 1999, he was named pastor in Bloomingdale and Gabriels where he continued in campus ministry at Paul Smiths College and served as a part-time prison chaplain at Camp Gabriels until moving to Constable in 2002.

Father Raymond J. Moreau

Father Moreau, new pastor in Brushton and North Bangor, has served as administrator for the Catholic Community of Willsboro since 2013. Prior to that he was pastor in Chazy from 2010.

A native of Dover, N.H., Father Moreau was born May 8, 1955. He studied for the priesthood at St. Thomas

Seminary Junior College in Bloomfield, Conn., Wadhams Hall and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

He was ordained to the priesthood May 4, 1985 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana at St. Augustine's in Peru.

Father Moreau has served as a parochial vicar at St. Patrick's in Watertown, St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. Mary's in Canton and in Potsdam.

In 1995 he was named pastor in North Bangor and West Bangor until 2002 when he became pastor in Chateaugay and Burke.

In 2003 he became the administrator in Colton, South Colton, and Parishville and then was named pastor there in 2004.

He moved to Tupper Lake in 2009 to serve as administrator of Holy Name Church and St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake until taking on the assignment in Chazy.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION



PHOTO SUPPLIED

The clergymen who took part in the Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration at St. Hedwig's Catholic Church in Houseville April 12 are shown. Father John E. Moskal and Father John E. Mikalajunas were the celebrants of the service; Deacon Ron Pominville and Deacon James Chauffy assisted.


The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC


is on
FACEBOOK

- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us




A TOUCH OF GRACE



First Communion
Dresses, Veils and Gifts

Gifts for:

- Baptism
- Confirmation

440 Coffeen St, Watertown
788-6164
Mon. - Fri. 10-6 p.m.
Sat. 10-5p.m.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Visit our website www.northcountrycatholic.org to subscribe online by clicking on "Subscribe by Credit Card", top right corner or call our office at 315-608-7556 to subscribe by phone

Vatican-Palestine accord supports 'two-state' solution

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Vatican and Palestinian representatives have finalized the text of a formal agreement recognizing freedom of religion in the "State of Palestine" and outlining the rights and obligations of the Catholic Church, its agencies and its personnel in the territory.

Without fanfare, the Vatican has been referring to the "State of Palestine" at least since January 2013. The "Annuario Pontificio," the Vatican's official yearbook, lists a diplomatic relationship with the "State of Palestine."

The Vatican, which praised the United Nations' recognition of Palestinian sovereignty in 2012, said May 13 that the bilateral commission working on the agreement had finalized the text.

"The agreement will be submitted to the respective authorities for approval" and a formal signing ceremony should be held soon, the statement said.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was scheduled to meet Pope Francis May 16, the day before attending a canonization Mass at the Vatican for two new Palestinian saints.

Msgr. Antoine Camilleri, the Vatican undersecretary for relations with states and head of the Vatican delegation at the negotiations, said the Vatican wanted the agreement to "promote the life and activity of the Catholic Church and its recognition on a juridical level."

The text of the agreement will not be released until it receives top-level approval. However, Msgr. Camilleri described the general contents to L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

The agreement, he said,

expresses hope for an end to Palestinian-Israeli tensions and supports the existence of two separate, independent nations living side by side in security and peace.

The chapter on "freedom of religion and conscience," he said, is "very elaborate and detailed."

Other chapters deal with "various aspects of the life and activity of the church in the Palestinian territories: its freedom of action, its personnel and jurisdiction, its personal status, houses of worship, social and charitable activity (and) means of social communication. Finally, a chapter is dedicated to financial and property questions."

Asked if the agreement could be a model for agreements with other Muslim-majority countries, Msgr. Camilleri said every bilateral treaty deals with the specific situation of the countries involved.

"In this case, because it deals with the presence of the church in the land where Christianity was born, the agreement has a unique value and significance," he said.

At the same time, though, he said the agreement's recognition of the church and of religious freedom "could be followed by other countries, including those with a Muslim majority, and demonstrate that such recognition is not incompatible with the fact that the majority of the country's population belongs to another religion."

The monsignor said he hoped the agreement would help Palestinians reach the point of seeing "established and recognized an independent, sovereign and democratic State of Palestine that lives in peace and security with Israel and its neighbors."

ON THE FEAST OF FATIMA



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, POOL

Pope Francis prays in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 13. The statue, which was present for the May 13 feast of Our Lady of Fatima, is a copy of the original in Fatima, Portugal.

Pope gives coaches game plan for building good teams

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- Coaches need to show integrity, fairness, patience, joy and kindness, especially toward those who are struggling, Pope Francis said.

Like any good educator, a good coach or trainer is extremely important in helping kids develop into mature, well-balanced and well-rounded adults, he said.

Instilled with solid values and Christian faith, athletes can help prevent sports from becoming distorted by "pressure from many increasingly intrusive interests, especially economic," he said in a written message released May 14.

The pope's message was presented to participants at an international seminar on the role of coaches and trainers as educators of human and Christian val-

ues. The seminar at the Vatican May 14-16 was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Laity's church and sport office.

Good teachers and coaches are vital for children and young adults because they are at a "delicate stage in life" as their personalities are developing and they are looking for role models and approval from others, the pope wrote.

"It's a stage in life when "the danger of getting lost by following bad examples and seeking false happiness is more real," he wrote.

Therefore, coaches, like teachers, have a great responsibility because they often "have the privilege of spending many hours each week with young people and have a great influence on them," he wrote.

But their influence depends more on "who they are as people and how they live than on what they say," the pope wrote. "How im-

portant it is then a coach be an example of integrity, consistency, correct judgment, impartiality, but also joy for life, patience, ability (to show) esteem and kindness toward everyone and especially those most disadvantaged."

Being a person of faith is just as important, he said, because being able to raise people's eyes up to God helps put victories and losses into better perspective.

"Faith gives us that gaze of kindness toward others and it makes us overcome the temptation of a rivalry that's too heated and aggressive; it makes us understand the dignity of every person, even those less gifted and at a disadvantage," he said.

Coaches can do much to help make sports an occasion for solidarity and inclusion by giving those usually left out a chance to play and socialize.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pro-lifers hail passage of Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- U.S. House passage May 13 of a measure that would ban most abortions after 20 weeks is "long overdue and one of the most common sense laws under consideration," said the president and CEO of Americans United for Life. "There is a war on women in abortion clinics today, where they are exposed to tremendous risks for profit from a secretive, taxpayer-funded, billion-dollar industry," Charmaine Yoest said in a statement. "It's time to protect women from dangerous conditions and the unborn from a torturous death." In a 242-184 vote mostly along party lines, the House approved the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. It prohibits abortion after 20 weeks unless the life of the mother is in danger. The measure's sponsors cited what they say is substantial medical and scientific evidence that unborn children can feel pain at 20 weeks gestation. "It is fitting that the House of Representatives debated and passed a bill that would protect unborn children from late-term abortion as well as their mothers on the second anniversary of Dr. Kermit Gosnell's conviction for killing a young woman and countless newborns in his clinic," Yoest added. On May 13, 2013, a Philadelphia jury found Gosnell guilty of murder in the deaths of three babies born alive during abortions and acquitted him of a fourth similar charge. He also was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death by a drug overdose of a patient who had an abortion.

Archbishop urges prayers for victims of 'tragic train derailment'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput May 13 urged prayers for all affected by the Amtrak train derailment in the city's Port Richmond neighborhood that left at least six people dead and injured more than 200 others. "I urge all people of goodwill to join me in extending prayerful condolences to those mourning the sudden loss of a loved one and in asking the Lord to bring healing to all those suffering physical and emotional anguish in the wake of this incident," he said in a statement. "Let us also pray for all of the first responders, emergency personnel, and medical professionals who have been working to assist those affected by the derailment," he added. "May God bless and protect them." Amtrak's Northeast Regional Train 188 heading from Washington to New York derailed around 9:30 p.m. May 12. Aboard were 238 passengers and five crew members. According to an AP story, the train derailed as it was going around a curve in the Port Richmond area, leaving the engine and two cars standing upright. Three other cars fell on their sides, and a sixth car was flipped over almost on its roof. A team from the National Transportation Safety Board was on the scene by early morning May 13 to lead an investigation into the cause of the accident. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said his agency would work with the NTSB "to conduct a thorough investigation into the cause of this devastating event."

Survey shows increase in Americans who aren't part of any religion

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A major study of the religious landscape of the United States shows a continuing decline in the number of people who consider themselves part of any religion, with the largest shift occurring among the "millennial" generation.

The Pew Research Center survey of 35,000 people, conducted in 2014, found that the percentage of Americans who identify themselves as Christians declined by 8 percentage points since the last religious landscape survey in 2007.

The first data from the survey, released May 12, dealt primarily with religious affiliation. Future reports will address other parts of the survey, such as religious beliefs and practices.

The phenomena of people changing religions also has become more pronounced, the survey found, and said that is especially true for people who were raised Catholic.

"Nearly one-third of American adults (31.7 percent) say they were raised Catholic," the report said. "Among that group, fully 41 percent no longer identify with Catholicism. This means that 12.9 percent of American adults are former Catholics, while just 2 percent of U.S. adults have converted to Catholicism from another religious tradition. No other religious group in the survey has such a lopsided ratio of losses to gains."

The report said the number of people who define themselves as religiously unaffiliated changed from 16 percent in 2007 to 23 percent in 2014.

Among those, the 51 million Catholics represents a

decrease of about 3 million, or from 24 percent of the population to 21 percent. The study noted that the figure might be somewhat explained by the statistical margin of error, and could be as little as a decline of 1 million people.

It also added that Catholics' percentage share of the population has remained relatively stable over decades, in comparison to Protestants, who have steadily declined.

A quibble with Pew's numbers on Catholics was posted by Mark Gray, who studies Catholics for the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. Gray said Pew's figures for Catholics don't reflect what other polls by Gallup, Public Religion Research Institute and the General Social Survey have found. Those consistently find between 21 percent and 26 percent of the U.S. population is Catholic, Gray said in a post on CARA's "1964" blog.

Catholics are represented strongly among immigrants, however, the survey said. About 15 percent of those surveyed were born outside the U.S., and two thirds of those are Christians, including 39 percent who are Catholic. About 10 percent of immigrants said they belong to a non-Christian faith, including Islam or Hinduism.

However, among millennials, the survey showed sharp differences in the percentage of people who say they're Catholic, in comparison to older generations. In the three older generations the survey considered, 20-23 percent of adults said they are Catholics. Among millennials, the percentage was 16 percent. Pew counted as millennials those who were born between the early 1980s and the mid-1990s.

Pew also considered how the people who say they have no religious affiliation define their beliefs. Between the surveys in 2007 and 2014, the number of "unaffiliated" people who say they are atheist or agnostic grew from 25 percent to 31 percent. Those who said religion is unimportant their lives also increased slightly.

Religions are also becoming more ethnically and racially diverse, the survey said.

Minorities now account for 41 percent of Catholics, it found, up from 35 percent in 2007. Among evangelical Protestants the increase was 24 percent, up from 19 percent seven years earlier, and 14 percent for mainline Protestants, up from 9 percent in 2007.

Religious intermarriage was found to be more common. The survey said 39 percent of people who said they had married since 2010 are in religiously mixed marriages, compared to 19 percent of those who married before 1960.

Among other findings of the survey, the state with the highest percentage of Catholics is Rhode Island, with 42 percent. Other states on the high end include: Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Mexico, each with 34 percent, and Connecticut, with 33 percent. These states each have 25 percent Catholics or more: California, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

On the low end, Mississippi has the fewest Catholics, at 4 percent, Utah has 5 percent and West Virginia has 6 percent. Each of these states has fewer than 10 percent Catholics: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A day to let fire of truth burn in our hearts

Today, Pentecost Sunday, is truly the birthday of Church. Just as every birthday celebrates the beginning of life, so too it is an occasion for asking ourselves, "Where do we go from here?"

What was begun with fire that changed forever the lives of the Apostles, can remind us that our Baptism and Confirmation "branded" and empowered us to be followers of Jesus.

Whether or not we are always conscious of being

marked for life with the fire of the Spirit, those sacraments changed us forever. The question we ask today is "How serious am I about my role as a Catholic Christian, and how determined am I to let the Holy Spirit change me in the years of life that are left to me?"

Today we live again the experience of that first Pentecost when the Upper Room in Jerusalem shook with hurricane force as the wind of God's Spirit and the fire of His love descended

on twelve apostles, changing them forever.

They rushed out into the streets and boldly proclaimed the truth of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

As thousands were baptized that day, the Church was born in the presence of Christ's own mother and countless of other witnesses.

Today, through the Eucharist we celebrate, the Holy Spirit's coming again to give a "booster shot" to all of us. The Word still must go forth to every nation, and we are the ones who must carry it there.

First, we must listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks in

MAY 24

Pentecost Sunday

READINGS

Acts 2:1-11

Galatians 5:16-25

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

that God is love and lives in us as in a fleshly Temple, that in the renewal of our life-time commitment, our faith is re-kindled so that our light will more effectively destroy the indifference and violence and immorality that threatens to engulf our nation and the world. Today is the day to let the fire of Truth burn in our hearts, and then in the hearts of those around us.

Never before in our lifetime is there greater need for the witness of all those gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Our Pope and our Bishops depend on all of us to be a vibrant Church in the Holy Spirit.

the person of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis. We must carry His words through prayer and sharing to our fellow-Catholics, and to all Christians. We must share it with all whose hearts and minds need what the Spirit is saying today.

We need to be re-consecrated today in the Truth



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

What is VSED? Why should it matter to us?

More than 20 years ago, Dr. David Eddy, writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, described how his mother, though not suffering from a terminal illness, chose to end her life through VSED (voluntarily stopping eating and drinking).

She was "very independent, very self-sufficient, and very content." When she began to be afflicted by various ailments, including rectal prolapse, she talked with her physician-son about "how she could end her life gracefully."

When she asked him, "Can I stop eating?" he told her that if it was really her intention to end her life, she could also stop drinking since, "without water, no one, not even the healthiest, can live more than a few days."

After a family bash celebrating her 85th birthday, she "relished her last piece of chocolate, and then stopped eating and drinking." She died of dehydration six days later, with her son arranging for pain medications to be administered

during her final days and hours. Choosing not to eat or drink can be packaged as a noble and well-intentioned way to avoid intense pain and suffering, but VSED ultimately represents a flawed choice. It subtly draws us into the mistake of treating the objective good of our life as if it were an evil to be quelled or extinguished.

We have a moral duty to preserve and protect our life, and to use ordinary means of doing so. Suicide, even by starvation and dehydration, is still suicide and is never morally acceptable. For some critically-ill patients, continued attempts to ingest food and liquids may cause significant complications, including severe nausea, vomiting, or complex problems with elimination. Such patients may find themselves effectively incapable of eating or drinking. This is not VSED, but a direct manifestation of their advanced disease state, and does not raise any of the ethical concerns associated with VSED.

As disease or severe illness advances, and a pa-

tient draws near to death, various bodily systems may begin to fail, and a natural decrease in appetite can occur. This is also different from a voluntary decision to stop eating and drinking — VSED refers specifically to a conscious, elective decision on the part of a patient not to eat or drink when eating and drinking would be anticipated to provide benefit to them without undue burdens.

As people are dying, the real evil that often needs to be quelled or extinguished is pain, and severe pain is properly addressed by non-suicidal means, that is to say, through effective pain management and palliative care strategies.

Dr. M. Scott Peck in his book *Denial of the Soul* argues that the "failure to treat pain is medical malpractice.... [and] one of the worst crimes in medicine today."

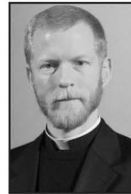
We live in an age that pos-

sesses a remarkable arsenal of methods and pharmaceuticals to address physical pain, depression and death-related anxiety, leaving little excuse for individuals to fear undergoing agonizing and pain-racked deaths.

Some have sought to suggest that patients who choose VSED may feel less pain because the nervous system becomes dulled and the body may end up releasing chemicals which provide

natural analgesia or pain relief: "What my patients have told me over the last 25 years is that when they stop eating and drinking, there's nothing unpleasant about it -- in fact, it can be quite blissful and euphoric," said Dr. Perry G. Fine, vice president of medical affairs at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in Arlington, Va. "It's a very smooth, graceful and elegant way to go."

Such claims, however, remain highly controversial



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

and strain credulity.

Dehydration and starvation constitute a form of assault against the integrity of the body and the whole organism, and if the body reacts by releasing chemicals, this is a form of "shock" response to an escalating traumatic situation.

As noted for Dr. Eddy's mother, pain medications were required to control the significant suffering and discomfort that would otherwise have ensued from her dehydration/starvation.

Even those who promote VSED advocate uniformly for concurrent pain control. In fact, Helga Kuhse, a well-known advocate of assisted suicide, once argued that when people see how painful a death by starvation and dehydration really is, then, "in the patient's best interest," they will soon come to accept active euthanasia through, for example, a lethal injection.

Indeed, VSED is frequently promoted by right to die advocates as one method among others to carry out suicide or euthanasia.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

A brutal assault on all the senses is the best way to describe "Mad Max: Fury Road" (Warner Bros).

Essentially a video game on steroids, with a minimalist script that could fit on a cocktail napkin, this film is a nonstop car chase through a bleak dystopian desert. Gratuitous, grisly violence; shocking, gross-out images; and an ear-splitting soundtrack pummels viewers into submission, if they haven't already sought sanctuary at the exit door.

George Miller returns to direct, co-produce, and co-write this fourth installment of the series, which has been in limbo since 1985's "Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome." Tom Hardy steps into the role of "Mad" Max Rockatansky inhabited by Mel Gibson in the first three films.

A road warrior with a turbulent past, Max plows his solitary furrow, wandering aimlessly through the bleak landscape. Forty-five years have passed since the apocalypse, and civilization is a distant memory.

"As the world fell, each of us in our own way was bro-

ken," Max muses. "It was hard to know who was more crazy, me or everyone else. My world is reduced to a single instinct: survive."

Max is taken prisoner by a marauding gang loyal to immortal Joe (Hugh Keays-Byrne), a tyrannical leader who controls two precious commodities, water and gasoline.

He also has a serious messianic complex. "I am your redeemer," Joe proclaims to the great mass of the unwashed. "It is by my hand that you will rise from the ashes of the world."

His army, the War Boys, gains strength from blood transfusions and breast milk (don't ask). Max supplies the former, while Joe keeps a supply of birth mothers for the latter. The promise of their loyalty is ascension to a mythical place called Valhalla.

But all this pseudo-religious claptrap takes a back seat to the action, the real star of the film. Chief source of all the mayhem is Joe's trusted driver, Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron). To the surprise of all, she goes rogue, hijacking a tractor-trailer and high-tailing it into the desert.

Furiosa seeks redemption for unnamed sins commit-

ted against her by Joe. But she also wants to liberate Joe's harem of (of course) drop-dead gorgeous supermodels. The Wives (as they are collectively known) drop away in the belly of Furiosa's beastly vehicle. One of them, The Splendid Angharad (Rosie Huntington-Whiteley), is great with Joe's child.

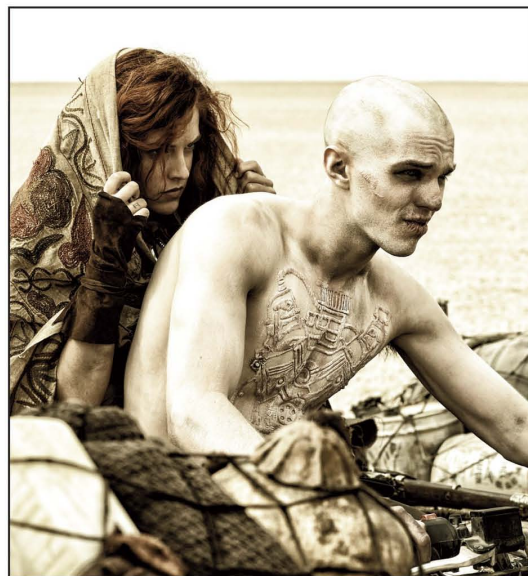
Enraged, Joe assembles an armada, and the chase is on to stop Furiosa. Since Max is a supply of superior warrior blood, he is strapped to the vehicle driven by a crazed War Boy, Nux (Nicholas Hoult).

Eventually, Max escapes and joins forces with Furiosa and the Wives as they set out for a perceived sanctuary called "The Green Place."

The cinematography in "Mad Max: Fury Road" is, admittedly, stunning, and the action sequences are choreographed with skill. There's a kernel of a message about freedom, redemption and the vanquishing of evil.

But these are small consolations for two hours of nonstop combat in which men have no qualms about beating women to a pulp -- and vice versa.

It's hard to believe that this ferocious film is by the



CNS PHOTO/JASIN BOLAND, WARNER BROS.

Riley Keough and Nicholas Hoult star in a scene from the movie "Mad Max: Fury Road."

same director who gave us animated dancing penguins in 2006's "Happy Feet," and a charming talking pig in 1995's "Babe."

The film contains relentless bloody violence, several disturbing images, and brief nudity. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted.

Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



VSED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

By its nature, VSED appears to be defined by the intent to cause death by foregoing the most basic requirements to conserve human life. Intentionally engaging in such damaging and self-destructive behaviors, by foisting dehydration and starvation onto our mortal frames so as to shatter our earthly existence, can never represent an ordered kind of human choice.

Father Pacholczyk earned

his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncc-center.org



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the North Country Catholic, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Welcome Spring!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250
 New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parish _____

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

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

Date: through Nov. 2015

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Features: Mass, rosary

Contact: RSVP for lunch to olaprayrhouse@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

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

Contact: 518-856-9656

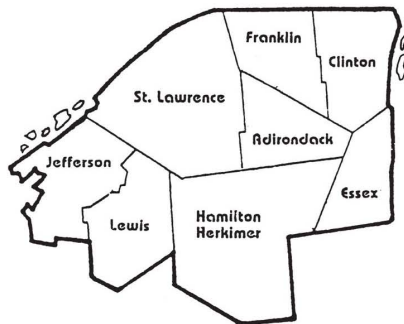
GARAGE SALE

Malone – St. Andre's Parish is holding its GIGANTIC Annual Garage Sale.

Date: June 3 - 15 (Closed Sundays)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a New or Used Car
**Mort
 Backus &
 Sons**
 On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



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.

Place: Notre Dame Church parking lot
Features: Furniture, household goods, tools, baby items, toys, books, bedding, miscellaneous.

JEFFERSON

HOLY HOUR

Philadelphia – A Holy Hour at St. Joseph's on the first Thursday of the month.

Date: June 4

Schedule: Liturgy of the Hours Vespers will be prayed during Eucharistic Adoration at 6 p.m.; Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

Features: Come pray with us, or just sit before Jesus and let your heart talk to Him. Requests for prayers for special intentions, may be sent to Kristina Dean at Kristinadean1970@hotmail.com, or questions can be directed to her at 783-7335. Prayers can change the world!

MAY ULTREYA

Watertown – Cursillo Community celebrating May Ultreya

Date: May 21

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Chapel of St. Patrick's Church

Features: Cursillistas' reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.
Contact: Anne at ams2962@gmail.com or Pat at pfanning5010@twcny.rr.com

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: May 28

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

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

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: Kathleen Mastellon at kbmas-tell@twcny.rr.com

CAR WASH

Watertown – The Watertown Special Religious Education will be having a car wash fundraiser.

Date: June 6

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's Church parking lot

Cost: Donation

Contact: Sr. Diane Marie at 782-0030/3460

HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's Church will have its Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

Date: June 13

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: The Celebrants are Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Thomas Kornmeyer. During Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered. Immediately following Mass are prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A social time, with refreshments, will take place in the Parish Center. The Tetrault family will be there to share stories about their grandfather Antoine.

Contact: For more information, call St. Mary's Parish Office at 315-686-3398 or visit the website at www.stmarysclayton.org

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 a pro-life educational organization. The office has a variety of videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations to be held.

Date: Mon.-Fri.

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

Contact: 315-782-2468

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June will be held.

Date: June 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.
Contact: 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

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

Date: Wednesdays

Time: Noon

Place: K of C Club

Contact: 393-7990 after 4 p.m.

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

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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Saranac Lake – The diocesan Respect Life Office is holding retreats for those who seek healing after abortions.

Dates: May 22 to May 24 and Oct. 9 to Oct. 11

Place: Guggenheim Center Lodge

Features: Three day retreat program, open to mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children as well as those who have worked in the abortion industry. Retreatants are helped to begin healing from their loss through "living scripture", group sharing, a memorial service and Mass. Colleen Miner, diocesan respect life director, says the Rachel's Vineyard retreat "is an intense weekend emotionally, mentally and spiritually but the results of God's mercy and grace are amazing."

Contact: Colleen Miner 518-891-2309
 cbm510@roadrunner.com

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Earthquake relief in Nepal

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

On April 25, 2015 a disastrous and deadly earthquake struck Nepal, registering over 8.0 on the Richter scale.

Nepal is a small, landlocked nation sandwiched between India and China in the Himalayan region of South Asia.

Life in Nepal is difficult enough for those who endure harsh climate, poverty and despair. Life since the earthquake three weeks ago, is now wrought with misery.

Homelessness, thousands dead and injured, bridges and tunnels are wiped out cutting off much needed relief, and landslides are killing hikers, a key driver of their economy.

There is an effort in our Diocese to answer the call of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to assist with earthquake relief in Nepal.

Funds are needed to support the work of Catholic Relief Services, who are providing needed assistance to victims, such as emergency shelter, food, blankets, clothing, water, hygiene and sanitation assistance.

The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has answered the call of Catholic Relief Services.

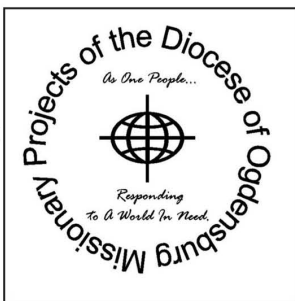
MPDO is an awareness raising appeal that was established to support efforts where funds are needed including "to help any other missionary projects throughout the world that the Diocese might deem appropriate as part of its evangelization effort."

On May 8, 2015, it was determined that the MPDO could donate to the CRS request for funds to support the work of the Church in the Nepal earthquake relief efforts.

We support the decision to help this cause. We continue to keep the people of Nepal in our prayers. I am grateful for your gifts to promote missionary endeavors among the poor of the world.

I thank you and the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is proud to help and blessed to be able to do so. Prayers for Nepal!

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



OBITUARIES

Carthage - Joan L. Blinebry, 73; Funeral Services May 12, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage - Nellie Ann (Cerroni) Kelley, 92; Funeral May 13, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Clayton - Robert A. Weaver, 86; Funeral Services May 16, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan - Kenneth Everett Updegraff, Jr., 68; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg - Mildred M. Bilow, 92; Funeral Services May 11, 2015 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Joseph A. Kwetcin, 55; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Madrid - Helen G. Brady, 84; Funeral Services May 11, 2015 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. John the Baptist Cemetery.

Malone - Mary J. Dufort Bomyea, 92; Funeral Services May 14, 2015 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

Malone - Ronald Joseph Perry, 68; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at the Spaulding

Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena - Orval W. Kimble, 65; Funeral Services May 7, 2015 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Moers Forks - Gloria M. LaDuc, 87; Funeral Services at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Norfolk - Scott J. Monroe, 51; Funeral Services May 16, 2015 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Ogdensburg - Patricia A. "Peg" (Ashley) LaVigne, 83; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh - Betty A. (Weaver) Miller, 80; Funeral Services May 12, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Rouses Point - Matthew Joseph Polniaszek, 40; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

St. Regis Falls - David J. Susice, Sr., 74; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Star Lake - Edmund "Ed" C. De Cora, 92; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake - Leon Sonny Savard, 85; Funeral Services May 15, 2015 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Tupper Lake - Dorothy (LaPointe) Fuller, 83; Funeral Services May 16, 2015, at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake - Thomas J. Shaheen, 82; Funeral Services May 18, 2015, at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown - Patrick R. Boulio, 56; Funeral Services May 16, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery, New Boston.

Watertown - Richard S. Coleman, 91; Funeral Services the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Kelly J. (Sullivan) Doherty, 35; Funeral Services May 13, 2015 at Church of the Holy Family; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown - James F. Gagniere Sr., 75; Funeral Services May 13, 2015 at Church of the Holy Family.

Watertown - Janice M. Major, 81; Funeral Services May 16, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Marie A. (Mangini) Renzi, 91; Funeral May 13, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Helping the poor is always worth the risk, pope says

ROME (CNS) - The work of Catholic charities in the world sometimes may run into trouble, but it is always better than having Catholics shut up in their churches doing nothing, Pope Francis said.

After celebrating Mass May 12 with representatives of national Caritas organizations from around the world, the pope sent a video message May 13 to the opening session of the Caritas Internationalis general assembly.

Being out on the streets can lead to accidents, he said, but being sealed up in a room can make one ill.

"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security," he said in the message to delegates from 165 national Catholic charities.

"You are the engine of the church that organizes love -- caritas -- for all believers to work together to respond through the corporal works of mercy," the pope said.

"You set the pace for the church to be in the world each day. You help others change the course of their

own lives."

Pope Francis said that in today's culture many times it seems that even human beings are considered "consumer goods," things to be used and then tossed aside.

Exploitation and oppression have been around forever, Pope Francis said, but discarding others is "something new."



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.

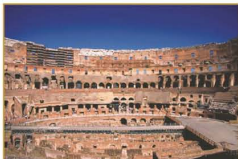
I hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting and spiritually enriching time together.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop LaValley

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

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



Call 315-608-7556 or visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org for more information

ALL ABOUT CURSILLO



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Representatives from the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Ogdensburg made a presentation to deacons and their wives May 6 during the 2015 Deacon Convocation held in Lake Placid. At the podium is Kathy Racette, Pre-Cursillo Coordinator. Seated, from left, are Ken Racette, Assistant Lay Director; Thomas Middleton, Lay Director; and Lucille Johnson, Secretary and Co-Coordinator of our School of Leaders.

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 candidates, parish and diocesan staff, deacons and deacon candidates, parishioners interested in deepening their own faith and becoming more active in Church ministry and parish life

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

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

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 - The 2015 Summer Directed Retreat has been planned

Date: June 21-26, register by June 1

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

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