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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 6, 2015

Pope sees 'scandal of inequality'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Two millennia after the "Gospel of the family" defeated an abusive social practice that humiliated women, the "radical equality" of spouses in Christian marriage must now bear "new fruit" in society, including "the right to equal pay for equal work," said Pope Francis.

This "disparity" between men and women in the workplace is "a pure scandal," Pope Francis said April 29 during his weekly general audience.

Continuing a series of audience talks about marriage, the pope began by saying Jesus demonstrated his great fondness and solicitude for

marriage and family when he changed water into wine at the wedding at Cana. The love between man and woman in marriage is "God's masterpiece," the pope said, straying from his prepared remarks.

Though Jesus' message to married couples is always the same, "many things have

changed" since then, he said. Today there are fewer marriages, more marriage breakups, and fewer children, the pope noted.

Family and marital bonds are broken with "always greater frequency and speed," and children are always "the biggest victims," he said.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

To Bishop LaValley



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK
Bishop Terry R. LaValley, shown above after his April 10, 2010 ordination and installation as 14th bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, reflected on his first five years as bishop in an interview with the *North Country Catholic*. The bishop said that he is "in awe, truly in awe, of the people of faith who sacrifice so much because they believe in their God and their Church."

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

Catholic Charities on Mother's Day

Catholic Charities annual Mother's Day Appeal will take place May 10 in all parishes of the diocese.

The goal for the appeal is \$165,000.

In 2014, Catholic Charities served over 19,000 people across the North Country.

"For just pennies a day, your gift will make a difference in the lives of your neighbors," said Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin. "Please consider a generous gift to support the mission and works of Catholic Charities."

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

Clean-up at Guggenheim

Annual spring cleaning weekend at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac

Lake is set for May 15-16

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

YOUTHFUL ADULTS AT THE YOUTH RALLY



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Some of the adults who joined more than 200 teenagers at the diocesan Youth Rally April 24-25 smile for the camera during Saturday's program at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh. From left are Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director; Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan family life director; Franciscan Sister Rachel Daly, a graduate of Seton Catholic Central, who accompanied several Franciscan Sisters of Renewal from the Bronx to the rally; Samantha Poulin, director of Faith Formation for St. Andre Bessette Parish in Malone; Kelly Donnelly, teacher at Seton Catholic; and Bishop LaValley. Full coverage, pages 3-5

HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE: Bishop to lead trip to Catholic Italy next April... p. 16

NORTH
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Five years and counting *many* more

The diocesan staff celebrated Bishop LaValley's fifth anniversary April 30 with just a bit of trepidation.

As an older on the staff, I clearly remembered Bishop Loverde's fifth anniversary luncheon when he announced that he had just been tapped for the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

And Bishop Cunningham was installed as bishop of Syracuse five years and eight days after his installation in Ogdensburg.

And Bishop Barbarito? He never even saw a fourth anniversary before moving south to Palm Beach!

So we may be rightly concerned that those who advise Pope Francis about bishops know that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is fertile ground for good ones.



Mary Lou
Kilian

Bishop LaValley quickly assured us that he is here to stay so, with that in mind, his NCC anniversary interview (see page 7) featured his expectations for the diocese he will lead in 2020 and beyond.

The bishop also reflected on the aspects of his ministry about which he is most proud.

It was good to hear how optimistic he is about the fruits of our ongoing visioning process.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

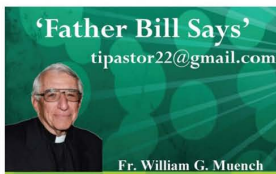
Hearing the voice of our Good Shepherd

Recently, we, as a Church, celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday. This image of Jesus, as a shepherd, a good shepherd, is a good image of the relationship that Jesus wants with us, his disciples and followers.

It has been a powerful image used in the Church since the earliest days of our Church. There are so many good things that this image teaches us.

However, there are some things about the Good Shepherd image that do not seem right. I think there could be a misconception.

Some may think of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as simply our protector who will do everything to take care of us. We don't have to do anything – our Good Shepherd will do all for us. We just have to bring our list and the Good Shepherd will take care of all. I believe that the Good Shepherd will watch over and protect us but I believe the Lord does expect that his followers do have something to do. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, calls us and challenges us to do something – to make our lives better and our world a better place.



There is a shepherd story in the Gospels that shows us how Jesus, the Good Shepherd, reaches out to us.

In those days, they say, each shepherd in an area would bring their flock of a sheep to a common pen for the night and they would be guarded all night. Then each morning, each shepherd would come to this pen to take his own sheep to the fields.

The Gospel tells us that each sheep would recognize their shepherd, simply by hearing his voice. So, I believe, that each of us will recognize our Good Shepherd by his voice, by his call. Further, I believe that often, possibly each day, the Lord will call and lead us with a challenge to do something, to help someone, to guide us to make our life even better by doing something for

And it's good to know how happy he is to serve among the people of the North Country.

This is a week he can be particularly proud of everyone who created (from all accounts) a hugely successful diocesan youth rally.

And, this week is the time to sing the praises of our diocesan Catholic Charities office as we dig into our pockets for Sunday's Mother's Day appeal.

Bishop LaValley knows better than anyone that, through Catholic Charities, each of us has the opportunity to respond to God's call to love our neighbors whether they live in northern New York or in places like Nepal.

As he says, our gifts shine the light of the Gospel on the

dark places of poverty, emotional distress, loneliness and other types of suffering and pain experienced by our brothers and sisters.

In her letter about the appeal, Sister Donna reminds us how difficult this winter has been. "Catholic Charities needs your help to keep resources available for our neighbors in need," she said. The annual Catholic Charities Mother's Day appeal is an opportunity to reach out in the spirit of the Gospel, remembering that seeing Christ in our neighbor changes our own lives.

I can't imagine that Bishop LaValley would appreciate any anniversary gift as much as our generous donations to Catholic Charities.

the Lord. It may not be a call like those shepherds however, in faith, we will recognize the Lord's call. We will know it is the Lord calling.

So the question today is – "Have you recognized the voice of the Lord in your life, each time he has called to you?"

In many unique ways, the Lord longs to touch us and lead us to bring his love and peace to our world, to those who need us.

The Lord offers us a life full of opportunities when we listen carefully for his voice. This is vocation: the Lord calling to us and our recognizing the Lord's challenges for each of us.

I truly believe that each of us has received many invitations from the Lord. Often, many would simply call these opportunities coincidences – at the right place at the right time or say the right thing at the right time. There are no coincidences from the Lord.

The Lord's call may be the opportunity to sit down and talk with a son or daughter. The Lord's call may be the call of a friend in need. The Lord's

call may be the opportunity to make life better for someone, even a stranger.

There is another shepherd story that Jesus uses – his Parable of the Lost Sheep again, demonstrating just what a Good Shepherd is. You know the story.

A shepherd has 100 sheep and one runs off into the bush and gets lost. Jesus asks, "What do you think? Won't the shepherd leave the 99 to go search for the lost sheep?"

The reality is no, most shepherds would stay with the 99. However, Jesus is the Good Shepherd and in this image he makes it clear that Our Savior, Jesus, will never give up on any of us even if we stray.

I must admit that I didn't fully understand the parable. I thought I was among the 99 and I wondered why Jesus would leave us to look for a stray.

Then, as time went by, I recognized that often – too many times – I was the stray so if the Lord wants to leave others to come and search for me, I say, "Thank you, Lord, for never giving up on me."

FOLLOW ME

Of dead horses, grace... and guts!

Bishop LaValley's homily for Youth Rally Mass, April 25 at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

The story is told of nine young soldiers who had received over-night liberty passes from the base where they were stationed. When morning came, not one of the nine was present at roll call. An hour after their absence was noted, the first soldier straggled back onto base. He was immediately taken before his Company Commander.

"I'm sorry to be late, sir," the soldier said, "but I had a date, lost track of time and missed the last bus to base. I wanted to make it back on time so I took a taxi. About halfway back to base, the cab broke down, so I went to the nearest farm and bought a horse. As I was riding along on the horse, the animal suddenly stumbled to the ground and died. So, I did the last five miles on foot, and here I am."

Although he was pretty skeptical about the chain of weird excuses, the Company Commander let the young man off with a mild lecture on the virtues of being on time. Well, wouldn't you know, seven more stragglers reported in, one-by-one, each with the same story: had a date, lost track of time, missed the last bus, took a cab, cab broke down, bought a horse, horse fell dead.

Finally, the ninth and last soldier arrived. Now totally exasperated, the Commanding Officer growled, "What happened to you?" The ninth man replied, "Sir, I had a date, lost track of the time, missed the last bus, hired a taxi..."

"Wait!" said the officer. "Are you going to tell me that the cab broke down?" "No, Sir," the soldier replied, "The taxi was fine. The problem was there were



PHOTO BY FATHER BRYAN STITT

At the 2015 diocesan Youth Rally, held April 24-25, Bishop LaValley spoke with several Franciscan Sisters of Renewal from the Bronx before the closing Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. The sisters - including Peru native Sister Rachel Daly, shown left of the bishop - took part in a panel discussion on vocations during the rally.

about eight or so dead horses on the road so we couldn't get through."

My sisters and brothers, our God is calling us to life, new life. God is offering us the power to live as complete, joy-filled persons. But, often He can't get through to us and we cannot hear or follow Him because we clog up the channels of grace with dead horses that prevent us from getting where we need to be: following Jesus.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, tells us in today's Gospel that His followers will hear His voice - but, boy - there are so many dead horses out there - and in here - that make it so difficult to listen to His voice and then to follow the Good Shepherd.

You know what those dead horses are in your life: Jealousy, greed, pornography, selfishness, pride, etc. It takes God's grace and our guts to remove them—**GRACE AND GUTS!**

The best remedy for the dead horse syndrome is our being aware of Jesus' Presence and friendship every day. Learn to see how God

is working in your lives and discover Him hidden within the events of daily life. Believe that He is always faithful. He will never abandon you! He gave His life to you on the Cross because of His unconditional love for you.

Because of original sin, we have obstacles on the road of life that deaden our ability to listen to Jesus and follow His way of joy, peace and hope.

But, we have two major resources to meet the obstacles head on: first, the teaching of the Church - learning to recognize the path - the enlightening of our minds. Jesus made a solemn promise that "when the Spirit of truth comes He will lead you to the complete truth."

From the very beginning of the Church, it has belonged to the Pope and the bishops who are in communion with Him to teach with authority. It is the reason why Catholics today believe the same doctrines that Catholics believed five hundred years ago. Our faith has not been corrupted or

lost, even though the Church and the world have suffered so much turmoil through the ups and downs of history.

Now, of course, we have to remember that this teaching authority does not apply to everything. The Holy Spirit will not guide the Pope and the bishops when they express their personal opinions about certain issues or when they make predictions about which teams will get into the playoffs. If that were the case, I would have named the New York Giants the official Diocesan football team five years ago after I was installed as our bishop. The bishops don't even teach authoritatively when they discuss the best way to assure just immigration laws.

The teaching authority of the Church is guaranteed to be trustworthy only when dealing with the doctrines of our faith: the truths we profess in our Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the implications these have for our lives in today's world.

Only when we keep in

touch with Church teaching through personal study, Catholic web sites, our *North Country Catholic*, or our parish activities give us occasion to learn our faith and to live it more deeply, hauling away the dead horses. Knowing the path of following Jesus is vital so we don't get lost.

Knowing the path is one thing. A second resource gives us the strength we need to follow that path, even when it is so very difficult. They are the sacraments. Every one of the sacraments is meant to increase God's grace in our souls.

This is especially true of those sacraments that we are encouraged to receive frequently - the Eucharist and confession. Christ's Body and Blood is nourishment for our souls. Confession strengthens us by healing the wounds of sin and reinforcing our efforts to follow Christ (that's the guts part!) We need these supernatural helps to confront the dead horses on our life's journey.

You see, Christianity is not self-help; it's Christ's help. Christ gives us His help through His sacraments—that's why He gave them to His Church. But if we don't make use of them, or if we live them only superficially (which happens when we don't try to develop a personal prayer life), then we don't receive the power He wants to give us through them.

I'm so happy that you have all joined us here at our Youth Rally. I hope that this has truly been an occasion for you to sharpen up your listening skills so as to hear the Good Shepherd speaking to you. Again, it takes grace and guts. God will provide the grace, will you supply the guts?

Remember real joy is the fruit of faith lived. Let's help each other listen to and follow the Good Shepherd.

At the Youth Rally

By Kelly Donnelly
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH - Over 250 teens gathered at Seton Academy April 25 for the 2015 diocesan Youth Rally, a chance for the young people to spend time in prayer, grow in faith, and enjoy one another's company.

Organized by Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry, the theme of the youth rally was "Follow Me."

The program featured Jackie Francois Angel from Orange County, California, a dynamic speaker, worship leader and musician.

The event began with a concert, Adoration, and opportunity for confession at St. Alexander's in Morrisonville.

The powerful evening was a beautiful opportunity for teens and adults to spend time with the Lord and get a preview of the talents and insights the keynote presenter

had to offer.

The actual youth rally was held on Saturday at Seton Academy and St. Peter's in Plattsburgh. The day started with some snacks in the cafeteria and games in the gym, followed by some brief ice-breakers.

The morning continued with an engaging keynote address presented by Jackie Francois Angel. Teens were captivated from the beginning with a name-that-tune style game, which seamlessly led into the main address.

Jackie's wisdom and accessibility to the teens was palpable throughout the day, especially during this keynote address.

The day continued with teens enjoying lunch, visiting tables from a variety of organizations/events/religious orders, and attending two different presentations by Mrs. Angel.

The afternoon included a question and answer session with Bishop LaValley, during

which the bishop joyfully shared his wisdom as he answered questions teens raised on a variety of issues.

The question and answer session was followed by a panel with religious sisters from several different religious orders (Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Sisters of St. Joseph, Franciscan Sisters of Renewal and Sisters of Precious Blood) who each briefly shared the incredible experience of her vocation and experience.

In regards to the panel, Michael Hamilton of Morrisonville said that, "It was very enlightening to see the young religious, and I hope that more people consider a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or to become a religious brother or sister."

The 2015 youth rally concluded with Mass presided by Bishop LaValley with the teens serving as readers and ushers.

In reflecting on the day, Brittany Morley of Plattsburgh said, "I definitely loved the speaker. She was a really good singer, and I liked the love topic that she talked



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Jackie Francois Angel, speaker, worship leader and musician from Orange County, California, opened the 2015 diocesan Youth Rally with a concert Friday night and served as keynote speaker for Saturday's program.

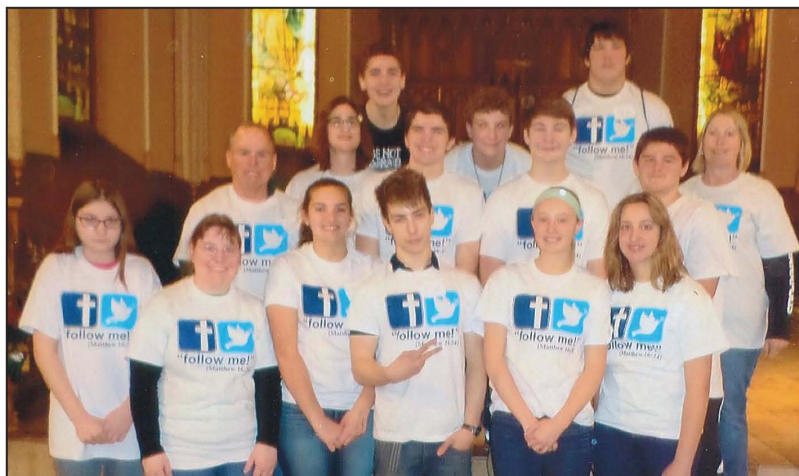
about. I liked the games and the food - - I had a really good time!"

The youth rally was an event for teens to come to-

gether as members of the Church and helped inspire them to go out and follow Him in each of their communities.



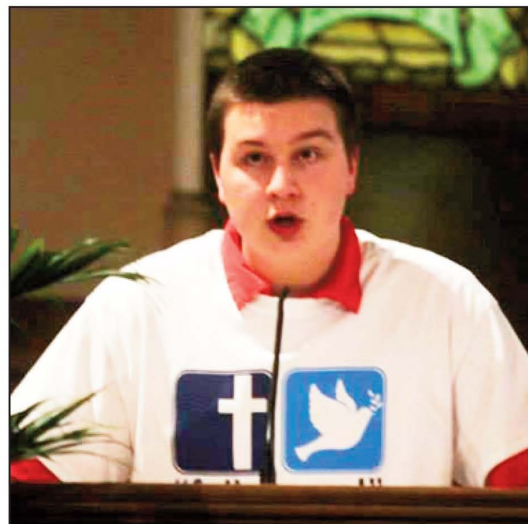
Bishop LaValley answered questions from the teens before presiding at the closing Mass at St. Peter's Church.



St. Mary's & St. John's Youth Group, Clayton; St. Cecilia Youth Group, Adams and the Catholic Communities of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont Youth Group all met up at the rally to share the day with longtime friends. Pictured, first row, are Kelsey Turner, Samantha Morgan, Samantha Eppley, Marc Michel, Andrea Bourquin and Emily Locke; second, Kevin O'Rourke, Sharon Turner, Caleb Ritter, Walter Patrick Cummings, Zack Tuner, Jeremy Golden and Christine Woodley; third, Timothy Beese and Michael Lennox.



Eight religious congregations serving in the diocese exhibited vocation materials at the Youth Rally. Seated, from left, are Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Fran Barnes and then, the newest members in the diocese: Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa, a Sister of the Cross of Chavano; Sister Rachel Daly, Franciscan Sister of Renewal; St. Joseph Sister Constance Sylvester, facilitator of panel; Precious Blood Sister Mary Catherine Pham and St. Joseph Sister Susanne Johnson; back Franciscan Sisters Agnes Holtz, Bernadette Darr and Brittany Allen, Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, diocesan episcopal delegate; Franciscan Sister Stephanie Beach, Precious Blood Sister Linh Therese Nguyen, Franciscan Sisters Genna Quentin and Klara Folsie, Mercy Sister Brian Marie Latour and St. Joseph Sister Mary Gregory Munger. Missing from the picture is Mercy Sister Janet Peters.



Michael Hamilton of St. Alexander's Parish in Morrisonville, reads from the scriptures during the Youth Rally Mass.

'A blessed event'

"What a blessed event," said Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry, about this year's Youth Rally.

"There was an energy and excitement in the group that I have yet to see

to that level," at previous events, he said.

"A big reason for that was our special guest from Orange County, California, Jackie Angel," he said.

"Jackie embodied a spirit of joy that was so apparent that anyone who was in her presence new quickly that God was present in her life. The joy that comes from living out God's will in our lives.

"The night of praise and worship at St. Alexander's had the faithful rejoicing in God's love in a true spirit of joy as Jackie sang with the voice of an 'angel,'" Deacon Dwyer said. "Adoration and confessions were part of the evening."

"Saturday Jackie talked to the teens about God's love for them, that they were made from heaven and that they were called to live out God's plan with passion and joy, witnessing to all they come in contact with," he said.

"We left the rally with the directive to follow Jesus and not to be afraid because God has promised to be with us to the end of time," he said.

In the words of a young Youth Rally participant:

By Samantha Bashaw
Student, Seton Catholic Central

It's a moment of unity. Of being universal with everyone you are around, but isn't that what the word "Catholic" stands for, so shouldn't this feeling be normal, even expected?

The 2015 Youth Rally was just that, however, none of it was what any of us probably expected.

Jackie Francois Angel, the keynote speaker, was unheard of by most teens that arrived that Saturday morning of April 25, but by the end of the day she became a friend to all, and someone we would want to see again.

Like a friend, Jackie delved into the personal stories of her life, with the theme of the day circulating around "love" and the fact that "God is love".

It was so important for us, teenagers, to hear this aspect of love being taught from a vibrant member of the faith, instead of what media and society tries to implement in our brains.

By bringing in life stories about her conversion to become a stronger member of the Catholic Church and her quest to find the "one", we, the audience, were opened to the true blessing that being Catholic is all about.

Too often, especially as teenagers, we are looked down upon for proclaiming the truth of what we are and for even doing the sign of the cross. It can seem like it is us against the world, but with events such as the Youth Rally we come to understand that we aren't alone, that, not only is God our strength, but that hundreds of other teenagers from around the diocese can be as well.

As I walked from Seton

Academy to St. Peter's multiple times that day I noted the looks on several faces. Looks that read relief, happiness, gratitude, and pure joy filled many of the familiar and not so familiar faces I passed, making me realize that being excited about the Catholic Church wasn't some weird plague, but in fact an actual reality.

The next Youth Rally may be a year away, but it's never too early to start planning for your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew, or even you to attend.

We, as participants of the Catholic faith, need to "rally" those around us to go to such events as the Youth Rally, to be united, and ultimately, to be universal.



Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



Camp Guggenheim gets taken to the cleaners!

By Sister Jennifer Votraw, SSI
Chancellor

It is time again for spring cleaning! Camp Guggenheim is no exception and, after a long, cold winter, the facility with its many buildings and activity areas needs loving attention.

This is not a job that can be done by one person. Each year, volunteers across the diocese gather as a community for a common good: to make the diocesan camp a welcoming and clean environment for all who will be present during the summer camping season.

From the Summer Camp program to the Family Life program to the many

diocesan organizations and families who also rent the lodge and dorm for retreats, workshops and vacation time, all enjoy and benefit from the hard work and planning that go into the annual cleanup weekend.

This year May 15-16 will be the "Camp Clean-Up weekend" coordinated by Dick Lynch, youth director from St. Joseph's, Dannemora. If anyone is interested in helping prepare Camp Guggenheim during this time, please contact Dick Lynch at 518-492-7583 or e-mail yesgrp7@aol.com for more information and to sign up!

So, if you would like an exciting Adirondack experience and do a wonderful service at the same time, please join us!

Applications for CCHD grants now being accepted

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant process for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The criteria to be used for submitting a proposal is:

1. Project must be aimed at alleviating the causes of poverty.
2. Project must be a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.
3. Sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization.
4. Project must have the potential to be funded after the CCHD funds have been expended.
5. Projects must be consistent with the teaching of the

Roman Catholic Church. (Applicants do not have to be Catholic.)

This year two grants for \$4,000 each are available. Applications can be requested from Catholic Charities by mail, phone or e-mail. If you have any questions or to receive an application, please write to: Catholic Charities, 6866 State Hgwy. 37, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669; or call: (315)393-2255; or e-mail your request and mailing address to: ccdirect@wadham.edu

Grant applications are due back to Catholic Charities by May 20. Grants will be awarded by the end of June 2015.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Bishop's Schedule

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

May 8 – 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh

May 9 – 11 a.m., Confirmation at St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor
6:30 p.m., Confirmation at St. Edmund's Church in Ellenburg

May 11 – 12 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg
6 p.m., Confirmation at St. James Church in Cadyville

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

May 13 – 11 a.m., Priest Personnel Meeting at the Bishop Residence in Ogdensburg
7 p.m., Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church in Massena

Rest in Peace

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

May 6 – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

May 7 – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996

May 8 – Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

May 9 – Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 11 – Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

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: terriannayanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-
483-3261; or Father James Seymour,
the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-
393-2920, ext. 1340

Environmental Stewardship

"The Lungs of the Earth"

During an Environmental Club Tree Planting Event, one college student remarked "Trees are the lungs of the earth." For just as our lungs purify the oxygen for our bodies, so too the trees purify the air for all life.

These words came to mind this past week as National Arbor Day was celebrated here in New York State. (last Friday in April). The occasion invited us to celebrate the gift of trees in our lives and to find ways to care for and protect them. Trees grace us with shade, shelter, home for birds and other critters and insects, moisture in the air, as well as materials for artistic expressions, homes, furniture, fuel, mulching. Our Jewish friends celebrate a holiday called Tu Bishvat, when they plant and eat dried fruits and nuts to acknowledge God's gift of trees.

Some suggestions for celebrating this day given by the Arbor Day Organization are: 1) plant a tree in your own yard for energy efficiency (wind barrier); 2) support or volunteer with tree planting activity in your parish, school, or other community organization; 3) purchase recycled paper products and paper produced from sustainably managed forests. Re-read Joyce Kilmer's poem "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree... A tree that looks at God all day and lifts her leafy arms to pray..." Consider writing your own poem or prayer on what a tree means to you.

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. Upcoming programs:
May 8 – 6 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, Peru

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JOB OPENING

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the full-time position of **Maintenance Director.**

The Maintenance Director is responsible for the upkeep of diocesan buildings and grounds and related tasks. Applicants must have knowledge of various elements involved in maintenance of office and residential buildings including basic knowledge of electrical and plumbing repairs and small carpentry projects. Applicants must have experience with lawn and snow removal equipment. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Human Resources Office
Diocese of Ogdensburg
P.O. Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Deadline for application is May 29, 2015.

Happy anniversary, Bishop

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

OGDENSBURG—Five years after Bishop Terry R. LaValley was ordained and installed as the 14th bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg he continues to feel “extremely humbled and privileged” to serve as the head of the North Country church.

“I am in awe, truly in awe, of the people of faith who sacrifice so much because they believe in their God and their Church,” he said.

Bishop LaValley sat down with the *North Country Catholic* just days before his April 30 anniversary as bishop and reflected on the achievements in the diocese under his watch, his disappointments and his hopes for the future.

The most important accomplishment, he said, is not a personal feat but “as a diocese, what we have been able to do by putting together, with the Catholic Leadership Institute, our diocesan envisioning team and really take a comprehensive look at the church of the North Country.

“With the invaluable input from listening sessions, the envisioning team was able to come back together to pray over, reflect upon, do more research and then determine the diocesan priorities and goals that we’re all working so diligently to accomplish,” he said.

The vision

Bishop LaValley proclaimed the diocesan vision during the 2014 Chrism Mass. The vision includes three priorities: to create a culture of vocations, strengthen faith formation in families and build parishes with living stones.

Bishop LaValley has been gratified by the response to the envisioning process with the large number of people who came to listening sessions, the eagerness of parishioners to share and the



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop Terry R. LaValley leaves St. Mary's Cathedral at the conclusion of his April 30, 2010, ordination and installation as the 14th bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. On this page, he reflects on the past five years.

willingness of volunteers to work to realize the diocesan priorities and goals.

“The committees that have been established have really been working hard and have produced some very fine work for us to achieve our goals,” the bishop said. “We’ve got people from one end of the diocese to the other who are serving on these committees.

“We have such talented, competent lay people who have come forward to work on these teams and I’m so very grateful,” he said. “That’s why I’m hopeful that this will all bear fruit.”

The challenges

For Bishop LaValley, the most difficult aspect of his life as bishop is “trying to meet parishioners’ expectations when it comes to providing priests for the parishes.

“So many, unfortunately, don’t understand the urgency of the need for priestly vocations in the church in the North Country,” he said.

“When I’m unable to provide a priest, I disappoint so many parishioners but I can’t give what I don’t have.

“So that’s a real challenge,” Bishop LaValley said. “But I’ve got really fine people working, supporting me in our new Living Stones planning committee trying to address that.”

The joys

And the best part?

“Without a doubt, my favorite times are the parish and school visits,” he said. “I just find such enthusiasm and genuine faith-filled people who love their church and their priests.

“They are so affirming and encouraging to me,” he said.

The bishop has also been encouraged by the leadership of Pope Francis.

“I think he’s put an exclamation point behind some of the aspects of priestly ministry that I thought were important,” Bishop LaValley said. “Like when he made the comment that there was no need for ‘airport bishops,’

that we need to be home with our people.”

Bishop LaValley has also been inspired by the pope’s “reaching out.” Like Pope Francis the bishop seeks to serve in a way that is “not waiting for people to come to me but being brave enough to step out”

“The pope has really become a towering figure,” the bishop said, “not only on the world scene but in my own personal life.”

Following the pope’s directive to serve among the people is not without its challenges, though, when those people are spread across 12,000 square miles.

“I’ve always understood the real importance of getting out of the house and being with the people,” the bishop said. “As a pastor I tried to do that but as a bishop it’s not that easy. When I’m out doing that, I’m not able to do something else. It’s time consuming.

“In times gone by,” he said, “the bishop’s secretary would drive and the bishop would

be in the back seat working on his talks.”

The future

As the efforts towards achieving the diocesan vision move forward, Bishop LaValley talked about his expectations for the future of the Church in Ogdensburg.

“What’s important now is the process,” he said. “As I listen to pastors and parishioners talking, they hear from new people asking if they can participate. I’m hearing about parishioners calling other parishioners who didn’t sign up asking them if they want to participate.

“Not only is the data we collect important but also the process as it reinvigorates, gets us talking about our faith and sharing it,” he said. “We’re not keeping it under a bushel basket.

“So that’s a long term benefit of the evangelizing process which is what we’re about,” he said. “and from that will flow, I’m hopeful, to more people asking questions, coming back to the sacraments, coming back to the church, making appointments with the parish staff to talk about the reasons they have walked away from the church or felt pushed away from the church whatever that circumstance might be.

“So I think that dynamic makes for a vibrant faith family and that’s part of the long range goal as I see it,” he said.

“And, certainly with that - of course all founded on our prayer - vocations will surface,” Bishop LaValley said, “the more we talk about our faith, the more we celebrate the sacraments like we believe that what we say we’re celebrating is what we’re celebrating.

“Once we get our goals off the ground, whether it’s youth ministry or Christian formation, we’ll plant the seed,” he said. “We’ll be patient and relentless. Keep waiting, no matter what, and be patient for the growth.”

Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Establishing, maintaining and nurturing our baptismal call, we are presented with a clear and focused set of goals for daily living. We live in the light of the Gospel. Each of us grows and flourishes in the context of building community and instilling hope in the Good News.



As participants in the process of building communities of hope, we answer God's call to live in compassionate and caring relationships with our neighbors. Neighbors helping neighbors describes the North Country. Caring for the neighbor next door, the neighbors throughout the United States and across the world challenges each of us to cherish and live faithfully our baptismal mission. Catholic Social teaching reminds us that we have the right to family and community. We have a right to participation in that community.

The **Annual Mother's Day Appeal for Catholic Charities** provides everyone with the opportunity to reach out to neighbors near and far. This annual appeal invites us to join together as Church and support the works of charity and justice. The services and programs of Catholic Charities reach out to individuals and families living on the margins of the life of our communities. Your gift provides the resources for our sisters and brothers to be welcomed into the economic, social and emotional life of the community. This welcome and support builds hope. It shines the light of the Gospel on the dark places of poverty, emotional distress, loneliness and other types of suffering and pain experienced by our sisters and brothers.

Please consider your own resources and then make as generous a gift as possible to the Annual Mother's Day Catholic Charities Appeal. The collection will take place in all of the parishes throughout the Diocese on the weekend of May 10, 2015.

Thank you for your compassion and concern for our neighbor in need.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Catholic Charities
Annual Mother's Day Appeal
May 10, 2015
Goal: \$165,000



Neighbor Helping Neighbor
Building communities of HOPE

For more information visit our website: www.cathcharities.org

You Can Give Through Your Parish or

Send checks (Please identify Parish on check) directly to:

Catholic Charities
6866 State Highway 37
Ogdensburg, New York 13669



Stories of Challenge and Change

Bridging the Gap is a program of challenge and change. There are many individuals and families in our communities who "fall between the cracks" of traditional services and programs. They may be people who are working one or two low paying jobs without benefits. They may be a retired senior citizen whose retirement income is not enough to meet the growing cost of home heating fuel or gas for their vehicle. Catholic Charities is committed to assuring all of our family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers and community members have access to quality services and programs.

BARRY AND SHEILA'S STORY

Catholic Charities showed us how to organize our income. We became better managers of our money and were able to make it through a rough time. Helping us with one mortgage payment and some food gift cards kept our family on track. Barry is back to work and I have found a part time job that allows me to be home in time to be there for my youngest child, after school and on school holidays. Thank you Catholic Charities for being such a family supportive organization. You treated us with respect and encouraged us when we were ready to give up.

MARY BETH'S STORY

The counselor at Catholic Charities was compassionate and understanding. My anxiety had gotten so bad I could hardly go to work. Now, after receiving counseling, I have gone back to school and found a better job. I can support myself and my son. I am encouraging him to go to community college. Without Catholic Charities none of this would have happened. I am so grateful.

May 10, 2015

Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Building Communities of HOPE

Dear Friend of Catholic Charities,

We don't hire a fancy advertising company or pay an expensive marketing position salary. We come to you directly. Catholic Charities works hard to maximize the amount of funds that go into direct service. Acting as responsible stewards of your financial gifts assures that Catholic Charities maintains a low overhead.

This winter has been difficult for many individuals and families. Catholic Charities needs your help to keep resources available for our neighbors in need. Home heating fuel, food, prescription assistance and other critical needs are provided because of your generosity. Long winters increase the number of counseling cases for issues like anxiety and depression. Your financial support provides subsidies for our neighbors who cannot afford the counseling fees. Catholic Charities uses a sliding scale fee system. Based on income, most of our people can afford between \$10 and \$25 per visit. The cost of a counseling hour for Catholic Charities is \$75. So, your financial support is essential.

Pope Francis lives the Gospel. Each new story about him and every encounter we witness gives us an example of how to live in the world. He builds community wherever he goes. His willingness to give of his time, his talents and his love for God and neighbor inspires each of us. The Annual Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal is an opportunity to reach out in the spirit of the Gospel. Seeing Christ in our neighbor changes our own lives. Like Pope Francis, we can light up the dark places with the light of joy and compassion.

Catholic Charities implores you to consider your own resources. Then, consider a generous gift to support the mission and works of Catholic Charities. You are invited to send a check directly to Catholic Charities or to give through your parish collection on Mother's Day, May 10, 2015. Please provide us with the name of your parish so that your donation can be credited to your particular parish community.

Thank you for your support in the past. May you recognize God's grace in each moment of every day. For more information please visit our website: www.cathcharities.org.
Gratefully,

Sr. Donna M. Franklin, D.C.

Sr. Donna M. Franklin, D.C.
Diocesan Director

For more information about Catholic Charities and programs in your area visit our website: www.cathcharities.org or call (315) 393-2255

Name: _____
Address: _____
Parish: _____

1. **Paid in Full** (check enclosed payable to Catholic Charities) Amount: \$ _____

2. **Online donations at: www.cathcharities.org**
For privacy protection, Catholic Charities is accepting credit card donations online only.
Our online donor program is a secure site.

3. **Pledge:** Total Pledge \$ _____
(quarterly payments)
Catholic Charities will remind you when the pledge payments are due.

In 2014, Catholic Charities served over 19,000 people across the North Country. Many of the services and programs continue to be offered because you cared enough to provide financial support through your Mother's Day Appeal gift. For just pennies a day, your gift will make a difference in the lives of your neighbors. For the cost of one soda, a cup of coffee, or snack foods each week for one year, you can provide the following:

- \$ 30.00 - will provide special formula for an infant with lactose intolerance
- \$ 40.00 - will provide a food voucher for a family
- \$ 55.00 - will provide gas money for a parent to travel to Syracuse or Burlington to be with their sick child
- \$150.00 - will provide two counseling sessions for a teen in crisis
- \$200.00 - will provide a safe new crib for an infant
- \$250.00 - will provide home heating fuel for an elderly couple
- \$350.00 - will prevent homelessness through rent/mortgage assistance
- \$500.00 - will subsidize the cost of counseling sessions for birth parents who are choosing adoption as a loving option for their child
- \$1,000.00 - or more will support the Core services of Catholic Charities: counseling, maternity, parish and community outreach, adoption and advocacy

Catholic Charities is providing you with two additional options for giving:

1. Pledges are accepted. Please, consider giving a larger gift by making a "Pledge".
2. You can make your donation online at www.cathcharities.org.

Detach and return with your donation



"When people have Hope,
they live different lives..."

(Pope Benedict XVI)

Mail to:
Catholic Charities, Appeal 2015
6866 State Highway 37
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

May 10, 2015

High court considers place of same-sex marriage in states that bar it

Supreme questions run the gamut

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The questions raised by Supreme Court justices as they considered April 28 whether they should rule that same-sex marriage should be made legal nationwide covered a gamut of rights concerns -- religious, equal protection, states' ability to enact their own laws.

In two and a half hours of oral arguments, the line of questions and the answers by attorneys representing both sides made clear that all concerned recognize the potential for the court's ruling to be history-making.

Even the justices who sounded inclined to allow states to continue to ban same-sex marriage and refuse to recognize such marriages from other states seemed to recognize that it is no longer a question of "if" but "when" and "who decides" that same-sex marriages are allowed.

"The issue is not whether there should be same-sex marriage, but who should decide," said Justice Antonin Scalia in an exchange with Mary Bonauto, attorney for James Obergefell and other petitioners seeking the right to have same-sex marriage allowed or recognized in their states.

"And you're asking us to decide it for this society when no other society until 2001 ever had it," Scalia added.

Chief Justice John Roberts observed that the country has moved quickly from firm opposition to such marriages -- and a nationwide prohibition on them -- to the current status of broad acceptance and a majority of states allowing same sex marriage.

Numerous legal observers have drawn a connection between the marriage cases and the speed with which the nation had to accept the legality of abortion when the court ruled in 1973 that it is



CNS PHOTO/TYLER ORSBURN

A woman supporting traditional marriage stands outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington April 28. The high court began hearing arguments in cases involving four states that bar same-sex marriage.

constitutionally protected. They suggest that a constitutional finding in favor of same-sex marriage would similarly preempt voters' rights to decide such a complex moral issue.

"If you prevail," he told Bonauto, the nationwide legal debate about the issue will be over, but the people who are still making up their minds how they feel about same sex marriage will be deprived of the chance to weigh in about how their states act.

"People feel very differently about something if they have a chance to vote on it than if it's imposed on them by the courts," Roberts said.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who often is a swing vote in cases that divide along liberal/conservative lines, and Justice Samuel Alito also raised several questions about the speed with which same-sex marriage has be-

come accepted and whether the court should be wading in to find a constitutional right at this time.

Kennedy said the 10-year period over which U.S. states have begun to allow same-sex marriage is a short amount of time on which to base a ruling to change that.

"This definition has been with us for millennia," he said. "And it's very difficult for the court to say, oh, well, we know better."

Alito observed that, "until the end of the 20th century, there never was a nation or culture that recognized marriage between two people of the same sex. Now, can we infer from that that those nations and those cultures all thought that there was some rational, practical purpose for defining marriage in that way, or is it your argument that they were all operating independently, based solely on irrational stereotypes and prejudice?"

Bonauto said in response that "times can blind." For example, discrimination on the basis of sex was assumed to be constitutionally protected, she said, and it took more than 100 years for the court to find otherwise.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg pointed out that the cases seeking reversal of rulings that upheld state bans on same-sex marriage wouldn't be up for the court's consideration "if marriage was what it was a millennium ago."

She gave the example of another change in how marriage is understood, citing times when a woman's role in a marriage was subservient to the man's decisions. "There was a change in marriage to make it egalitarian when it wasn't egalitarian."

Bonauto expanded on that, saying that for centuries the U.S. and Europe had a system "where a woman's legal identity was absorbed into that of her husband and men and women had different prescribed legal roles. And again, because of equality and changing social circumstances all of those gender differences in the rights and responsibilities of the married pair have been eliminated. And that, of course, is a system in which committed same-sex couples fit quite well."

Scalia also raised questions about whether clergy would be required to participate in same-sex marriages that violate their religious beliefs. "You could have ministers who conduct real marriages that are civilly enforceable at the National Cathedral (run by the Episcopal Church) but not at St. Matthew's (Catholic) downtown because that minister refuses to marry two men and therefore cannot be given the state power to make a real state marriage. I don't see any answer to that. I really don't."

No ministers in states with same-sex marriage have

been forced to preside at marriages they don't wish to perform, Bonauto said. But Scalia persisted, saying that if such marriages are constitutionally protected, they will have to do so.

Justices Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer stepped into the issue.

"There are many rabbis that will not conduct marriages between Jews and non-Jews, notwithstanding that we have a constitutional prohibition against religious discrimination," she said.

"And those rabbis get all the powers and privileges of the state."

Breyer quoted the First Amendment: "It's called Congress shall make no law respecting the freedom of religion."

The attorney representing the states that want to keep their bans on same-sex marriage, Michigan's special assistant attorney general John J. Bursch, argued that if the court finds a constitutional right to such marriages, it would lead to fewer marriages between heterosexual couples and therefore fewer children being raised in two-parent households.

"There's harm if you change the definition because, in people's minds, if marriage and creating children don't have anything to do with each other, then what do you expect? You expect more children outside of marriage." That's why, he said, the state must follow through with its obligation to protect children by keeping marriage defined in the way that lends itself to parents raising their own biological children.

"We're talking about something that's going to change the meaning of the institution over generations," Bursch said. "You have things like no-fault divorce where we tweaked what marriage means and it had consequences over the long term that some people didn't expect."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

High-level tweeting: Study confirms pope's Twitter influence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When Pope Francis tweets, the world listens. According to "Twiplomacy," a study of the Twitter accounts of world leaders and their retweet rates, U.S. President Barack Obama has the most Twitter followers, but Pope Francis' @Pontifex is the most influential Twitter account -- his average "retweet" and "favorite" rate is more than eight times higher than Obama's. Despite his account's "massive following," the study said, "@BarackObama tweets are on average 'only' retweeted 1,210 times. By this standard, Pope Francis -- @Pontifex -- is by far the most influential 'tweep' with 9,929 retweets for every tweet he sends on his Spanish account and 7,527 retweets on average on his English account." Pope Francis also was determined "most influential" by the study in 2014 and 2013. And in the category of all-time popular tweets, Pope Francis makes the top three. Obama's Nov. 7, 2012, victory tweet, "Four more years," tops the list with close to 750,000 retweets. In second place is the tweet in Arabic sent out by Saudi Arabia's King Salman in January when he ascended to the throne; 261,000 followers retweeted his text.

No boring homilies, pope tells new priests at ordination

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Ordaining 19 men to the priesthood, Pope Francis not only told them to make sure their homilies were not boring, but he offered them advice on how to ensure their preaching would touch people: speak from your heart. Priests are called to nourish the faithful, he said, so they must ensure "that your homilies are not boring, that your homilies arrive directly in people's hearts because they flow from your heart, because what you tell them is what you have in your heart." Celebrating the Mass April 26, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis planned to use the set homily given in the ritual book for priestly ordinations; but as he has done in the past, he added his own reflections as well, including his homily tips. The prepared homily speaks of the effectiveness of a holy priest's example. The pope added, "examples edify, but words without examples are empty words, they are just ideas that never reach the heart and, in fact, they can harm. They are no good!"

Sister Mary Ann Walsh, woman of faith, writer, spokeswoman, dies

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) -- Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, who went from hometown schoolteacher to Vatican correspondent, lived out her drive to be a writer even in her last days. She died April 28 in her hometown of Albany, New York, after a battle with cancer. Sister Mary Ann, 68, had stepped down last summer from her role of 21 years in media relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the last six years as director. Just as she began a transition to a new job she quickly came to love -- writing for America Magazine as the Jesuit publication's U.S. church correspondent -- she learned that she had fast-growing metastatic cancer and moved home to the motherhouse in Albany where she had entered the Sisters of Mercy 50 years earlier. Over the next nine months as her health declined, Sister Mary Ann wrote obliquely about her own impending death, such as in a piece about the "underutilized sacrament of anointing of the sick," shortly after she hosted a gathering of friends as she received the sacrament herself. Her articles included observations about journalism, politics, civility in society, the effects of youth sports schedules on families that attend church and many other topics. In her last blog, published March 25, Sister Mary Ann tackled the topic of the need for mercy, as Pope Francis declared a jubilee year of mercy beginning in December.

Bishop in Nepal: Time is running out for victims of earthquake

By Anto Akkara
Catholic News Service

KATHMANDU, NEPAL (CNS) -- Time is running out for victims of Nepal's earthquake, who are suffering because aid cannot reach them, said Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal.

"The biggest challenge now is the time factor. All of us have to rush to reach out to the victims. It's already too late," Bishop Simick told Catholic News Service April 30 after a five-hour trip to some of the worst-affected areas of Nepal's capital.

"If this is the state of affairs in the capital, you can imagine the suffering of the people in the remote areas," Bishop Simick said at the end of the visit to St. Ignatius Parish in Banyatar.

During the two-hour drive from the bishop's house to the parish, Bishop Simick got out at several places touched by the devastation.

At St. Ignatius, which he reached on a slushy footpath, Bishop Simick visited with local residents. He prayed with members of 15 Catholic families who have taken shelter in the church, including some injured and wearing arm slings.

The parish priest, Father Anil Beck, told the bishop that 9-year old Michele Ghale had died when her house collapsed.

"We have no trace of five (Catholic) families. The road to their village is blocked. I am trying to reach them," said Father Beck.

The parish cook, Sharki Ghale, introduced his wife, Temaya and daughter Dilasha -- both of them bruised from the collapse of their house overlooking the church.

The bishop also met Sujina Ghale, 4, who almost was cremated when she was mis-

Help from the diocese

Bishop LaValley has asked all pastors to consider taking up a second collection at weekend Masses for the victims of this tragedy, direct parishioners to the CRS website to make donations, or make a donation to the CRS from parish funds.

taken for dead. Sujina, with her bruised face, lay quietly as her mother recounted her daughter's escape. The mother was tending grazing cattle April 25 and had to walk four hours after she felt the tremors.

"When I reached (home), they were taking her (Sujina) also for cremation (along with six other dead bodies). I pleaded with Phullu Tamang (the village health worker) to check on my daughter, and he found her body was warm," recounted the mother.

The child had been pulled out from the debris of her house two hours after the quake and kept with other dead bodies till the evening.

Sujina was rushed to the village health center and government officials were informed. Early April 26, she was airlifted by helicopter along with the mother to Kathmandu.

Bishop Simick said he was especially "worried about the situation in the villages.

"Affected people will die a slow death unless relief work is stepped up and well-coordinated," he said.

"You see people queuing up for water even here. Unless they have drinking water, medicines and shelter, epidemics will break out, and it will be a big tragedy. I am worried about the suffering of the people in the villages," the bishop said as his vehicle passed collapsed buildings.

"But sadly, things are happening the wrong way," he said. "We wanted to go to a remote area with relief material. But a local government official informed our people that we could leave the material with them and they will distribute them. This is not what we want."

"I am glad that lot of Catholic charity groups from Caritas network, CRS are here to help us," the bishop said, referring to Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' relief and development agency. "This is a moment of test for the church in Nepal to coordinate the relief and make use of the relief and disaster management expertise of the entire Catholic Church for the people of Nepal."

"I myself had a taste of the ordeal of the people when the earthquake happened," said Bishop Simick, who was more than 100 miles south-east of Kathmandu when the earthquake hit.

"I was coming down a steep hill with my driver after the ordination when I heard a sound like that of a helicopter. The earth was trembling. Houses were falling like a pack of cards and stones were rolling down," the bishop said.

Later, they drove for several hours and had to stop at Maithili, where the road had been blocked due to landslides.

"We walked for hours and reached a church center. Next day they arranged me a vehicle and finally, I reached Kathmandu by Tuesday (April 28)," Bishop Simick said.

Follow Pope Francis on
Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

 #Pontifex

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Love: power unleashed after the resurrection

This Sunday we celebrate Mothers' Day. When we think of our mothers, we think of and remember their love, their many sacrifices, and their how they loved us "no matter what!"

How fitting that the theme of our second reading and of our Gospel is all about Jesus' command to love.

But first, the amazing story of how God gently taught His Jewish followers to now share the Good News with non-Jews—Gentiles!

Just when the Jewish community was settling in to the idea of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah sent to redeem Israel, the myste-

rious Holy Spirit of God hits them with a thunderbolt of new teaching.

Peter has a noon-day trance that disturbs him. A heavenly agent forbids him to call any food unclean that God has made clean!

Cornelius, a pagan, is likewise visited by an angel who commands him to summon Peter.

Through the resulting encounter, Peter is convinced that the message of salvation he though applied only to Jews, is meant also for non-Jews.

This does not go over well with many Jews back in Jerusalem.

Salvation was no longer an exclusive prerogative for the Chosen People.

Now, all are chosen.

What saves the new Church? It is the command that Jesus gave in his Farewell address to his apostles that they are to love one another "as I have loved you".

Love is the power unleashed by the Spirit after Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Two thousand years of trial and error has not made any easier this fundamental teaching of our faith.

Love! Just think what a dynamic transformation there would be in our world society if all Christians really loved one another!

Think of how much more peaceful the transition

MAY 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 10: 25-26; 34-35; 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

Love one another and listen to one another - and share the Good News. God listens to us a lot! We get in trouble when we fail to listen to God. God loves us unconditionally, and we will never measure up to Jesus' command until we are able to love in the same manner.

Today we honor all mothers. Their love is a sacrificing love, an unconditional love, a love that protects their children from danger.

A good mother's love, like God's love, encourages them to grow and become all they can be.

Today we invoke the power of our Blessed Mother, to help the Church to enfold the whole world in Truth and a forgiving and merciful love as Jesus has commanded us to do.

would have been after the changes of Vatican II hit the Church in the '60's and '70's. We could have avoided so much hurt and bitterness, if we had just listened a little more to the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit asks us if we like the idea of love, we respond enthusiastically.

But even though the Lord has actually commanded us to love, we balk, make all kinds of excuses and compromises.

Yet, the meaning is clear.

3 out of 4 persons with
HEPATITIS C
are baby boomers.

3 out of 4 persons
with hepatitis C
are baby boomers -
born between 1945-1965.

Ask your doctor to be tested.

For more information,
talk with your doctor
or go to health.ny.gov/hepatitis.



Department
of Health

AT THE MOVIES

AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

The seemingly ever-expanding media universe centered on Marvel Comics spawns yet another property with the arrival of the so-so sequel "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (Disney).

Occasional flashes of wit relieve the endless succession of explosive special effects in writer-director Joss Whedon's follow-up to his 2012 adventure "The Avengers." But, for a variety of reasons, parents should be at least as wary of this outing as they were of its predecessor.

To his credit, Whedon keeps the mayhem stylized as he reunites the titular team of superheroes to face their latest problem: a supposedly peaceable tech project undertaken by uber-engineer Tony Stark, aka Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), that's gone horribly awry. The unintended result of Stark's tinkering is Ultron (voice of James Spader), an artificial intelligence-guided villain who can self-replicate at will.

To defeat this swarming, homegrown foe, Stark's colleagues -- Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Hulk (Mark

Ruffalo), Captain America (Chris Evans), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) -- will need to overcome their petty rivalries. All the more so, since Ultron is being aided by superpower-wielding twins Pietro (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) and Wanda (Elizabeth Olsen) Maximoff.

This Eastern Europe-bred duo - alternatively dubbed Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch - nurse a long-standing grudge against the film's ensemble of good guys. Their shared resentment originates in an incident from their childhood that would seem to parallel the NATO bombing of the former Yugoslavia during the Kosovo war of the 1990s. What we're meant to make of this implicit allusion to real-life events, however, remains unclear.

There's a lot of that sort of ambiguity going around, especially given the muddled approach Whedon's script takes to its under-realized main theme: the apparent opposition between human freedom and the blessings of tranquility.

His consciousness partly shaped by the darker aspects of his unwitting creator's cynical worldview, Ultron believes the only solution to humanity's incur-

able aggressiveness may be the elimination of the species as a whole. Is this annihilating outlook meant to serve as anything more than a convenient means of raising the stakes in Ultron's confrontation with the Avengers to a planetary level? It's hard to judge.

More obvious are the dings in the movie's moral surface. These include a number of less-than-heroic exclamations and a couple of ill-considered jokes.

The latter defects include a remark about Ultron "multiplying faster than a Catholic rabbit." While Whedon may be able to claim a vaguely pontifical pedigree for that one-liner, taken together with the other elements listed below, it renders his picture inappropriate for impressionable youngsters.

The film contains pervasive but bloodless violence, brief irreverent and anti-Catholic humor, fleeting sexual banter and some crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS PHOTO/MARVEL

Robert Downey Jr. stars in a scene from the movie "Avengers: Age of Ultron."

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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

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 olaplayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

FRANKLIN

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Brushton – St. Mary's will be having a breakfast buffet.

Date: May 10

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6-12, \$4; 5 and under, free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, \$25

Features: Take-outs available. Call 518-529-6580.

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

JEFFERSON

FAMILY ROSARY CRUSADE

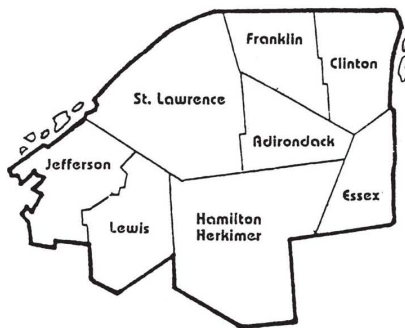
Carthage – The 13th Annual Family Rosary Crusade at St. James Parish has been planned

Date: May 15

Place: St. James Church

Schedule: Seven-hour crusade begins with Mass at 5:15 p.m., followed by exposition at 6 and seven hours of the rosary in honor of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Program concludes with Benediction at 1 a.m.

Features: Crusade organizer Bob Renaud, an artist, has created a specific painting for each year of the crusade. This year he was inspired by Pope Francis' devotion to Our Lady Undoer of Knots. A print of the painting will be given to all who pray at St. James for at least three hours.



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.

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 kbmastell@twcny.rr.com

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

LEWIS

LEWIS EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lewville – Eucharistic adoration to be held.

Date: May 7 & 21

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to worship the Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and the Benediction.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Lyons Falls – There will be a spaghetti dinner to benefit Knights of Columbus.

Date: May 12

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; under 5 Free

Features: Take-outs and delivery available. Call 348-8945 or 377-3111 for deliveries.

ST. LAWRENCE

LIFECHAIN 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 & Chris LaRose(StMarysclarose@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 – Carnival to be held.

Date: May 7, 8 & 9

Schedule: Bingo May 8 at 7 p.m., doors open 6; Craft fair May 9 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: Rides, games, food

CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION

Norwood – The Norwood Knights of Columbus Council #2309 together with St. Andrew's Parish of Norwood is holding a celebration of Corpus Christi.

Date: June 7

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

Features: Bishop Terry R. LaValley to preside. 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.

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. Prizes include Overnight Stay for two at Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort, dinners, cruises, spa treatments and more

Cost: Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

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

Date: June 28 to July 4

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

Contact: www.heartworkcamp.com

SUMMER DIRECTED RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Save the date to spend some time with the Lord at the 2015 Summer Directed Retreat.

Date: June 21-26

Place: Wadhams Hall

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

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

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

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

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

Date: May 30

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4

Place: Potsdam Student Union Multipurpose Room.

Features: The workshop focuses on the need to awaken the personal faith of laity so that they will become more capable of putting their gifts and talents to use in the parish. The workshop will be appropriate for commissioned lay ministers and Formation for Ministry 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.



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

Mothers: to nourish, protect

From the Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Diocesan Mission Director

Mothing is defined by most dictionaries as to watch over, nourish, and protect. This Mother's day, the Mission Office would like to acknowledge all those who have taken on the role of a mother. This is a job that has no boundaries. One does not punch a clock in the job of being a mom. Your duty period never ends and is unpredictable in its work load. As the definition states: watch over, nourish and protect. These duties that perhaps start as an obligation, evolve and become second-nature acts of love. Unconditional and undying acts of love.

One could make the connection that the work of those in Mission Lands is much like the description of motherhood stated above: unpredictable, never ending, at times overwhelming, yet filled with love. Our role model for motherhood is the Blessed Virgin Mary. She embodied love and mercy. Through her Son, she became a Mother to all children on earth. Just like Mary, the Missionaries of our Church do not abandon their cause. Just like Mary, she never abandoned us, even in the midst of her own darkness. Just like Mary, we will not abandon our mission family: the poor and the most vulnerable of the world.

This Mother's Day, take the opportunity to remember those in the Missions who continue to be nourished and loved through our prayers and sacrifice at home. Many of the children there are orphans or displaced from their families due to war, poverty, famine and despair. The only mother they know are the missionaries who care for them and nourish their love of God. May they always know the love of Mary, the most devoted Mother of all. May we all continue to watch over, nourish and protect those in the Mission Lands just as Mary would want us to try to do. Happy Mother's Day!



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

OBITUARIES

Chateaugay - Rita A. (Darmody) Thomson, 91; Funeral Services April 27, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Ellenburg - Marie C. (LaValley) Trombley, 76; Funeral Services April 27, 2015 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gouverneur - John Joseph "Joe" Sleeman, 74; Funeral Services May 1, 2015 at St. James Church.

Hogansburg - Cecilia "Smitty" (Smith) Ransom, 84; Funeral Services April 29, 2015 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid - Robert John Wilson, 85; Funeral Services May 2, 2015 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Cemetery.

Malone - Joan M. LaMay; Funeral Services May 4, 2015 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

Malone - Maryclair Boyce Sherwin, 95; Funeral Services at Notre Dame Church.

Peru - Susan May Seymour Duprey, 71; Funeral Services May 1, 2015 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh - Margaret K. (Brooks) Carr, 91; Funeral Services May 2, 2015 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, Peru

Plattsburgh - Cecilia A. B. (Bedard) Mahoney, 84; Funeral Services April 27, 2015 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Woestina Cemetery, Rotterdam Junction.

Plattsburgh - Mary Margaret Bond Scully,

91; Funeral Services May 1, 2015 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Port Henry - Bruce H. Brassard, 60; Funeral Services April 25, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam - John Carl Amelotte, 90; Funeral, May 2, 2015 at Seymour Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Waddington - Mildred E. Pearl, 78; Funeral Services April 29, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown - Jeanne M. Converse, 82; Funeral Services April 29, 2015 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Cal-

vary Cemetery.

Watertown - Richard L. Parish, 87; Funeral Services April 27, 2015 at St. Anthony's Church.

Watertown - Carl A. Rima, 89; Funeral Services May 2, 2015 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown - Carmeline A. Scordo, 81; Funeral Services May 1, 2015 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Valerie A. (Sayers) Thompson, 70; Funeral Services April 28, 2015 at St. Anthony's Church.



Fr. Christopher Looby at St. Mary's Church of Brushton and St. Augustine's Church of North Bangor presents...

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Bishop LaValley to lead Holy Year of Mercy Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

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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.

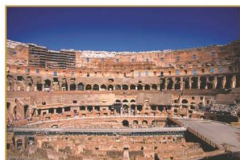
I hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting and spiritually enriching time together.

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

EASTER JOY



Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington, is shown with five children from Riley family who were baptized at Easter. Alycia, Sierra, Neasa, Casey and Ryan are the children of Michael and Elizabeth Riley.

DAY OF SERVICE



PHOTO BY AIMEE LEROY

Students in the St. Andre Bessette Parish Confirmation Program in Malone completed their service project during the parish's second annual "Service Day." Students preparing to make their Confirmation are broken up into several teams with adult chaperones and complete service projects throughout the community as part of the Confirmation program. Students shown here cleared the garden area at Holy Family School which will be used for the school's vegetable garden.



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