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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 10

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 22, 2015

Church called to welcome all

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY (CNS) – Christians cannot force anyone to believe, but at the same time, no one can force Christians to stop being welcoming, loving and living in solidarity with others, Pope Francis said.

On the last day of his July 5-12 visit to South America, Pope Francis celebrated Mass

with close to 1 million people at Asuncion's Nu Guazu Park. Artist Koki Ruiz designed the altar and stage, which was made of coconuts, corn cobs, gourds and other plants and vegetables. The fruits of the earth and the expressions of local culture were obvious at the Mass with its prayers in Guarani, a native language,

and with a variety of traditional hymns and percussion-punctuated songs.

Tens of thousands of people from Argentina, including President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires, also attended the Mass.

"Our communion with God

always brings forth fruit, always gives life," Pope Francis said in his homily.

A firm trust in God, the pope said, is learned within a family and within a community that has experienced the transforming power of God's grace and knows it is called to share that grace with others.

POPE IN SOUTH AMERICA

Eight-day visit to his native continent



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis holds his pastoral staff as he arrives to celebrate Mass in Nu Guazu Park in Asuncion, Paraguay, July 12. The Mass, which attracted nearly 1 million worshippers took place on the final day of the pope's July 5-12 trip to Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay. Those preparing to welcome Pope Francis to the United States in September can learn many lessons from his trip to South America, according to Catholic News Service's Vatican reporter.

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

NFP Week to be held July 19-25



"All Natural! Good for the body. Great for the soul!" is the theme of this year's Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign to celebrate God's vision for marriage and promote the methods of NFP.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3, 8-9

It's Mission Co-op time

Parishes on the western side of the diocese will welcome missionaries to their pulpits

FULL STORY, PAGES 7 & 15

WELCOME TO GUGGENHEIM!



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Matt Conger and Maeve McCullough are thrilled to finally welcome campers to Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake July 5. The opening was delayed for a week while the search for the two prisoners who had escaped from the Clinton Correctional Facility was being conducted throughout the Adirondacks.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Our 'woman in gold' in face of persecution... p. 12

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome, welcome, welcome

We seem to have a bit of a theme running on the first two pages of this week's *NCC* as the word "welcome" appears in four headlines, including the one above.

The pope seeks a welcoming church, Father Muench a welcoming parish and Guggenheim staffers are happy to finally welcome their campers.

It's a rather timely concept since, if it's July in northern

New York, we know it's reunion time!

Many of us are preparing to welcome classmates and cousins back to our glorious part of the world.

I am blessed to be part of a family that cherishes every second that we can be together; our reunions are much anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed.

While this year will be bittersweet as we remember the

parents who made our loving family reunions possible, it will also be a time for rejoicing as we look forward to a year with new babies and the start of new families.

Between our hotdogs and goofy games, we will honor all the lives that expand our love. God is good!

July is also a traditional time for people in our diocese to welcome missionaries to our parishes as part of the Missionary Co-op Appeal.

This year the parishes on the west side of the diocese will hear missionaries tell

their stories, making the lives and needs of people around the world more real.

At the same time, parishioners on the east side of the diocese will have an opportunity to make a concrete difference in the lives of our "old friends" in Mollendo, Peru.

Dollars from our diocese will go a long way towards replacing a 30-year-old truck owned by our former mission parish, St. Martin de Porras.

This will certainly be "welcome" news for faraway people who are still close to our hearts!



Mary Lou
Kilian

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

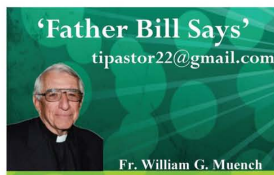
Let us build a house, welcoming all

I am firmly convinced that one of the important prayers at Mass is the opening song, often called the gathering hymn. This song gives an initial message that helps us to understand the theme of today's Mass.

I encourage people at Mass to follow the prayer that is the opening song even if they do not sing. Many people say to me – "I am such a bad singer – so they seem to ignore the opening song of the Mass." My response to them is that they may be missing an important prayer of the Mass. So, I encourage them all to follow the prayer, to say the words even if they don't sing the song to let the words of this prayer touch their lives.

Let me give you an example. The opening song at our Mass on a recent Sunday was "All Are Welcome." The song begins by everyone declaring that we all want to make our Church community a place of love. "Let us build a house where love can dwell. And all can safely live."

This house is not a building. It is a community, a Church family that all of us present would like to form by our love.



'Father Bill Says'
tipastor22@gmail.com
Fr. William G. Muench

The song goes on – "A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive."

This song declares that we are all united as saints and children. Our faith in God gives us and leads us to holiness and gives us the grace to live good and loving lives. This is what it means to be a saint. Actually, this road to sanctity is not impossible or even highly difficult. Jesus gives us the strength and power to live good lives, to avoid evil, to become saints.

I have often had people say to me, "Well, Father, I'm no saint." My response to them is "then you better get busy. This is what our life here is all about." We know that Jesus will lead us and guide us on the road to sanctity.

We are the children of God. As we join together at Mass – as the children of God – we are preparing to celebrate the

Blessed Eucharist and unite ourselves with the Lord in Holy Communion. As children of God, we find our destiny through the message of Our Savior, Jesus. We find love and peace as children of God. The song reminds us that as children of God, we are to develop forgiving hearts. We are to be forgiving as we believe God forgives us.

The song goes on "Built of hopes and dreams and visions. Rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions."

So, we pray and sing at the beginning of this Mass. We pray that the love of Christ will flood this place, this congregation, so that we will be united with no divisions. We are one family, the family of the Lord, and we pray that our family will be a "rock of faith and vault of grace."

Then comes the refrain, a re-

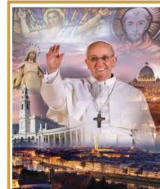
frain that is our message to the world, a refrain that declares our vision of our Church: "All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place."

All are welcomed to pray with our family, with our parish family, with our Church, even strangers. They are welcomed to become part of our family. As the family of the Lord, we want everyone, even the visitors to our community, and especially those present who may be sinners seeking the Lord to feel welcome.

"All are welcoming." We want them to be part with us. They will pray with us; we will pray for them and we ask them to pray with and for us.

This is only one verse of the song – there are several. There are many, many hymns that are prayers that will draw us ever closer to God.

So, don't miss the wonderful prayers that are these wonder-



**Bishop LaValley to lead Holy Year of Mercy
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FOLLOW ME

NFP: good for the body, *great* for the soul

Have you ever read *Humanae Vitae* (*Of Human Life*)? Few papal documents have stirred greater controversy. Few have crafted more insightful and inspiring words describing the beauty of married love.

In this Encyclical, issued back in 1968, Blessed Pope Paul VI wrote about God's design for married love and the gift of life.

As we mark *National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, July 19-July 25*, we note that, in this document, Blessed Paul VI helps us to understand the decision making process that spouses should engage in when considering the number of children to bring into the world.

This Church teaching met fierce opposition from out-

side and considerable consternation from inside the Church. It seemed that temporary conditions, particularly economic, were making it "burdensome to support a large family adequately" (*HV*, #2), so contraception became the routine method of regulating the birth of children into a family.

It was, after all, the 1960's. This was a time of liberation – freedom to do what one wanted.

Today, contraception is generally regarded by the medical community as the ordinary standard of care for women, even though fertility is not a disease requiring medical treatment.

On the other hand, the Church's teaching is often depicted as being opposed to the health and well-being

of women, although natural methods actually empower women to live in harmony with their fertility without risks of any kind.

The Holy Father cautioned us that the widespread use of contraception would lead to "conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality."

Can we deny that the rates of abortion, divorce, family breakdown, child and spousal abuse, and out of wedlock births have skyrocketed?

What is Natural Family Planning or NFP?

It is the general title for the scientific, natural and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples either achieve or postpone pregnancies.

With NFP, no drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used to avoid pregnancy; entirely natural and free of side effects, NFP is 98-99% effective.

In this way, the married couple cooperates with God in planning to have or not have children, rather than leaving God out of the picture by using artificial barriers in their becoming one flesh.

Every child is a miraculous gift that forever changes the life of a mom and dad. Too often our "throwaway" culture teaches us that children are more a burden than a gift.

Yes, being open to children requires real sacrifice. But such generosity of heart guarantees a rich adventure for which the human person was made.

Tragically, we live in a world where large families are often objects of derision and ridicule. The conception of children shouldn't be prevented, but embraced as A SIGN of hope for the future.

I encourage you to set aside time to learn more

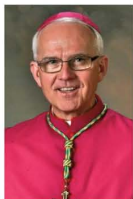
about our Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

Humanae Vitae is a good place to begin. Copies of this document can be obtained by contacting the NFP Office at 518-483-0459 or via email to apietropaoli@rcdony.org.

As Catholics, we owe it to ourselves to understand Church teachings. This is one concrete way in which you can meet one of our diocesan goals: *Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life*.

Visit our NFP office at our diocesan website: www.rcdony.org. We are so blessed to have Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli as our diocesan directors as well as all those who help with NFP instruction in our marriage preparation classes.

Natural Family Planning: Good for the Body–It's all natural. Great for the soul!



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Work of the Living Stones Committee continues

By Fr. Howard Venette

Member, Living Stones Planning Committee

Vibrant. Hope-filled. Joyful. No doubt, these words are descriptive of your parish.

They also capture the tone and work of the Living Stones Planning Committee, as we continue to prepare a roadmap for the future of parish life in our beautiful diocese.

An important aspect of our task is communication with the diocesan Church. Our plan is to regularly provide updates through diocesan media, especially the *North Country Catholic*, bulletin notices and our diocesan website which we hope to have undated soon (rcdony.org).

Invaluable to the committee's work is the input offered by individual Catholics. On that note, committee members would



like to thank the pastors and parishioners who participated in the Listening Sessions which were recently held in each deanery.

These were positive experiences which once again exhibited the love which the people of our diocese have for Christ and His Church in northern New York. Data collected from the sessions is being compiled for review at our next meeting.

On June 17, the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) met at St. Francis

Church, Constable. Among its agenda items, two very informative and practical tools were discussed and prepared for circulation among pastors and parish councils.

One of the tools is a survey of parish life, which utilizes various general indicators under the categories of programs, personnel, leadership and organization.

This instrument will help local parishes "take their

own temperature," as it provides an inventory of current parish life.

The second tool might be considered as an exercise in personnel management, one already used by the LSPC. Pastors and their councils will be given a map of their local deanery; they will together plot the strategic placement of an assigned number of priests throughout their region.

It will be informative for the pastors and council members, as well as practi-

cal for the planning committee, as it reviews the local suggestions for placement of priests.

Parish linkages and recon-figurations are a necessary part of the LSPC's ongoing task. Information gathered through the above exercises will assist the committee to prepare recommendations for Bishop LaValley, always with the needs of our parishes and priests as its priority.

Please pray for the committee and its work.

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CHEVROLET

Happy Birthday

July 26
to our dear former pastor
Fr. Chris Looby.

Dorothy Collins, Brushton



NCC FILE PHOTOS

Father George F. Maroun, who retired from active ministry July 12, had two opportunities to meet Pope John Paul II, now St. John Paul, during his priesthood. At left, the pope and Father Maroun meet in 1981 during a



session of a gathering of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In his second visit, in 2003, Father Maroun found the pope to be suffering from the effects of Parkinson's disease. In a recent interview with the *North Country Catholic*, Father Maroun looked back on his vocation and ahead to retirement.

Fr. Maroun: a priest on a mission

Newly retired priest looks back on a lifetime of challenges and joys

By Dave Shampine
Staff Writer

CARTHAGE - He sees himself as a reconciler, and in that light, Father George F. Maroun is reconciled to the reality that with the health challenges he faces, he no longer can carry on his pastorate at St. James Church and St. Mary's in Copenhagen, his mission for the past 13 years.

"I can no longer function as I'd like to, and that's not fair to the parish," he said in a recent interview with the *North Country Catholic*. "I prayed about it and resolved that this is the right thing to do."

Last October, Father Maroun, who had just turned 66 on Sept. 25, and enduring the affects of Parkinson's disease, took advantage of a visit by Bishop Terry R. LaValley to reveal his decision to retire. "I said I'd remain to the end of the fiscal year, and he was very open to it."

Although his retirement was effective July 1, Father Maroun remained in Carthage until July 12, allowing his successor, Father Donald F. Robinson, to enjoy

some vacation time.

A Tupper Lake native, Father Maroun is the youngest of four sons of Camil and Navie Moses Maroun. He began studies for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary, Ogdensburg, following his graduation in 1966 from Holy Ghost Academy, Tupper Lake, where he was president of his class of 28.

He was a 19-year-old seminarian when his parents were both fatally stricken by heart attacks just ten months apart, in 1967 and 1968.

He continued his work for his vocation at Christ the King Seminary, St. Bonaventure University, and on May 4, 1974, he was ordained by Ogdensburg Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

The following day, the new priest celebrated his first Mass in his home parish, St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake.

Father Maroun reflected on his life as a priest, giving some frank observations, during an interview in the community room which he saw renovated in the basement of 191 year-old St. James Church.

The interview follows:

What inspired you to become a priest?

Since fourth grade, I wanted to be a priest. I came from a good faithful family, and when I was born, my grandmother, Mary Moses, (buried in Carthage) predicted I'd be a priest. She was a very simple person, illiterate, and she prayed a lot. The nuns at Holy Ghost were the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, who came to Tupper Lake directly from France, and they were a great influence on me.

Do you have a favorite saint?

St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joseph, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was a spiritual mother to me when my mother died.

You had been a priest about eight years when you were sent to do mission work in Mollendo, Peru, in 1982. Did you volunteer or get assigned?

I volunteered. The Bishop can't tell you to go. One of our missionaries, Father Paul Hagan, had come home for his father, who was

dying, but he was killed in an accident. He died before his father did. (Father Hagan was 57 at the time of the Jan. 18, 1980 accident in the town of Gouverneur).

I was associate director of the missionary office, and since nobody else offered to replace him, I felt I should go. It was supposed to be for three years, but it lasted six.

I was sent to evangelize them, but it was they who evangelized me. You see the face of God in the poor.

Were you ready to come home in 1988 or did you want to stay?

I was ready to come home, but I missed the people.

About the priest scandal, do you hold contempt for the offenders and their protectors?

I don't hold contempt for anybody. The perpetrators may also have been victims themselves. It's a very sad thing. It is inherent in the society in which we live that society is saturated with sex. It is in all walks of life.

The scandal had broken out shortly before I came to

Carthage, and it was a challenge for me. I had to face this thing, and it wasn't easy. It was difficult interacting with people, not knowing what might be on their minds.

It has served as an excuse for people to not go to church. We need reconciliation here. It will take generations for us to get over this.

Would you change anything in your career?

Nothing. I've had a very diverse ministry, doing mission work, parishes, Propagation of the Faith. I had to learn to speak Spanish, and to do in Peru (where he was known as Padre Jorge) without the conveniences we have here. We couldn't make telephone calls ... it was hard to hear ... so we communicated with telex machines. I've faced up to the challenges, and I'm very happy with my vocation.

I guess if I had it to do all over again, I'd be more gentle on myself. I'd live my life more contemplative, in more prayer and meditation.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI



PHOTOS BY DR. CHARLES ROBINSON

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Corpus Christi Mass June 7 at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood and led area priests and parishioners in a procession throughout the streets of the community. Pictured at left during the Mass are Deacon John Levinson and Fathers Donald Manfred, John Downs, Mark Reilly and Tojo Jacko. Other priests concelebrating were Msgr. John R. Murphy, pastor in Norwood; and Fathers Andrew Amyot and

Garry Giroux. Deacon Lawrence Connolly also took part. In the center, Bishop LaValley is shown carrying a monstrance containing the Eucharist and at right is the procession. In his homily, Bishop LaValley said, "The strength of the Sacrament of the Eucharist goes above and beyond the walls of our churches... May the visit of the Eucharistic Christ on the streets here be a source of renewed vigor and deepened faith." The Corpus Christi celebration closed with Benediction at St. Andrew's.

Fr. Maroun

Is there anything you can point to as a disappointment?

The most frustrating to me is in evangelization, I like to see some results. You can only affect so many people. I'm not here to be best friends with somebody.

My focus is to bring people together. I see myself as a reconciler, a mediator. I think I've succeeded, but then it is frustrating when I don't see those people returning to church.

So I feel my mission has not been accomplished.

I'm not here for personal gratification. I'm on a mission. Illness may have forced me to be more laid back.

Do you ask God why he has allowed your health challenges, which in addition to Parkinson's, have been some bouts with cancer?

I've gained a lot of insight with the challenge of accepting the sicknesses and responding accordingly. If it's there, make the best of it. Consider the whole philosophy of suffering: Jesus suffered; the people in Peru, with their suffering, they

are helpless.

And I'm doing fairly well with my Parkinson's.

Speaking of that, you met with Pope John Paul, who suffered from Parkinson's.

My first meeting with him was at a Propagation of the Faith session in the spring of 1981. He expressed concern about President Reagan being shot at (on March 30, 1981) and this was just a few weeks before his attempted assassination (on May 13, 1981).

In my second visit in February, 2003, the pope was suffering the effects of Parkinson's disease. It was very sad to see him like that.

How has your final pastoral assignment been?

St. James and Augustinian Academy with their long history are strong. And the impact of military people has been strong. Without them, I don't know if we could have survived. It's sad that you get to love them, and then they have to leave.

You have the Lebanese in-

fluence here. My grandparents are buried here, and I have shirt-tail cousins here.

I love the people here, and Copenhagen is a good fit. I love them too.

Where will you be in retirement, what will you be doing?

I'll be living at St. Bernard's parish in Saranac Lake, assisting there. I'm not retiring from the priesthood. We don't retire from the vocation, but retire from being a pastor.

This will put me close to my family in Tupper Lake (his brothers are Majeed, William and Camil Jr.) without being on top of them. And I'll be near a good hospital, Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake.

I also hope to spend part of the winter with my first cousin, Father Richard George, at Fort Pierce, Fla. That's in the Diocese of West Palm Beach, where (former

Ogdensburg) Bishop (Gerald) Barbarito is.

Editor's note:

Father Maroun's service during his 41 years of priesthood have brought him assignments at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdens-

burg; Holy Family Church in Watertown; St. Anthony's in Watertown, and the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk. He was also a faculty member at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, serving as assistant professor of language and religious studies.



St. Kateri
Tekakwitha

Attention Scouts!

Would you like one of these?

There are a variety of emblems for Scouts of all levels and ages!

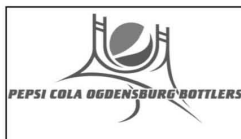


Ad Altare Dei

The emblems are awarded at the annual Bishop's Scout Mass which will be held this year Oct. 18th in Tupper Lake!

For more information go to <http://www.rcdony.org/scouting/emblems-and-medals.html> or contact Cory Haynes at 518-856-9656 or clhaynes14@gmail.com

It is easy to get started today!



Pro-Life booth to return to Clinton County Fair

By Colleen Miner
Diocesan director, Respect Life Ministry

PLATTSBURGH - Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz, chairman of Champlain Valley Right to Life since May 2014, is spearheading the Clinton County Fair Pro-Life Fair Booth for the second time.

The booth has had a presence at the Clinton County Fair for over 40 years.

"Numerous fair attendees return year after year offering their personal stories on how the information they received at our booth had saved a baby," Deacon Lukasiewicz said. "On occasion a mom, dad, or grandparent confides in us 'that baby' is right here with them, grown up, handsome or pretty, enjoying the gift of life to the fullest!"

Fair goers can expect to receive information on where to obtain prenatal care for infants, referrals to the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center and Birthright.

Applications for free or low cost health insurance for families as well as education items related to stages of pregnancy, alternatives to abortion, post-abortion healing, chastity and other family-oriented materials, will also be offered.

Pamphlets, DVD's, books, cards and trinkets are available for a donation to the

Champlain Valley Right to Life. Each year, New York State Right to Life raffle tickets are sold which proceeds support pro-life efforts in New York State.

The booth is set among the usual fair foods and vendors - standing out with educational baby developmental posters and fetal models. Pro-lifers working at the booth may find questions from passersby to be challenging.

Some refer to their volunteer hours as "time in the trenches" but understand the value of the opportunity to reach the general public in a positive way.

Deacon Lukasiewicz said "We appreciate our volunteers who support this annual event and welcome others who wish to become involved in the pro-life cause.

"We do this work to show how precious human life is," he said.

This summer's fair runs from July 28 through August 2. Two volunteers are asked to fill each 4-hour shift: 10 a.m. to 2; 2 p.m. to 6 and 6 p.m. to 10.

Prospective volunteers may contact Deacon Lukasiewicz at 518-562-1175 or paulared@charter.net.

The CVRTL pro-life fair booth is a 2015 recipient of the diocesan Respect Life collection.

Bishop's Schedule

July 24 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

July 26 – 12:15 p.m., Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage & Mass to St. Ann's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont

July 28 – 4 p.m., Mass & Meeting with Seminarians at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

July 30 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5:30 p.m., Gathering with Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point

July 31 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Aug. 1 – 11 a.m., Memorial Mass at Wadhams Hall Reunion

Aug. 2 – 7 a.m., Mass at St. Cyril's Church in Alexandria Bay

8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Redwood

10 a.m., Mass at St. Cyril's Church in Alexandria Bay

Aug. 3 – 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

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 sessions;

July 23 - 6 p.m., Immaculate Heart

Central High School, Watertown

Sept. 3 - 8 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall, SUNY Potsdam

Sept. 9 - 5:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School

Announcement

Father Bernard D. Menard, recently returning from a leave of absence, will be assigned as Parochial Vicar of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary in Canton effective August 4.

Rest in Peace

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

July 23 – Rev. Pierre Casenave, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Francis J. Casey, O.S.A., 1958

July 24 – Rev. George Burke, 1897; Rev. James Joseph Gainer, 1946; Rev. Bartholomew Aloysius O'Connell, 1963; Rev. Henry Wilcott, 1965; Rev. Francis Edic, O.F.M.Conv., 1975

July 25 – Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941

July 26 – Rev. J. Owen Barry, O.S.A., 1978

July 27 – Rev. John B. Chappel, M.S.C., 1884; Rev. Matthew J. Sweeney, 1935; Rev. Daniel A. Harron, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Harold J. P. McCabe, 1976; Rev. Daniel F. Lyddy, 2002

July 30 – Rev. Francis Smyth, 1902; Rev. Patrick Majock, O.S.A., 1922; Rev. Jeremiah P. Murphy, 1925; Rev. Moses Minnie, 1935

July 31 – Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980

Aug. 1 – Rev. J. Everett Denesha, 2013

Aug. 2 – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

Aug. 4 – Rev. Alexandre Soulerin, O.M.I., Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

To Report Abuse

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

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri-
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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

Common Home

We, along with religious and world leaders around the world, have awaited Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "Praise Be to You... On Care for Our Common Home."

Now that it has arrived, the question one may have is, "What is it all about?"

Public media commentaries vary from praising Pope Francis for his bold and courageous response to the current world situation regarding the environment to questioning what authority religion has to speak out about scientific matters. Some people consider climate change a political issue outside the realm or concern of religion.

While there are numerous commentaries and guides appearing daily concerning this comprehensive document, it is best to read the original text, "Laudato Si," which can be found on-line from Catholic News Service. Or, if you would like a printed copy, call 202-541-3290 and order one for \$8

In the weeks to come, this column will focus on quotes from different chapters in the document along with some commentaries and resources for personal reflection.

The document contains six chapters:

- What is happening to our Common Home?
- The Gospel of Creation
- The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis
- Integral Ecology
- Lines of Approach and Action
- Ecological Education and Spirituality

The recent daily Scripture readings remind us of how God listened to the cry of his people in Egypt and how Moses was sent to lead the Israelites. God seems to have heard the cry of the poor, including the earth and all Creation, and He has inspired Pope Francis to address these needs and to challenge each of us as Catholics and citizens of the world to respond to these needs with compassion and love.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Aug. 5

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GIVE GENEROUSLY



Thank You!

What Is Natural Family Planning?

And why would anyone use it?

By Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli
Diocesan NFP directors

Some years ago, a friend remarked rather wistfully, "You seem to meet the most interesting people when you teach NFP." She was quite right. Couples come to learn Natural Family Planning for a wide variety of reasons - health concerns, philosophical/religious beliefs, unwanted side effects of contraceptives, dissatisfaction with methods that impose undue burdens on the woman and so strain the relationship. Some come as engaged couples, some as newlyweds, some after a decade or two of marriage. Each couple is unique, but all of them inspire us.

Whatever their backgrounds, they bring an openness - to their spouses, to God, and to learning all they can about how, in the words of Psalm 139, they are "fearfully, wonderfully, made." These couples do not see their fertility as a medical problem - or a problem of any sort - but as a gift to be accepted with gratitude and treated with respect. This attitude tends to extend to the whole of their relationship, as well.

As a couple learns to identify, observe, and interpret the readily observable signs of the fertile and infertile phases of the menstrual cycle, they quickly grasp the fundamentals of Natural Family Planning.

Holistic approach

NFP is a holistic approach that educates couples to understand their fertility, their emotions, and their family planning intentions. Its successful use to avoid pregnancy relies upon a couple's following what they know about the method and about one another, and it requires them to communicate.



Brittany Duso of Malone met Dr. Thomas Hilgers recently at a Creighton FertilityCare and NaProTechnology conference in St. Petersburg, FL. Mrs. Duso will soon begin training as an educator in the Creighton FertilityCare system, a natural approach to female reproductive health and family planning co-developed by Dr. Hilgers. Dr. Hilgers' ongoing research in this field enabled him to develop the new women's health science of NaProTechnology to help a woman reach her optimal state of reproductive health, and to achieve real solutions to the real problems facing women and couples. Dr. Hilgers, a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is a clinical professor in his specialty at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha. Learn more at www.creightonmodel.com.

In the daily charting of their fertility signs, couples quickly appreciate their shared responsibility for family planning. Husbands are encouraged to "tune into" their wives' cycles, and both spouse are encouraged to speak openly with each other about issues related to their relationship and to family size. [From USCCB, "What Is NFP?"]

Couples using NFP to avoid pregnancy abstain from intercourse when the woman is fertile and can conceive. The total days of abstinence will vary from woman to woman, and even from cycle to cycle. Whatever the length of the fertile phase, no barriers or chemi-

cals are used to avoid pregnancy. To achieve pregnancy, couples have intercourse during the fertile time of the cycle.

NFP is not a contraceptive; it does nothing to suppress or block conception. Instead, couples adjust their behavior according to their family planning intention using the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of a woman's cycle. (From USCCB, "What is NFP?")

Knowing how to apply this knowledge gives couple both a new independence and a new interdependence, which in turn empowers them to live in harmony with their fertility.

Privileged teachers

There are also remarkable moments for the teachers. We are privileged to witness: the amazement couples express as they come to understand the precise and mysterious perfection of the human body and of reproductive physiology; the beauty of watching husband and wife work together to process and apply what they are learning; the patience and appreciation they extend to each other when one of them finds something difficult.

Then, too, there is hearing a young husband explain that he has chosen to learn and live NFP because he loves his wife too much to expose her to the dangers of the Pill or other chemical contraceptives. It is awe-inspiring to watch Ephesians 5:25 come to life in this way: "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the Church."

And it is deeply beautiful to see an answering love light up the face of so dear a wife!

Learning, growing, loving

Decades of teaching have not dulled our appreciation as we observe, in these couples, this process of learning, growing, and loving. And very rarely, a student will wish to share this wonderful way of life and love by becoming an NFP teacher.

Brittany Duso of Malone is such a one. Wife, mother, and registered nurse, she has completed the application process and expects to begin training as a FertilityCare Practitioner this fall. After initially learning the Sympto-Thermal Method, Brittany experienced health issues which led her to the Creighton Model FertilityCare/NaProTechnology, a natural method developed by Thomas Hilgers, M.D.

A clinical professor in obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive medicine at Creighton University in Omaha, Dr. Hilgers has created a system which melds the observation-based practices of other NFP methods with the results of extensive medical research in the area of human fertility.

As Mrs. Duso explains, "A FertilityCare Practitioner helps teach a woman how to recognize and categorize the biological markers... which give her specific understanding of her hormonal function. Women of every age can learn to proactively NaProTrack (chart) the events of the menstrual cycle that can benefit her overall health care.

"With this information, the Practitioner can help his/her clients find the right FertilityCare/NaProTechnology doctors and surgeons to help cure specific gynecological problems," she said. "Also, a woman can chart throughout a pregnancy to identify any hormonal abnormalities that could lead to a poor outcome."

"I have been going through many of these issues myself," Mrs. Duso continues. "After much prayer, this is the pathway God has led me to in order to overcome some of my problems. At my last appointment with my NaProTechnology doctor, she said that my three children are truly miracles since I am a 'classic infertility case.' "Andy and I cherish our three beautiful gifts that God has given us, and I hope to help God give such wonderful gifts to families through this work," she said. "I am ready to make a difference!"

We are confident that she will, and grateful for her commitment to this vital work.

NFP Awareness Week begins July 19

"All Natural! Good for the body. Great for the soul!"

This is the theme of this year's Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God's vision for marriage and promote the methods of Natural Family Planning.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for the safe, natural and effective methods of both achieving and avoiding pregnancy. NFP methods teach couples how to observe and interpret the woman's signs of fertility and infertility.

In the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, NFP methods "respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them and favor the education of an authentic freedom." (CCC, no. 2370)

Natural Family Planning also embodies the values set forth in *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis's new encyclical. "The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for the welcoming and accepting of the entire world as a gift from the Father... Learning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest

meaning, is an essential element of any genuine ecology." (LS, 155)

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week are July 19-25. These dates highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

This document makes clear that these realities can only really be understood "in the light of an integral vision of man and of his vocation, not only his natural and

earthly vocation, but also his supernatural and eternal vocation." (HV, 6)

NFP methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them and favor the education of an authentic freedom

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The NFP Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg - headed by Angelo and Suzanne

Pietropaoli of Malone - joins with Bishop LaValley and all U.S. bishops in highlighting the benefits of Natural Family Planning.

In his NFP Awareness Week letter (see page 3) Bishop LaValley recommends reading *Humanae Vitae* as a way to connect with the diocesan goal of Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life.

Copies of this encyclical are available upon request from the NFP Office at the address below.

Various educational materials have been sent to all parishes, and are also avail-

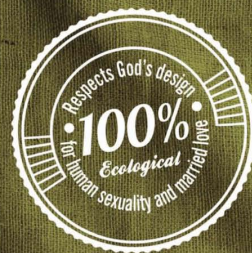
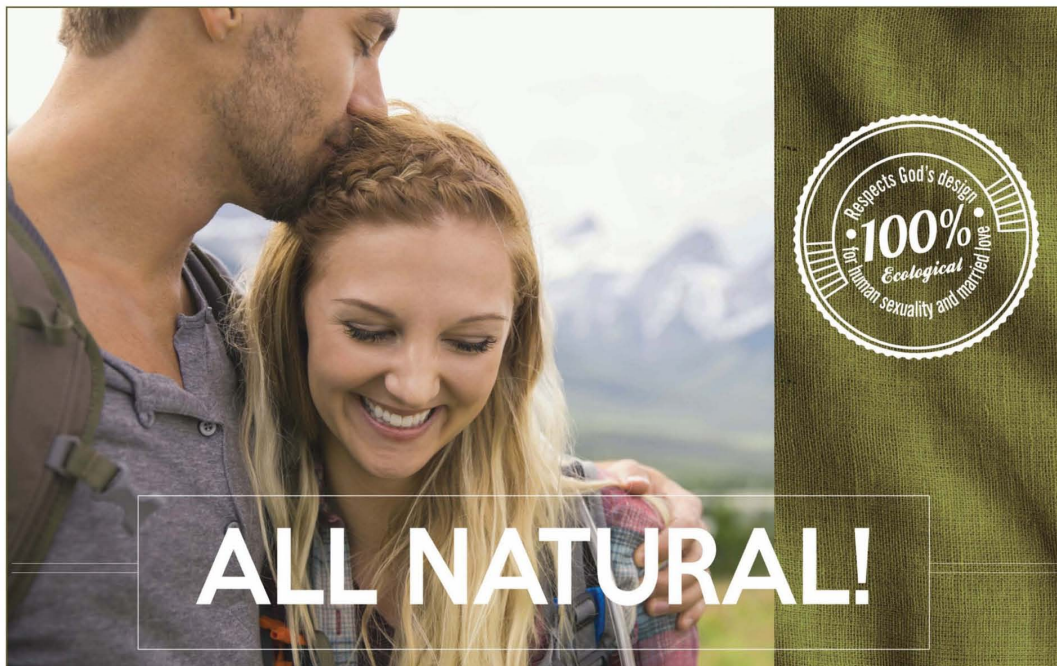
able upon request.

Want to learn more about NFP in our diocese? Interested in taking a class?

See www.rcdony.org/nfp, contact the Diocesan NFP Office (see below), or visit the NFP section of the USCCB website at: <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/index.cfm>.

Don't have time to attend an in-person class?

Learn NFP in the comfort of your home by contacting one of the NFP providers listed at: <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/nfp-distance-learning.cfm>



ALL NATURAL!

Natural Family Planning

Good for the body. Great for the soul!

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VATICAN LETTER

Lessons from South America:

How to greet and understand Pope Francis

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - People make special preparations for welcoming a special guest, and watching what worked and did not work in Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay may help people preparing for Pope Francis' visit to the United States in September.

Some of the plans, however, will require common-sense adjustments, especially because the U.S. Secret Service is likely to frown on certain behavior, like tossing things to the pope - a phenomenon that occurs much more often with Pope Francis than with any previous pope.

At the Vatican, the items tend to be soccer jerseys and scarves; in Ecuador, it

was flower petals - lots of them.

Watching the pope July 5-12 in South America it is clear:

- Pope Francis loves a crowd. He walks into events with little expression on his face, then lights up when he starts greeting, blessing, kissing and hugging people. Persons with disabilities, the sick and squirming babies come first.

- The pope does not mind being embraced, but he does not like people running at him. As a nun in Our Lady of Peace Cathedral in La Paz rushed toward Pope Francis July 8, the pope backed up and used both hands to gesture her to calm down and step back. In the end, she did get a blessing from him, though.

- At Mass, Pope Francis

tends to be less animated. His focus and the focus he wants from the congregation is on Jesus present in the Eucharist.

At large public Masses on papal trips, he sticks to the text of his prepared homilies, although he may look up and repeat phrases for emphasis.

- A meeting with priests, religious and seminarians is a fixture on papal trips within Italy and abroad; in Cuba and the United States, the meetings with take place during vespers services, Sept. 20 in Havana and Sept. 24 in New York.

At vespers, like at Mass, Pope Francis tends to follow his prepared text. However, when the gathering takes place outside the context of formal liturgical prayer, he never follows the prepared text, even if he may hit the main points of the text as he did in Bolivia July 9.

- Pope Francis has said he needs a 40-minute rest after lunch and his official schedule always includes at least an hour of down time.

However, like his "free" afternoons at the Vatican, the pope often fills the breaks with private meetings with friends, acquaintances or Jesuits. In fact, his trips abroad have always included private get-togethers with his Jesuit confreres, although in South America one of the meetings - in Guayaquil, Ecuador - was a luncheon formally included in the itinerary. But he also spent unscheduled time with Jesuits at Quito's Catholic university the next day.

In Paraguay, he made an unscheduled visit to 30 of his confreres in Asuncion and then went next door to their Cristo Rey School to meet with more than 300 students from Jesuit schools.

- In South America, Pope



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING
Pope Francis meets with people of Banado Norte, a poor neighborhood in Asuncion, Paraguay, July 12.

Francis specifically asked that his meetings with the bishops be private, informal conversations - similar to the way he handles the regular "ad limina" visits of bishops to the Vatican to report on the state of their dioceses.

For the "ad limina" visits, he hands them the text of a rather general look at their country and Catholic community, then begins a discussion.

But when he makes a formal speech to a group of bishops, his words can seem critical. But, in fact, the tone tends to be one of addressing his "fellow bishops" and his words are more of a collective examination of conscience than a scolding.

- Pope Francis' speeches in general - whether to presidents, civic and business leaders, young people or even, for example, the prisoners in Bolivia - acknowledge what is going well and being done right, then seeks to build on that. It's a combination of a pat on the back and a nudge forward.

While Bolivia's Palmasola

prison is notorious for its difficult conditions and while the pope pleaded for judicial reform in the country, he also told the prisoners: "The way you live together depends to some extent on yourselves. Suffering and deprivation can make us selfish of heart and lead to confrontation."

- Since the days of the globetrotting St. John Paul II, the nunciature stakeout has been a staple of papal trips. In fact, anywhere a pope sleeps, people will gather - shouting and singing - in the hopes that the pope will make a special appearance.

St. John Paul, retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have all obliged on occasion. Although in Quito, Ecuador, it seems that Pope Francis was inspired at least partially by the complaints of neighbors about the noise.

The three nights Pope Francis stayed there, he came out to say good night. Increasingly his tone was that of a dad who had already told his children five times to go to bed.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.



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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Video of Planned Parenthood doctor prompts calls for investigation

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) -- A video released July 14 appears to show a top Planned Parenthood official discussing the sale of parts of aborted babies for research, including discussing ways the abortion procedure can be altered to preserve specifically requested body parts. The nearly nine-minute edited video -- filmed undercover and produced by the Center for Medical Progress -- quickly went viral and Planned Parenthood denied making a profit on the sale of aborted baby parts. "Planned Parenthood's criminal conspiracy to make money off of aborted baby parts reaches to the very highest levels of their organization," said David Daleiden, who led the undercover investigation. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal launched an investigation in his state, where the abortion provider is getting ready to open a \$4 million clinic in New Orleans. "Today's video of a Planned Parenthood official discussing the systematic harvesting and trafficking of human body parts is shocking and gruesome," said Jindal, who is a Republican presidential candidate. In the video released July 14, a woman identified as Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Medical Services Department, says: "We've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm gonna basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact."

Court rules against Little Sisters plea to avoid way to bypass mandate

DENVER (CNS) -- The Little Sisters of the Poor and other religious entities are not substantially burdened by procedures set out by the federal government by which they can avoid a requirement to provide contraceptive coverage in health insurance, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled July 14. In a lengthy opinion that considered arguments raised by the organizations under First Amendment religious rights protections and under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the court said the groups are not substantially burdened by filing out a form or notifying Health and Human Services via email or a letter that because of their religious-based objections to the mandated coverage, they will not provide it. The ruling is the latest in a string of circuit court decisions finding that nonprofit religious institutions may not be protected from complying with the procedures set out by HHS for being excused from what is known as a mandate to provide coverage for a variety of types of contraceptives in employee health insurance. "The departments have made opting out of the mandate at least as easy as obtaining a parade permit, filing a simple tax form, or registering to vote -- in other words, a routine, brief administrative task," wrote Judge Scott M. Matheson Jr. He was joined by two other judges in parts of the ruling. However, Judge Bobby Baldock in a partial dissent from the majority's decision, said he would rule that the religious exercise rights of self-insured employers are more substantially burdened than are those that have outside insurers. "Moreover, less restrictive means exist to achieve the government's contraceptive coverage goals here," he wrote. Under the Affordable Care Act, all health insurance plans are required to provide coverage for birth control drugs and procedures. If providing such coverage is morally objectionable according to their faith, churches themselves and other institutions that primarily employ and serve members of the churches are exempt.

Same-sex marriage ruling settles one legal question, leaves many others

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - When the Supreme Court June 26 ruled that marriage licenses cannot be denied to same-sex couples nationwide, it may have settled one legal issue, but it left many more unanswered questions, particularly in the realm of religious objections.

Within hours of the 5-4 ruling, worried speculation raised the possibility of repercussions: for religious colleges that wouldn't want same-sex spouses in their married student housing; for church-run social service agencies morally opposed to enabling gay couples to adopt; and to the tax-exempt status enjoyed by churches that may not want to acknowledge same-sex marriages.

Although some critics of the decision suggested clergy would be required to conduct marriage ceremonies that conflict with their faiths' teachings, most legal observers said that clearly would not pass legal scrutiny.

Catholic priests, for instance, already are able to refuse to preside over weddings of people they believe are unsuited for the sacrament of marriage, even though they are legally entitled to be married.

But there are many other possibilities for legal conflicts arising from objections to same-sex marriage that are rooted in religion.

A few states already are acting to protect faith-based objections. In some places, county clerks quit their jobs rather than issue marriage licenses. In others, clerks who also didn't want to issue licenses refused to quit.

The 5-4 ruling written by Justice Anthony Kennedy found a right for same-sex

couples to marry under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for equal protection under the law. Kennedy's opinion gave a nod to those who believe same-sex marriage to be wrong "based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises."

He said the First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and individuals are protected "as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling ... and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered."

But in a strong dissent, Chief Justice John Roberts said the ruling "creates serious questions about religious liberty."

He observed that in each of the states in which same-sex marriage was allowed either by voter referendum or legislative action, the law included accommodations for "dissenting religious practice."

Of the 36 states and the District of Columbia that permitted same-sex marriage before June 26, in only 10 jurisdictions did that come about through laws that were adopted by the legislature or voters. In the rest, it came about through a state or federal court ruling.

Roberts noted that the majority opinion in *Obergefell v. Hodges* created no accommodations for religiously based objections. He said though the First Amendment guarantees "the freedom to 'exercise' religion ... ominously that is not a word the majority uses."

Among the "hard questions" he predicted would arise would be those involving married student housing at a religious college, religious adoption agencies and tax exemptions of religious institutions.

Catholic entities in some

states have been dealing with same-sex marriage for as much as 15 years. In Massachusetts, for example, Catholic agencies got out of the business of handling adoptions because of theological objections to same-sex couples adopting children. Same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts in 2004.

Father J. Bryan Hehir, secretary for Health and Social Services for the Archdiocese of Boston, returned to work in the archdiocese just as same-sex marriage was becoming a factor there.

He had spent several decades working in Washington, as president of Catholic Charities USA, at Georgetown University and at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Adoption was the big issue for us," he told Catholic News Service. "We felt we had no other choice" but to withdraw from handling adoptions. Other social service agencies picked up adoptions when Catholic organizations phased out of them.

Otherwise, said Father Hehir, there haven't been implications for how the charitable agencies under his jurisdiction operate.

Mark Chopko, a partner at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young who specializes in legal issues affecting religious and nonprofit organizations, told CNS he expects legal challenges will arise over tax exemptions, employment and accommodations such as the rental of parish halls to the public.

He said he doesn't expect threats to churches' tax exemption will be a serious legal issue.

"Certainly someone may try to sue," he said. "The church has seen similar pressures over abortion and the licensing and exemption of health care facilities."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The challenge to be bread for others

Our readings for the next couple of Sundays will all talk of the miraculous "multiplication" of bread and fish that more than fed the thousands of people who had spent the day with Jesus and his disciples.

Jesus always had compassion for those who were hungry. This great Gospel event will always deeply penetrate our

understanding of Jesus.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has just returned

from South America. His whole message in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay was one of righting the injustices done to the poor, the hungry by the wrong use of power and money.

How easily we can meditate on the abundant Bread of Life the Lord provides for us as we travel through the lush countryside of mid and late summer.

As farmers gather the hay into storage, we are reminded of the seven loaves

being gathered by the disciples. Then, after all had eaten their fill, there are twelve baskets left over of the bread and fish!

What will we do with all that is left over? We are meant to be ourselves the Bread of Healing and Hope for those in our world.

In what ways do we pass on a portion of what we have received? A word of encouragement? Letting someone know that you're praying that they get a job, or have a successful outcome to some medical screening? Or reading to some nearly-blind neighbor? Or sharing with those

JULY 26

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

2 Kings 4:42-44

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 6:1-15

wounded by sin and a faithless and indifferent world! O Delightful Banquet which gives strength and joy to our weary hearts! May we be inspired by a renewed appreciation for the precious Gift of Jesus Himself to prepare more carefully before approaching the altar.

Jesus, stir up my sluggish faith, and let my soul sing loudly my gratitude for your incredible gift of perpetual presence, nourishment and friendship. May I never again take your miracle of love for granted. May I discover new ways of being bread for others!

in other countries.

Not one of us is sufficiently grateful for a loving and generous God who feeds us so lavishly each day.

And how about the Bread of Eucharist? O Bread of Heaven which heals and soothes our souls so

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

Our 'woman in gold' in face of persecution

By Amanda Conklin
Contributing Writer

I recently watched an engaging movie with my husband called "The Woman in Gold." It is based on the true story of an Austrian woman trying to claim a painting of her aunt that is rightfully hers and was taken from her by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The movie contains many scenes of religious persecution and also depicts many of the characters attempting to flee to a place of religious freedom and sanctuary, America.

While watching this

movie, I could not help but recognize the ironic parallels between the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust and the subtle, often swept aside, stripping of religious freedoms from Christians today in the US.

It is ironic that the very country that has been a place of refuge for many during turbulent times in our world, is slowly crumbling to the fallen nature of man and becoming that which we fear and escaped at the founding of our country. About halfway through the movie, during a scene in which Jewish business owners are made to scrub the sidewalk with acid while others look on and mock

them, my husband turned to me and said "this will be the Catholics soon."

Of course he didn't mean that we will literally be cleaning on our hands and knees, but we will be persecuted simply because we are Catholic and uphold the teachings of Christ.

Many claim this thinking is sensationalist and paranoia and that no such risk is present for Christians. But we can't be naive to think that this isn't happening.

Cardinal Francis George famously said: "I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the church has done so often in human history."

Christians business own-

ers are being forced to pay large sums of money simply by following their beliefs in charity. Christian businesses are forced to pay for abortifacients for their employees. The very nature of marriage as God designed has been "redefined" in our society. Christians are called bigots, intolerant and hateful when we simply express the truths of our Church. The next logical step in this progression is outlawing any speech or action that goes in direct contradiction to our country's rally cry of relativism.

I am also deeply saddened to see division within our own church. When there is dissent over doctrine in our Church, how can we stand strong against our world?

G.K. Chesterton put it well when he said: "We do not want, as the newspapers say, a Church that will move

with the world. We want a Church that will move the world."

Many people say this level of persecution will never happen because no one would let that happen in our country. Did anyone ever see the Holocaust as a possibility? Yet, an entire society was brainwashed into thinking that there was something inherently less than human about the Jewish people. It was justified and sometimes hidden from many who were horrified when the truth came to light. Christ himself warned us that the world will hate us as it hated him. But, we have hope, because we know our home is not here. Our purpose in life is to reach the ultimate destination of heaven and to lead others to their heavenly home.

Will we have the gumption to stand in the truth of Christ when the secular world comes knocking at our door? Will we look to our Woman in Gold, Mary, our Mother to pray for us during this coming persecution?

JOB OPENING

Holy Family School is accepting applications for a
Middle School Math and Science Teacher.

Must have appropriate NYS certification. Please send cover letter, resume, and completed application to:

Mrs. Whitney Brockway
12 Homestead Park
Malone, NY 12953

Applications are available at the school and on our website
hfconnect.org under the links section.

Deadline to apply is July 30.

Subscribe to the North Country Catholic today!

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Options to receive the NCC in your mailbox or in your e-mail.

AT THE MOVIES

MINIONS

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Fillet it how you will, "Minions" (Universal) is a rare treat.

This bright 3-D animated comedy traces the history of the yellow, capsule-shaped creatures whose endearing presence in the background contributed to the success of both 2010's "Despicable Me" and its rather unimaginatively titled 2013 sequel, "Despicable Me 2."

In hauling these sweetly bumbling beings to the fore, and providing them with an ever upbeat - though not always tightly crafted --adventure of their own, co-directors Pierre Coffin and Kyle Balda avoid any genuinely objectionable material. Only a few scenes of combusive mayhem and a couple of mildly out-of-place visuals may give some parents pause.

After an origins story that reaches all the way back to the primordial ooze, the proceedings settle down in the swinging London of the 1960s.

There, motivated by their natural inclination to serve a villainous master, the central trio of minions - Kevin, Stuart and Bob (all voiced by Coffin) - assist famed criminal Scarlet Overkill (voice of Sandra Bullock) and her mad scientist husband Herb

(voice of Jon Hamm) in their wild scheme to steal the British crown from Queen Elizabeth II (voice of Jennifer Saunders).

Narrated by Geoffrey Rush, and interspersed with familiar hippie-era musical standards, the freewheeling plot that follows pursues its own logic down curious courses, some of which feel like detours. But the underlying morality is sound enough.

In contrast to Gru, the supposed bad guy of the earlier outings, Scarlet is a truly negative character given to selfishness, greed and disloyalty.

Her evil tendencies, which carry straightforward consequences, are all the more obvious when compared to the virtues consistently displayed by Kevin and his pals -- an appreciation for one another and a sensitivity to the common good promi-

nent among them.

The climactic conflict might prove too much for small fry.

In the buildup to it, a few possible irritants for vigilant grown-ups also appear, including a sumo wrestler's frequently glimpsed backside and the brief presence of a mustachioed bystander whose enthusiasm for Scarlet leads him to dress exactly like her. While treated comically, his quirky behavior may not sit well with some adults.

The film contains occasional cartoonish violence, fleeting anatomical sight gags and a touch of scatological humor.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



CNS PHOTO/IMAGE.NET
Minions star in a scene from the movie "Minions."

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Yes, I would like to contribute to the M.P.D.O. and help buy a new truck for the former mission parish in Peru. I wish to help by enclosing the following gift to:

**Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669**

\$1,000 \$500 \$300 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10
 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Gift is Tax Deductible!



APPLEFEST CARD

Benefit of

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St. Patrick's Church**

3035 Main Street, Peru, New York 12972

Donation \$ 10 per card

Early bird drawing \$ 500
on September 20th at 6 p.m.

Drawings Daily for \$ 100
(Oct. 1—Oct. 30)

Final Drawing on Oct. 31st for \$ 500

32 Chances to Win!
\$ 4000 in Cash



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Seller: _____

Please make checks payable to St. Augustine's Church

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to sign up today.



ADIRONDACK

WONDERS OF CREATION RETREAT

Saranac Lake - Enjoy the wonders of Creation and journey into the heart of Jesus who desires to speak to your heart.

Dates: July 24-26 or Sept. 18-20
Speakers: Paul Gabaldi, licensed Adirondack Wilderness Guide and publisher of two nature photography books (June Weekend); Paul Hetzler, Arborist; Writer; and Educator at Cornell Co-operative Extension (Sept. Weekend) Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Adult Faith Educator; Fr. Paul Kelly, Celebrant for Liturgy

Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Cost: \$145 (limited space)

Features: Weekends will include presentations, time for quiet prayer and reflection, communal prayer, nature hike and opportunities for sharing.

Contact: email srbethessj@gmail.com; call: 315-212-6592; See www.fourseasonssoftheheart.weebly.com

CLINTON

INDOOR YARD SALE

Chazy - Sacred Heart Parish will have their annual indoor yard sale.

Date: July 25

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Parish center

Features: In conjunction with the Chazy town wide yard sale. Bathrooms and refreshments. Something for everyone. Furniture, appliances, household items, electronics and much more.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh - St. Peter's is sponsoring its 20th Annual Golf Tournament.

Date: Aug. 7

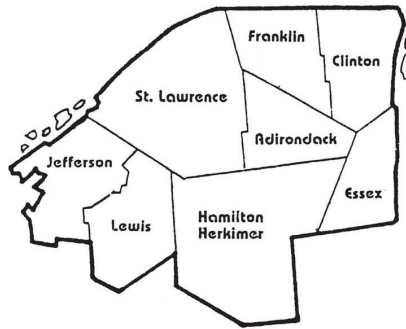
Time: 12:30 p.m. "Shotgun Start" (please arrives 30-60 minutes prior); Dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Place: Adirondack Golf Club

Cost: \$63 non-Adirondack members; \$48 Adirondack members; \$22 for awards dinner only; not able to dine subtract \$22

Features: Each team will have two carts reserved whether you walk or ride. All the proceeds will benefit Youth Programs sponsored by St. Peter's Church. They are accepting \$50 hole sponsors for anyone (or business). If you do not have a foursome, you will be paired with other players. Hole assignments and team pairings will be in the Press Republican July 31.

Contact: Call 518-578-4927 or 518-562-4179. Make checks payable to John Mockry (not St. Peter's Church). Send registration form to 51 Oak Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 by July 27.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;

e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

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

Ellensburg 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 olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

FRANKLIN

BREAKFAST BUFFET

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

Date: July 19

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. Sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic Church events committee.

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

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

PARISH PICNIC

Speculator - St. Ann's and St. James parishes will be holding their Fourth Annual Parish Picnic.

Date: July 28

Time: 2 p.m. to 5

Place: Speculator Pavilion

Features: This is a unique occasion for the parishioners of both churches to come together and to know one another as members of the Body of Christ. We are grateful to Linda Slack, Cathy Rogers and Deborah Walters for coordinating this occasion

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Lake Pleasant - St. Ann's and St. James will again hold their Golf Tournament to raise funds to help needy families in the area with their winter heating.

Date: July 25

Time: 8 a.m.

Features: Last year 13 families, from Hope, Wells, Lake Pleasant, Speculator and Morehouse received heating assistance in the form of wood, oil, propane or kerosene and Fr. Sony Pulickal, Parish priest is happy that this year's tourney has been enthusiastically supported. 18 teams with 72 people will tee off.

JEFFERSON

HOMESCHOOLERS SAVE THE DATE

Cape Vincent - Homeschoolers invited to Mass and pot luck lunch.

Date: Aug. 2

Place: Dablon Point

Features: Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Vincent of Paul Church followed by a pot luck lunch at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point. Please come rain or shine.

Contact: RSVP to Dolores at 315-654-3932 or Mary Jank gm33days@gmail.com

IHC OPEN HOUSES

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

Primary/intermediate schools: Intermediate School Aug. 17 at 6 p.m., Jr./Sr. high school: 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 as 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

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of August will be held.

Date: Aug. 2

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

SUMMER SOCIAL

Norfolk - The Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond will have their 32nd annual summer social.

Date: Aug. 16

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-10, \$4 or alternate meal for \$2; under 5, Free
Features: Hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, corn on the cob, wide variety of summer salads, beans, sampling of foods from the six ethnic food booths, (Chinese, Italian, Irish, Mexican, Hungarian, and French) beverage, and Make Your Own Sundae. Entertainment by the Sweet Adelines. Midway of games for young and young of heart. New this year!!! Games of Chance - Silent Auction for adults, Chinese Auction for children, BINGO (with gift cards and gift items for

prizes) for all, Who's the Winner, Raffle with gifts and cash prizes.

SUMMER FAITH FUN PROGRAM

Potsdam - Summer Faith Fun Program to be held.

Date: Aug. 3-7

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The "Cathletics" program is for

youths entering grades Pre-K through 6 this fall and will include a faith lesson, craft, games, music and a snack. "Altation" is geared toward students entering grades 7 through 10 this fall and will feature video components and discussion, fun activities, and a snack break. All participants will have field day on Friday.

Contact: Call 212.2231 or email hartzellpam@gmail.com

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

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ANNUAL K OF C PILGRIMAGE

Isle LaMotte, VT - Knights of Columbus, their families and friends from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in the 67th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine.

Date: July 26

Schedule: The pilgrimage begins with 12:15 p.m. Mass by Bishop Terry LaValley. Knights of Columbus State Deputy Robert Weitzman will also be in attendance. Following Mass, Bishop LaValley will join the pilgrims for a picnic lunch on the shrine's beautiful grounds. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at about 3:00 PM.

Features: All pilgrims are invited to the picnic lunch and if practical asked to bring a dish to share. The Knights of Columbus will provide hot dogs, michigans, hamburgers and beverages. Located on the shores of Lake Champlain, only a few miles from the Rouses Point Bridge, the St. Anne's Shrine religious history dates to 1666 when the French erected a fort and chapel on the site.

Contact: Pilgrimage Coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
 mbrett@rcdony.org

Mission Cooperation Plan Summer 2015

In the 1930's, Auxiliary Bishop William Griffin of the Archdiocese of Newark came up with the idea of Missionary Cooperation Plan. His initial thought was to help mission aid societies to solicit funds for their efforts by giving them the opportunity to appeal for vocations and assistance at the local level.

The plan was widely accepted by pastors who received frequent visits from mission societies. The Plan took the burden off the pastors and enabled their people to hear of missionary experiences to help promote missionary spirit.

Every summer the Missionary Cooperation Plan introduces parishioners to a real - life missionary who represents a mission cause from a faraway place.

The missionary makes the needs of the missions more real and more personal, as the faithful become personally involved in learning about the missions and in responding to their needs.

It has been an appeal that has been worth cultivating and nourishing in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

This summer, the Missionary Cooperation Appeal is planned for the West Side Deaneries of our Diocese. Some parishes may have already had a visit or perhaps it is planned for the coming weekend or next. This summer, seventeen different Societies will visit the Diocese and introduce their cause. Some are new, and some are not to the Diocese. Please welcome them with open arms and open hearts and contribute where you can!

Below is a listing of the groups coming to visit us.

Society of St. Peter Apostle
 Daughters of Charity
 The Heralds of Good News
 Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
 Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
 Order of Friars Minor Conventual
 Glenmary Home Missionaries
 North Country Mission of Hope
 Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
 El Centro Del Muchacho
 Congregation of the Holy Spirit
 Salesian Missions
 Sisters of Chavanod of the Cross
 Divine Word Missionaries
 Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
 Diocese of Djibouti- Somalia, Africa

OBITUARIES

Margaret A. Crosby

CLIFTON SPRINGS, N.Y. - A Mass of Christian Burial for Margaret A. Crosby, age 71, mother of Father Theodore A. Crosby of Lyon Mountain, was held July 16 at St. Felix Church.

She died July 11 at Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic. Burial was in St. Francis Cemetery in Phelps, N.Y.

Mrs. Crosby was born Aug. 15, 1943, in Clifton Springs, the daughter of the late Elmer and Margaret Scherbyn Maslyn. She was a member of St. Felix Church in Clifton Springs. Mrs. Crosby retired from J. DeBoover Farms in Phelps.

In addition to Father Crosby, she is survived by her husband of 46 years, Ted Crosby; a daughter, Tammy Crosby of Phelps; a sister, Betty Gordner of Seneca Castle; sisters-in-law, JoAnne Maslyn of Farmington, Barbara Maslyn of Clifton Springs and Jane Crosby of Geneva; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers Elmer, Ken and Joe.

Memorial donations may be made to Happy Tails (Ontario County Humane Society) 2976 Co. Rd 48, Canandaigua, N.Y., 14424 or House of John, 14 Spring Street, Clifton Springs, N.Y., 14432

—

Brasher Falls - Leon J. Plumadore, 61; Funeral Services July 10, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Lawrence, North Lawrence.

Canton - Nancy Mager Cannon, 82; Funeral Services July 7, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Canton - Donald L. McKenna, 84; Funeral Services July 10, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage - John S. Ablan, 59; Funeral Services July 10, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Church.

Carthage - Helen M. DuFlo, 88; Funeral Services July 18, 2015 at St. James Church.

Carthage - Dawn Elaine (Bingham) Strife, 47; Funeral Services July 10, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Champlain - Shirley Mona Burl, 84; Funeral Services July 25, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain - Anna Germaine (Fillion) Trow, 84; Funeral Services July 14, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay - Kathleen (Izzo) Pearson, 72; Funeral Services July 15, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

Constable - Cindy Lou Dufrane Bruso, 55; Funeral Services July 13, 2015 at St. Francis of Assis Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

Constableville - Virginia C. (Isenecker) Burke, 96; Funeral Services July 13, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Elenburg - Loretta Manor (St. Andrew) Cook, 100; Funeral Services July 18, 2015 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Elenburg - Virginia C. LeClair, 83; Funeral Services July 6, 2015 at St. Edmund's Church.

Hogansburg - Michael M. Smoke, 81; Funeral July 7, 2015 at St. Regis Mission Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Keene - Susan A. (Gifford) Carey, 61; Funeral Services July 9, 2015 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

Keeseville - Alma Rosalie (Furnia) Pelkey, 91; Funeral Services July 13, 2015 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville - Laura M. (McGrath) Monnat, 58; Funeral Services July 15, 2015 at St.

Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Gertrude "Gert" Eileen (Foran) Hamelin, 88; Funeral Services July 15, 2015 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Elliot B. Merrill, 88; Funeral July 17, 2015 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Malone - Marjorie Theresa Johnston, 77; Funeral Services July 16, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena - Salvatore J. DeAngelo, 92; Funeral July 14, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Gabrielle (Aubin) Granger, 88; Funeral Services July 9, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Johnson O. Merrill, 86; Memorial Services July 22, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Moers Forks - Richard D. Rabideau, 80; Funeral Services July 9, 2015 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville - Thomas R. "Tom" Jessey, 61; Funeral Services July 14, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church.

Peru - Dorothy M. (Hebert) Banker, 87; Funeral Services July 15, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Peasleeville Cemetery.

Peru - Evelyn Y. (Robert) Fuller, 73; Funeral Services St. Augustine's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

WANTED: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE PRIORY RETREAT HOUSE

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We are seeking an Executive Director to expand our programs and presence in the Adirondack North Country and beyond. Responsibilities include overall management and operation of The Priory.

A job description is available upon request. Candidates should send resume and cover by August 15 to: Board of Directors, Priory Retreat House, PO Box 336, 135 Priory Road, Chestertown, NY 12817-0336 or e-mail to prioryretreat@yahoo.com
 Subject: Attn. Pat Mousaw.
www.prioryretreathouse.org

St. Mary's Church, Clayton 13th Annual Summer Gala & Raffle

Only 370 Tickets to be sold!

(One need not be present to win)

Ticket Price: \$100.00 U.S. (Includes dinner for two, two drinks and chances to win - Sorry no take outs)

1st Prize \$10,000.00

2nd Prize \$2,000.00

3rd & 4th \$500.00

5th & 6th Prize \$250.00

7th - 11th Prizes \$100.00

Prize amounts depends on 370 tickets sold

All winning tickets will be returned to drum and be eligible for all 11 prizes.

Where: The Cerow Arena at Clayton Recreation Park

When: Tuesday, August 4 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Make checks payable and mail to:

St. Mary's Church
521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624
(315) 686-3398

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Must by 18 to purchase

OBITUARIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Peru - John J. Galarneau IV, 39; Funeral Services July 9, 2015 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Plattsburgh - Andrew "Sonny" E. Brault Jr., 82; Funeral Services July 13, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Roland E. Dumas, 92; Funeral Services July 16, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Alfonso "Al" Ruffino, 70; Funeral Services July 8, 2015 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Gerald B.

Solomon-Saratoga National Cemetery.

Port Henry - Clara V. Maye, 85; Funeral Services July 18, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

Potsdam - Doris B. (Bradley) Ellis, 89; Funeral Services July 18, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga - Helen (Hebert) Burke, 85; Funeral Services July 17, 2015 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga - Laura Agnes (Frasier) Fuller, 73; Funeral Services July 8, 2015 at

St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown - Carol J. Coryea, 74; Funeral Services July 10, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Martha Kennedy Dowling, 91; Funeral Services July 13, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Franklin C. Howard, 81; Funeral Services July 10, 2015 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy - Robert J. Duquette Sr., 77; Funeral July 15, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Winthrop - Della M. A. (Sawyer) Pike, 65; Funeral Services July 6, 2015 at the Hammill Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Dickinson Center.

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