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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 9, 2015

## YOUNG FAITH



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Members of the 2015 staff at Camp Guggenheim are shown during the fourth week of camp with Teen Vision members and Father Tom Higman, chaplain for the week. Reflections on Guggenheim appear on pages 10-11 as part of the *North Country Catholic's* special issue on youth ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

## Youth ministry: living the vision

Bishop Terry R. LaValley introduces the *North Country Catholic's* special issue on youth ministry with a message of thanks to all those who support youth ministry in the diocese of Ogdensburg including parents and parish leaders.

The bishop also cites the work of the committee, led by Father Christopher Carrara, which developed a new diocesan vision for youth ministry, one of the goals of the diocesan envisioning process.

This week's paper includes an interview with Father Carrara as well as a summary of the new vision. Some of the committee members also shared their expectations for the future of the diocese in light of their work.

This week's issue also features an interview with Deacon Brian Dwyer who is leaving his position as diocesan director of youth ministry this month, a roundup of parish youth ministry programs and lots of photos of faithful young Catholics.

### BISHOP'S FUND 2015



## Papal Mass in Madison Square Garden

A "simple weekday Mass" is in the works when Pope Francis celebrates the liturgy with 20,000 people at Madison Square Garden during his U.S. visit.

Originally the Mass at was only to be open to Catholics from New York City area but, this past week, the Diocese of Ogdensburg was notified that 200 tickets would be available for Catholics from the diocese. All the tickets were claimed less than 24 hours after the priests were notified.

The pope will concelebrate the Mass with cardinals, bishops from the New York province, including Bishop Terry R. LaValley and priests from New York City.

### 30 hands and 60 hearts

IHC students take part in  
summer community building

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FULL STORY, PAGE 14

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Traveling companions for our young

Once again, my good friend Pope Francis came through with a timely message for the editor of the *North Country Catholic*.

This week we're presenting a special issue on youth ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg focusing, in particular, on the new vision which has been developed in response to the Diocesan Envisioning Process.

The pages are filled with information about the state of youth ministry in the diocese today and hopes for the future of this es-

sential work of evangelization.

So, imagine my delight when I had the chance to listen to part of Pope Francis' "virtual town hall" aired by ABC News in advance of the Holy Father's Sept. 22-27 visit to the United States.

As part of the program, Pope Francis engaged via satellite with students at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago.

One of the students asked the pope what he wanted young people to do and to be.

His response: "What I hope

for you is for you to not walk alone in life... that you feel encouraged to walk with the love and tenderness of other people, that you find someone to carry you, walk hand in hand with you.

"Life is very difficult," he told the students. "You get confused you can find the wrong path, walking around in a maze or, the worst, you stop because you get tired of walking alone.

So, he said, "always walk hand in hand with someone who loves you, who gives you tenderness. The first thing I ask of young people is to allow themselves to be accompanied

with good company..."

Hearing this reminded me of my interview with Deacon Bryan Dwyer who has spent the past five years as director of youth ministry for the diocese. He talked about how he was inspired by the words of another pope, St. John Paul who said that the church needs to be "traveling companions for young people."

Enhancing youth ministry in the diocese will require an incredible amount of time and talent and treasure for people in our parishes but somehow it doesn't seem so daunting if we just aim to be companions on their journey.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

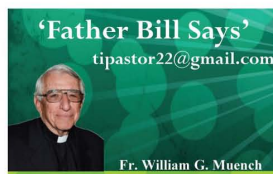
## Challenge for all: you gotta have heart!

I would like to share with you some of the ideas I used for my homily on a past Sunday.

I picked up on Jesus' quoting Isaiah the Old Testament prophet. Isaiah uses the image of a heart noting the importance of having a strong and alive heart. The quote is this, "This people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me."

Today, this become a challenge for all of us, Catholics. We are challenged to worship our God and live our lives with a committed heart, not just giving God lip service.

The image of a dedicated heart is used often even in ordinary conversation. It is such a wonderful image. I have a friend who was a major league baseball scout. His joy was to travel the country, looking over talented college and high school baseball players, considering if they would be good prospects for the major leagues. So, I inquired what he was looking for. He told me he looked for two things – one was a strong arm – a good throwing arm. The other was "heart." I asked about what he meant by this "heart." As I remember, he said "heart" means the determination, the desire,



the commitment to become a good, even better player, to be a real committed member of a team. Too often talented players, who have no heart are a liability to the whole team and to themselves. They don't have that quality to become a terrific baseball player.

"Heart" – the image is truly meaningful to us. It describes well that quality we all need to live a good Christian life. The question for us will be have you the "heart" to make our world a better place, your parish a wonderful community with the help and guidance of your faith in God. What will Jesus say about you and me? We hope it's not what he said to the Pharisees – "This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

In conversation, we often use this image of "heart." Someone who is truly committed we say "he has a strong heart" or "he is warm hearted." About some-

one who is not committed we say "he has no heart" or "he has a cold heart."

When we talk of sorrow – we say – "her heart is broken" or "she has a heavy heart."

So, the Lord's question for each of us is "Where is your heart?"

How do we judge? I noticed in the second reading of that same liturgy – a reading from the Letter of St. James. That brief letter is so wonderful. You should read it soon. The reading that day urges us to "humbly, welcome the word that has been planted in you." Humility is the spirit that helps us to form our "heart."

I want to interject – I just heard a golf commentator on television speak of a confident golfer as being "light-hearted."

I have been reading a book by David Brooks. He writes about the formation of character and describes ten important people who have had a profound influence yet, lived life in a very humble way. One of those he chose to write about is Dorothy Day.

This writer help us understand humility – let me share with you one sentence. "You become more disciplined, considerate and loving (and I would add more Christian)

through thousand small acts of self-control, sharing, service, friendship and joy.

Most of us may have only one or maybe two opportunities to do something huge, something marvelous making a difference in this world, truly accomplishing something big.

However, all of us will truly have a thousand small acts – even this very day – to do something good, to help someone, to make someone happier, to make a difference in this world.

The Lord calls upon us to have the "heart," to be truly concerned and courageous to remember to do all that we can. All those small acts truly make a difference in our lives and in our part of this world.

As the new school year begins and our religious education programs begin I consider the message of developing a committed "heart" can be very important for our young people.

This would mean teachers that have committed hearts, dedicated to bring the love and the challenges of Our Lord to our young people.

If "hearts" mean so much to a young baseball player it certainly will make a difference for a young Christian.

## FOLLOW ME

# Youth ministry: reasons to say thanks

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

As we welcome a new school and parish program year, it is fitting to take this opportunity to thank all those who support youth ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

We begin with our parents who live out the faith in the daily joys and challenges of family life. Parental support of parish formation and youth ministry is an important ingredient in strengthening their children's personal relationship with Christ and formation in the Catholic faith.

Today, unfortunately, many parishes are seeing significant decreases in the number of students attending parish faith formation classes. In some instances, parents choose either class or Mass for their children, but not both.

In a society where it has become increasingly difficult to practice our faith, our parents are charged with an awesome responsibility to actively foster the growth of their children's faith as they nurture their own.

Thank you, parents, for your persevering faith and love of the Church.

In my parish visits, I see



Bishop LaValley has been a familiar presence at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake, celebrating Mass for the campers as often as he can each summer. In this week's Follow Me column the bishop thanks all those involved in youth ministry in the diocese.

families at Mass praying together and often our youth serving as greeters, ushers, altar servers and readers. Some of our parishes enjoy the talents of their gifted youth as vocalists and instrumentalists in their music ministry.

When parishes host special receptions, many of the youth are there to lend a helping hand. Some of our youth assist with the children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass.

In some parishes, the newly Confirmed students make public commitments

to continue participation in community service projects.

Thank you for your continued ministry!

How can we better encourage our youth to become more engaged in the faith life of our parishes when so many of their plates are already heaping full?

Should we ask them to squeeze one more thing into their calendars?

Through our Envisioning Process, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has set a goal to: *Establish Youth Ministry, in accordance with diocesan standards, in 25-30 parishes*

*with competent, qualified leaders (youth & adult) by June 30, 2015.*

Later this fall, a Youth Minister's Training Weekend will take place at Wadhams Hall. This important weekend will include the training of competent and qualified leaders for youth ministry in our parishes. We are so grateful to all who are committed to serving in this crucial role. Thank you, youth ministers!

I, also, want to express a special word of gratitude to Deacon Brian Dwyer who has tirelessly led our diocese

san efforts in youth ministry since 2010.

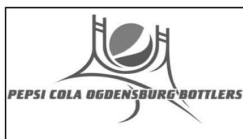
During that time, he has overseen such areas as Guggenheim summer camp, the annual Youth Rally, and high school leadership weekends. Deacon Brian has worked with our pastors, offering assistance to the parishes as they enhance their youth ministry.

We are all indebted to Deacon Brian for his energetic leadership and strong commitment to serve our youth. Thank you, Deacon Brian, for a job well done!

While every parish has unique needs with differing resources available to support youth ministry, we know that youth ministry cannot be just another option for any viable and vibrant parish today.

We are so blessed with the fine work of Father Chris Carrara's committee in helping us meet this goal of establishing youth ministry in over thirty-five of our parishes thus far! Thank you, Father Chris, committee members and pastors!

As you see, we have much for which to be thankful when it comes to youth ministry in the North Country. I'm confident that our continuing efforts and the prayerful support of everyone will see us reap much fruit in the Lord's vineyard.



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For Vocations*

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## JOB OPENING

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**Deadline for application is September 15, 2015.**



Members of the Youth Ministry Smart Goal Committee, headed by Father Christopher Carrara, have been working to meet one of the goals of the diocesan vision, "establish youth ministry, in accordance with diocesan standards, in 25-30 parishes with competent, qualified leaders (adults and youth) by June 30, 2015." Shown during a July meeting in Saranac Lake are five of the eight committee members. From left are Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry; Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar of St. Andre Besette Parish in Malone; Kelly Donnelly, teacher at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh and Guggenheim director for 2014 and 2015; Father Carrara, pastor in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville; and Samantha Poulin, director of faith formation at St. Andre Besette.

## Youth ministry committee develops diocesan plan

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

Father Christopher Carrara, pastor in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville, "put his money where his mouth is" when he hired Siobhan Fagan as a full-time youth minister for his parishes June 1.

Father Carrara has served as the point person for the diocesan goal "establish youth ministry, in accordance with diocesan standards, in 25-30 parishes with competent, qualified leaders (adults and youth) by June 30, 2015."

The first order of business for the priest and the Youth Ministry Smart Goal Committee was to survey the current youth ministry environment in the diocese.

To their surprise, no full-time youth ministers were employed by parishes in the diocese.

That all changed with the arrival of Ms. Fagan.

"In our survey of the priests, we discovered a lot

of good stuff was going on," Father Carrara said, "with selective individuals, and parish priests overseeing youth ministry, but it was eye-opening that we didn't have more part-time or full-time youth ministers."

In the process of developing a new diocesan plan for parish youth ministry, "pastors were challenged by committee and by me as a pastor to look at youth ministry as not just important but essential," Father Carrara said.

"I knew that I also had to put money for youth ministry in the budget," he said. "I was able to hire full time youth minister with a small budget. Not everybody can do that but pastors, at least, need to put something in the budget and determine that it's going to be spent on youth ministry."

### The committee

Father Carrara said that the committee members with whom he worked to enhance youth ministry in the diocese

"brought great gifts to the work as well as a deep love for young people."

"They represented a cross-section of different ages, educators, youth ministers, clergy, lay people as well as a cross section of the diocese with very strong youth ministry/Guggenheim background," he said.

The committee members are Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry; Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar of St. Andre Besette parish in Malone; Seth Conklin, teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown; Kelly Donnelly, teacher at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, Krystle Drollette, St. Alexander's Parish, Morrisonville; Samantha Poulin, St. Andre Besette Parish, Malone; and Christine Woodley, St. Mary's, Clayton.

"The team traveled to Tupper Lake until the weather turned and then took part in two hour Skype meetings," Father Carrara said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Highlights of the diocesan vision for youth ministry

The Goal of Diocesan and Parish Youth Ministry is to provide age-appropriate opportunities which will lead our youth to a life-changing encounter with Christ which will nourish a faithful, fruitful and joyful friendship with Him and His Church.

Too often youth ministry is considered an optional ministry. The option is exercised if and when: there is enough time, energy, money, volunteers, experience. We need to agree that this ministry is essential. The following steps serve as a guide

### Essential elements for successful parish youth ministry

The core team should strive for a healthy balance of active, prayerful and fun filled fellowship opportunities which give youth occasions to grow in three basic ways: discipleship, service and knowledge.

1. Discipleship: To become a close follower of Christ is to have a personal and communal relationship with him as friend, Lord and Savior. (Youth to be exposed to following aspects: prayer, fellowship, vocations, apologetics, mission)

2. Service: To know and love Christ is to follow in His footsteps. Service means extending a loving and helpful hand to the Church family as well as the larger secular community in the name and person of Christ. (Including opportunities to involve youth in church liturgical ministries, corporal and spiritual works of mercy, service trips, networking, pilgrimage, social justice issues)

3. Knowledge: To have a relationship with Christ requires one to know His teachings. Ignorance of Christ's life, teachings or commands is to be ignorant of Him. (Includes prayer, personal and communal, morality, saints, scripture. Catholic identity, personal witness, social justice issues, community life and vocations.)

The vision statement also addressed funding, how to choose a youth minister, the process for certification and offers reviews of available youth ministry programs and resources.

### In conclusion:

This Diocesan Vision for Youth Ministry is intended to guide efforts at the parish level in providing young people age-appropriate opportunities which will lead them to a life-changing encounter with Christ and nourish a faithful, fruitful and joyful friendship with Him and His Church. The working committee, comprised of clergy and youth ministry leaders from across the diocese, prayerfully researched, considered and discussed each element of the Vision and is confident it fulfills the stated intention. Through the inspired efforts of local pastors and collaborating core teams and individuals, it is believed that our ministry to the youth will flourish in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. May God bless all of our endeavors for our youth so that they may find in Christ constant renewal in faith, joy in hope and discover in Him the love which never fails.

(The entire document is available in the Pastoral Documentation section on the diocesan website, [www.rc-dony.org](http://www.rc-dony.org))

# Youth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"More often than I care to admit, I didn't know where an individual meeting was going to go," he said. "It was led by the Spirit and the input of those people which was phenomenal.

**Pastors should acknowledge youth ministry as essential. If the roof were leaking, we would not think fixing it optional, rather essential. We all need to agree, the roof is leaking**

"The diocesan vision was the result of their combined wisdom and the Holy Spirit," he said. "These people really were the core of the vision. They brought such great gifts to bear and they love youth. Just look at what they are doing - teaching at our Catholic high schools and leading youth ministry in parishes."

## The vision

The group was charged with developing a diocesan vision for parish youth ministry. (See highlights of the vision on page 4; the complete document may be found on the pastoral documentation site of the diocesan website, [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org))

"We were asked to come up with a model of what parish youth ministry would include," Father Carrara said. "Nothing would be mandated but we were asked to include training children in discipleship, knowledge and service, locally and on a larger scale."

"We came up with a few recommended programs and gave the pros and cons," he said. "The pastor can look at his team, evaluate the programs and develop his own parish program."

Developing standards for certification as youth ministers was another responsibility of the committee.

"We looked at what is currently being required for cer-



tified catechists and we knew that the Formation for Ministry folks have a youth ministry tract," Father Carrara said. "Deacon Brian (diocesan youth director) is on our committee and has offered classes for Formation for Ministry.

"We took those, modified them, built on them," Father Carrara said. "Now the catechists, Formation for Ministry candidates and parish youth ministers will all be on the same page."

A training weekend to be held Nov. 6-8 at Wadhams Hall will offer four of the eight classes necessary for certification as well as a spiritual component and Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley. (See ad on this page)

## Presentations to priests

After developing the Diocesan Vision for Parish Youth Ministry, the team presented the vision and the certification process to the priests at deanery meetings across the diocese.

"We wanted it to be practical, doable," Father Carrara said, "To date, 39 parishes have begun to review their own youth ministry in their parishes, compare it to the diocesan vision and come up with one or two practical things that they are going to do to get their own efforts in line with the diocesan vision."

"Another positive aspect of the process is that there has been a lot of conversation across the diocese with priests asking what we can do with other local parishes to hire personnel," he said.

"Every pastor thinks youth ministry is important but

they have all been challenged to think of it as essential," he said. "In that same way as 'if roof leaking, you fix the roof.'"

"Youth ministry must be taking place in every parish," he said, "granted, how you do it in your parish can differ greatly from others. City parishes have more people, resources might to a more robust program. Little country parish might work just with volunteers and have a

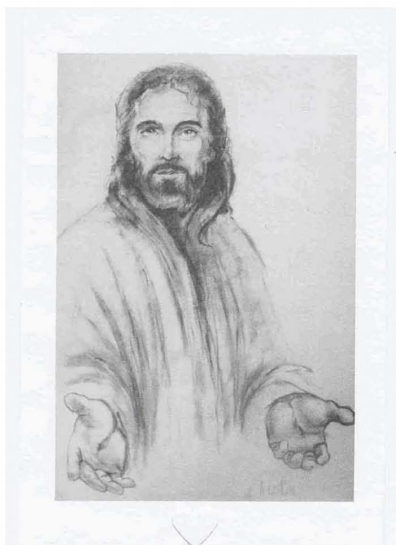
more modest program. That's absolutely fine but it's essential that we all do something.

"I'm hope-filled with the response of parish priests about how we're going to work together," Father Carrara said. "Hopeful that we'll have a positive change, improvement of youth ministry in the diocese."

In the words of the diocesan vision:

"Pastors should acknowl-

*edge and establish youth ministry as essential. Parishes must serve young people as the future of the Church. The pastor leads by establishing the focus and communicates it with those who collaborate with him: Pastoral Council, Finance Council, staff, parish groups and the whole parish. If the roof were leaking, we would not think fixing it optional, rather essential. We all need to agree, the roof is leaking."*



## NOV. 6-8, 2015 YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING WEEKEND

A weekend long retreat at Wadhams Hall for anyone interested in becoming involved in Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Want to become involved in Youth Ministry in your parish? Have questions about what Youth Ministry is all about? Want to actively engage our young people? Then join us for a weekend at Wadhams Hall this Fall! Throughout the weekend we will be presenting workshops on key points of Youth Ministry today! The weekend will also include opportunities for Adoration and Confession, as well as social hours and time for networking with others from throughout our diocese!

The fee for the first 50 (based on double occupancy) enrolled from the Diocese of Ogdensburg is being paid by funds supporting the Pastoral Vision for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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*Deacon Brian Dwyer looks back on life as diocesan director of youth ministry*

# 'I leave with a heart full of gratitude'

By Mary Lou Killian  
Editor

**OGDENSBURG** — Deacon Brian T. Dwyer, diocesan youth director for the past five years, served on the committee which generated the new diocesan vision for youth ministry, but he'll have another vantage point from which to see it bear fruit.

On Sept. 30, Deacon Dwyer will move from the youth ministry office to a parish office becoming the pastoral associate for Chateaugay, his home parish, and for the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River.

Deacon Dwyer has served as diocesan youth director since March 31, 2010 but has been actively involved in youth ministry since 1995.

"I really enjoy working with young people," he said. "I saw the great and urgent need for their ongoing formation and ultimately, just felt called to this ministry."

"It's hard to leave but I'm really not leaving youth ministry," he said. "I'll still be available to the extent that I'm needed."

"In my work in youth ministry I got involved with the wider parish," he said, "making visits to the homebound, being part of the faith formation program. I got to see many facets of parish ministry and it intrigued me."

"As I told Bishop LaValley, I'm here to serve and want to go and assist him wherever it's needed," Deacon Dwyer said. "So I'm anxious to get closer to home and bring my gifts, skills and talents not only to youth but to the wider community."

Working closer to home brings him closer to his wife Monique, and their four children, Stephen, 11; Angela 9; Paul, 6; and Matthew 4.

"I joked that when Stephen is old enough to go to Guggenheim, it's time for me to be done as youth director because he's not going to want dad anywhere near the place," he said.

## Blessings and challenges

Looking back at his tenure as youth director, Deacon Dwyer said that he is most proud of the resurgence of the diocesan Youth Rally which, he said, had been dormant for a while.

"We've done four or five of those and they've all been well received and successful," he said.

"I'm also happy that the Leadership Weekends have emerged again," he said. "When I was in parish youth ministry, the Youth Rally and Leadership Weekends were two staples that I remember taking teenagers to. When I came on here they had drifted a bit. I wanted to try to bring back programs that had worked in the past."

What has been the most inspiring aspect of Deacon Dwyer's work?

"We have a very solid summer youth program, the Youth Rally is solid, March for Life is solid," he said. "These are grandiose events with a lot of energy."

"But, what inspires me is when I work with a parish youth minister and they are in the parish



PHOTO BY ZACK LEADER

Deacon Bryan Dwyer preaches at a Mass at Camp Guggenheim this summer. On Sept. 30, he will conclude his tenure as diocesan director of youth ministry and move into parish ministry.

basement with five kids and there's not a lot of hoorah," he said. "They are just trying to make a difference with limited resources and sometime limited support."

"Those are the people who inspire me, people on the grassroots level trying to walk with these young people in their daily life," Deacon Dwyer said. "That's what has fueled me more than the big events."

The challenging aspects of working for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, he said, are the distances and demographics

"The demographics of diocese are a challenge and a blessing," he said. "How things work in Ticonderoga is a lot different from how things roll in Adams."

"I've put 140,000 miles on my car so the travel has been difficult at times," he said. "And no one size fits all to ministry, not just youth ministry, but all ministry. In a lot of these parishes, there are limited resources and personnel. Often your youth minister is also wearing six other hats. So that's difficult."

## The diocesan vision for youth ministry

While Deacon Dwyer was happy to be part of the youth ministry vision team, he appreciated that the committee was led by Father Christopher Car-

rara and not the youth director.

"This made me look at things from a different perspective," he said. "I knew long before bishop made his proclamation that youth ministry would be a priority in the diocesan vision. I went to four listening sessions and heard people say 'we have to do something for our youth.'"

"I do think the vision will make a difference and I'm glad that it happened," he said. "When we went around speaking at all the deanery meetings, Father Chris would say that, 'as a pastor I know youth ministry is important and we say, we'll do something when we get around to it, when we have enough money, have enough resources, have enough time, but we have to change our thinking from youth ministry is important to youth ministry is essential.'"

"If it's not essential, it's not going to get done," Deacon Dwyer said, "because we'll never have enough resources, we'll never have enough money, we'll never have enough time."

"Authentic and genuine youth ministry happens in the parish," he said. "To put our emphasis on that is going to huge. Having fewer priests in the diocese is obviously a disadvantage but it does open up opportunities for regional growth, encouraging parishes to share resources rather than thinking we have to do this on our own."

"St. John Paul II said that the church needs to be traveling companion for young people and that's what we need to do," the deacon said. "Parish youth ministry does that."

"Those are his words and I believe it," he said. "It's not good if a young person has a great time at Guggenheim and then goes back to parish where not much is going on. Diocesan events are good but they are sporadic and we don't want our kids to 'hold on for dear life' until the next event."

## For the future

As Deacon Dwyer enters his last weeks as youth director, he shares some advice for his successor

"Be yourself and don't try to become bigger than the position," he said. "Be a humble servant... humility is so important and Pope Francis models that beautifully."

"To implement this diocesan vision there's going to be a lot of work, on a regional basis with pastors and parish leaders," he said. "I've always seen that the purpose of this office is to serve the parishes."

"So a director needs to have humility, be prepared to offer service and be him or herself," he said. "I would not want the successor to be a clone of Brian Dwyer. I'm excited to see where it goes."

"This has been the best job I ever had," Deacon Dwyer said. "For a farm boy from Chateaugay to come into this dynamic was very different for me. There have been a few bumps along the way but the people I've met here will be continued friends even as I leave. People in this building (Loverde Building in Ogdensburg) have been so helpful. I knew they will help me in my new position. People here have been so supportive."

"I leave," he said, "with a heart full of gratitude."



The 2015 Bishop's Fund Appeal

[www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal](http://www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal)

# Youth ministry training Nov. 6-8

OGDENSBURG—The diocesan office of youth ministry will be hosting a youth ministry training weekend at Wadhams Hall on Nov. 6-8.

The first 50 participants endorsed by their pastor will attend at no cost. Registration opens Sept. 8.

This weekend will provide time for networking, spirituality, and attendance at four workshops towards certificate of recognition in youth ministry.

"The vision for youth ministry has been well received among pastors and now they are getting their core teams aligned so they can attend the training," said Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan direc-

tor of youth ministry. "Much excitement is building for all of us as we travel and form disciples for Christ."

## 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, Churusco, 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

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## Bishop's Schedule

Sept. 10 – New York State Catholic Conference Meeting in New York

Sept. 11 – 12 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Sept. 12 – 10 a.m., Council of Religious Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

4 p.m., Installation Mass of Rev. Thomas Kormmeyer as Pastor of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River and St. Mary's of the Fort Church, Fort Covington and St. Joseph's Church in Bombay at St. Joseph's Church

6 p.m., Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Westville

Sept. 13 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown  
9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Patrick Church in Watertown  
11 a.m., Installation Mass of Msgr. Robert Aucoin as Pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's Church in Watertown at St. Anthony's Church

Sept. 15 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh followed by the Heritage Circle Luncheon

Sept. 16 - 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg  
6 p.m., Sacred Heart Foundation Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown

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## Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 9 – Rev. Michael Olivetti, 1863; Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald, 1914; Rev. Antonio Audet, 1957  
Sept. 11 – Rev. J. A. Langlois, 1872; Rev. Hyacinth Rueberg, 1913  
Sept. 12 – Rev. Vincent Skiba, 1984  
Sept. 14 – Rev. Russell Charles O'Neil, 1951  
Sept. 15 – Rev. George Lessard, O.M.I., 1978

## 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 preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate Further information is available from Atone ment Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440  
Upcoming sessions;  
Sept. 9 - 5:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School  
Sept. 9 - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh  
Sept. 9 - 5 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton  
Sept. 12 - 9 a.m., St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville  
Sept. 24 - 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone  
Sept. 14 - 6 p.m., St. Bernard's School  
Oct. 14 - 6 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor  
Oct. 14 - 6:30 p.m., St. James Church, Gouverneur

## Environmental Stewardship

### Season of Celebration

September 1 was established by Pope Francis as annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This special day of prayer was inspired by the example of the Orthodox Churches who have observed this day for a number of years.

Pope Francis wishes to remind us that Christians are called to "an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounters with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them."

Thus, "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience ("Laudato Si' On Care for our Common Home" #217).

We are encouraged by The Global Catholic Climate Movement to join in a "Season of Celebrating Creation" beginning September 1 and concluding October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Some suggestions from their web page on ways to celebrate these days are:

**PRAY**- Commit to praying on a regular basis for creation and for an ecological conversion for yourself, our leaders, and all people. See Pope Francis' Prayer found in the encyclical.

**LEARN**- Read the "Laudato Si'" encyclical. Invite others to form a group to discuss the encyclical.

\*\*Several study guides are available, free to download or to purchase. See USCCB (U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops) click on: Justice, Peace and Human Development; Catholic Climate Covenant, National Catholic Reporter to name but a few resources for study of the encyclical.

**ADVOCATE** - The EPA has recently announced standards for carbon pollution from power plants, our number one source of greenhouse gas. Carbon standards are supported by the U.S. bishops, but some legislators in Congress are trying to weaken or delay them. Learn more and consider telling your legislator: carbon standards are needed now.

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!  
[www.twitter.com/Pontifex](http://www.twitter.com/Pontifex)

#Pontifex



YOUTH MINISTRY ALIVE AND WELL IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

# YOUNG AND FAITHFUL

Teens led to discipleship, knowledge and service at camp, in parishes and in Catholic schools



PHOT BY ZACK LEADER

Kelly Donnelly, 2015 director at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake, says goodbye to the campers during the closing Mass of the summer. See pages 10-11 for reflections about the camp from two campers and a parent.



Some of the most important youth ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg takes place in the Catholic schools. During the last week of July, 30 Immaculate Heart Central Junior and Senior High students from Watertown joined the First Presbyterian Church for the school's 5th Annual Summer Mission: Building Blocks (and communities) 2015. This year, the students - including Megan Welch - replaced the exterior of a local home. See full story on page 15.



Every summer Catholic boys at Camp Dudley in Westport who wish to attend Mass are transported by Dudley vans and bus to St Philip Neri Church. This year, one of them served as a lector each Sunday. In addition to the boys who regularly attend Sunday Mass, the Dudley Gospel Choir, shown at left, sings at Mass at St Philip Neri twice during the summer. "The Dudley Boys are always willing to do whatever I ask of them," said Father Francis J. Flynn, pastor. "On the Sunday of the collection for Peru (Mission Projects of the Diocese) I asked for



ten volunteers. Then I dressed them in ponchos, chulos, and explained a little about Peru and the diocesan mission there...also taught them a little Spanish. One Sunday we had two van loads and a bus of kids from Dudley at Mass...totaling more than 75 kids, age, 11 to 22, which is more than half the congregation...as well as ten students from Meadowmount school of music." Camp Dudley, now in its 131st year is the largest overnight boys camp in North America.

# CAMP GUGGENHEIM...

## 'My favorite place on earth'

By Madison Slater  
Contributing Writer

How does one describe Camp Guggenheim to someone that's never been? I know that when I'm telling people about it for the first time, my go to label is "my favorite place on Earth". While this description may be true, it doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of what Camp Guggenheim is.

For the past six summers I've been lucky enough to be a camper at Camp Guggenheim, and I spend all year looking forward to the six days I get to spend on Lower Saranac, at my favorite place on Earth.

My name is Madison Slater, I am 18 years old, and I've spent six summers as a camper at Camp Guggenheim. I found out about Camp when I was a member of St. Patrick's parish in Colton. Since then I've moved to Baldwinsville and joined St. Elizabeth Anne Seton's parish and I am now beginning school at the University of Vermont.

I was also lucky enough to be accepted

into the Teen Vision program at Camp, which is a two week long junior counselor program where 16-18 year olds go to the younger weeks and learn important leadership skills. I can not even begin to describe how much I learned, how much fun I had, and how many memories I made during those two weeks that will last me a lifetime.

Camp Guggenheim is like any other summer camp in many ways. Campers meet new friends, play games, participate in arts and crafts, and spend time at the beach. But Camp Guggenheim is also completely unique. Camp is the only place that I have ever been where everyone can be completely themselves, without fear of what others may think of them. It is the safest, most fun and caring environment that I have ever experienced. And it is also extremely powerful.

Amidst the Camp Games and the friendship bracelet making, campers also get the unique opportunity to learn about and grow in their faith with kids their own age. Between the knowledge of the staff and the chaplains, no question will go unanswered, and the counselors serve as some of the strongest role models I've ever had.

The friendships that are formed at Camp are unlike any other, campers bond in a way unique only to Guggenheim because they get the opportunity to learn more about themselves and grow in their faith together. Personally, I've made some of my closest friends at Camp Guggenheim, and it's always wonderful being able to spend a year apart from a person and pick up right where you left off each summer.

Camp is a sanctuary, a place where many are able to find peace. It may not be a five star resort, but it's beauty cannot be matched by any other destination. On lower Saranac, campers are surrounded by the amazing Adirondacks, a true testament to just how beautiful God's creation is. The area is quiet and peaceful, however camp typically isn't described as quiet. Something is always happening, and a majority of the time that something will probably be pretty loud. But it is joyous noise, because it is coming from our youth on fire for their faith and in my opinion, nothing could sound better.

I'm so incredibly thankful for the summers that I've been able to spend at Camp Guggenheim. It has without a doubt made me into the person I am today, and I know that I will carry the lessons I've learned there, the friends I've met there, and the memories that I've made there with me forever.



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Kathryn Petrelli of Malone, a student at St. Michael's College in Vermont, just concluded her first year on the Guggenheim staff but says she "fell in love with Guggenheim as a middle schooler" and was a camper for six years.

## Words of a mom

By Candace O'Neill  
Parishioner, St. Mary's/St. Joseph's, Massena

I would like to take a minute to express my huge appreciation for Camp Guggenheim and all who run it. Guggenheim is a magnificent tool for youth ministry, and the affect it has had on my family cannot be underestimated.

My oldest first started attending teen camp when we first moved here in 2005. I was shocked when he came home the first time. He was changed, and in a "depression" for a whole week. I was a little confused at first until I realized he had had a "mountain top experience," and the ensuing descent from that mountain had left him bereft. He had felt so connected with God and

those who believe in Him that it was difficult to leave behind that security and comfort to go back to the "real world."

My daughter started attending several years later. By then, I knew what to expect when she came home from the mountain top, and instead I was always excited to see what she had been learning.

However, several summers ago she surprised me when she came home and quickly broke up with the boyfriend she had been dating for a year. At camp, the counselors had talked about what real love means.

She soon came to realize her boyfriend didn't have her best interest at heart and that God had better plans for her.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

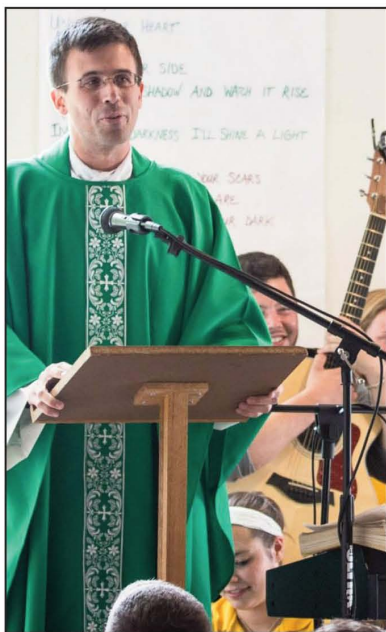


PHOTO BY ZACK LEADER

Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, presided at the closing Mass for the final week of camp designed for older teenagers.

# ... 'LOVE IS THE REASON'

## *'The closest place to God'*

By Hans Xu  
Contributing Writer

I'm Hans Xu. I attended Camp Guggenheim 2015, Week 6. I'm 17, an international student from Beijing, China, and this is my second year at Camp Guggenheim. Invited by Kelly the camp director, I'm so happy to share my reflections on this wonderful week.

I have to say that out of all those places I've been to in my life, Camp Guggenheim is the closest place to God. The camp was blessed by God with passionate and faithful staff and campers who were loving and caring for others.

Jesus once said he is with those who gather in his name, ("For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." -Matt

18:20) and here at Guggenheim we have about 80 campers and staff gathering 5 days in his name! Who can say that he is not with us?

To me, Camp Guggenheim is not only a place to hang out and have fun, but also a place to learn something that schools won't teach. The most important things, the truth of life. There, I learned to humble myself and sacrifice. There, no one was attracted to the pleasures offered world anymore, everyone looked up to God, the ultimate meaning of our lives. It's a place to rest our souls and fill them with pure love. With love in our hearts instead of greed and ambitions, we sang, we praised, we confessed, we played.

Love is the reason why we can form a life-long friendship while playing volley-

ball. Love is the reason why we sang and praised with tears. Love is the most important gift from God. With love in our hearts, no material possessions seemed important anymore, the only things remained in our eyes were brothers, sisters, and the loving Lord of us. This is when we found the heaven within. (Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." -Luke 17:20-21)

Language cannot fully describe the joyful and memorable week we had. The memories I had at Camp will remind me of my duties until the next time I come!



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Guggenheim campers listen attentively to the words of the priest during Mass.

## Mom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

This summer, a son of mine who has been seriously considering a vocation to the priesthood had his discernment rekindled. His desire had waned a bit after attending a year of middle school.

Being at Guggenheim and connecting with those counselors, campers and priests who "got him," helped him to get back on track, even to realize the additional value of being a married deacon, if that is God's plan.

His twin, a musician, loves the music at camp. Whether it's the reverent music of Mass, funny little ditties at the campfire, or the varied genres heard at the Variety Show, seeing the musical talent of counselors and campers alike inspires him

every time.

My children are also inspired constantly by the camp's director and counselors. They see men and women who are reverent, talented, amusing and fun-loving. They see in them what is often lacking in other young adults they see... a desire to dive in and live life to the fullest, but with God as their leader, not the false gods many others choose.

They see adults who are not afraid to learn, love and laugh or cry, kneel and pray. They see strong men and women who can be tender, nurturing and real.

I see this also. As time has gone on, I have NEVER missed a Guggenheim closing Mass, which I have found to be some of the



PHOTO BY ZACK LEADER  
Staff members Pat Knight and Maura Bobak

most beautiful Masses I have ever attended. Looking over the lake and hear-

ing the passionate, heart-felt singing of those young adults - counselors and campers alike - gives me joy and hope. (You wouldn't know it, because inevitably, I am crying, as touched and moved as I always am.)

Hope is always present, because seeing those teens and those counselors as their role models TRULY makes me believe that there IS good and beauty in this world, and these kids are going to be the ones that lead the rest of us to God.

Thank you to all who support Camp Guggenheim - this beautiful North Country gem - through time, talent and treasure. Thank you to those counselors who see Guggenheim as a vocation, often losing out on jobs that would surely pay them

more. Thank you to Kelly Donnelly and those directors who sleep little, but give so much. Thank you to Bishop LaValley, Youth Ministry Director Deacon Bryan Dwyer, and seminarians and deacons and those priests who are "game" enough to be chaplains.

Thank you to those benefactors, parishes, Knights of Columbus Councils, and others who have sponsored children who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to go. Through sacrifice and true love, all of you are investing in the future of our church.

Thank you all for being the light in our world. (PS I have one more child to go! He will start this coming summer and CAN NOT WAIT!)

# Parishes: places of 'authentic youth ministry'

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Staff writer

**WATERTOWN**-- Parishes throughout the Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries have been working to identify ways to "strengthen faith formation in family life" (one of the priorities of the Diocesan Vision) through the development of youth ministries in their parishes.

**Our youth director came up with an idea to sell stock in our young people... it is a fantastic way for our people to support our youth activities**

Fr. Arthur J. LaBaff  
Pastor, Clayton, LaFargeville

Indeed establishing Youth ministry in 25 to 30 parishes in the Diocese was one of the goals set by the Visioning Team and Bishop Terry R. LaValley in the April 2014 Diocesan Pastoral Letter: "Find Your Home in Christ."

Here are just a few examples of the efforts underway in the western deaneries.

## Cape Vincent

Sharon Turner is the Youth Ministry Director for the Catholic Communities of

Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont. "We started our Youth group in January of 2012 and currently have 12 to 15 members ranging from grades 6 to 12," she said. "We do a variety of activities that include service, team and faith building and fundraising."

"Service activities have included spring cleaning of all three churches in the parish inside and yard work outside, yard work for parishioners, volunteering at the Urban Mission and Dollar Dinners as well as moving books at the library," Ms. Turner said. "Team and faith building activities include overnights, attending the Youth Rally yearly, attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in 2013 and we will go again this November 2015."

The activities all have the full support of Missionary of the Sacred Father Pierre Aubin, pastor for the three church communities.

## Clayton/LaFargeville

The group Mrs. Turner directs often cooperates in activities with the youth group from St. Mary's Clayton and St. John's in LaFargeville where Father Arthur J. LaBaff is pastor.

"Our youth director came up with an idea to sell stock

in our young people," Father LaBaff said. "Over the summer parishioners were invited to buy a share in the future of our young people by donating any amount they wanted to our program. Christine's idea brought in \$6,000 over the summer. It is a fantastic way for our people to support our youth activities."

The Clayton/LaFargeville group varies in size depending on the season. Director Christine Woodley says anywhere from ten to 30 young people participate in the events. In addition to attending the aforementioned National Conference, "the group has gone apple picking, Pumpkin Chunkin and taken nature hikes," she said. "We volunteer for Hawn Memorial Library, the Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen, and within the parish community. We have held "Fat Tuesday" gatherings to prepare for Lent. We met on Assumption Thursday and created activities to correspond with the feast; we have engaged in day trips and overnights and attend all the Youth Rally's in the Diocese including March for Life."

While these programs have been up and running for some time, others are discovering new opportunities in youth activities.

## Croghan

At St. Stephen's in Croghan, DRE Eileen Greenwood said, "We have activities throughout the year for our youth. We have game nights, retreats for youth at Beaver Camp, opportunities to assist the community such as raking lawns and yard work to help those who are ill or need assistance. We have a number of our youth involved in music ministry at our masses, as well as altar serving."

"This past August we had a group of youth help with our Summer Program, assisting teachers in classroom, crafts, games and the kitchen," she said. "During Christmas many of our youth help with a Children's mass that high-



Zackary Turner and Nick Sawyer offer service to their parish, St. Vincent's in Cape Vincent, in the form of yard work.

lights a drama by the children and youth of our parish. Many of our youth are looking forward to the bus trip later this month to participate at Mass in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania celebrated by Pope Francis.

"We also participate in regional Youth days, taking hikes, picnics and campfires, bowling, winter sliding days, and a service weekend several of our youth attend in Philadelphia at the St. Francis Inn," Ms. Greenwood said.

## Watertown

Several parishes noted their support for Guggenheim and encouragement of young campers. One family in Watertown, the family of the late Father Peter Butler, has established a scholarship in his name for campers and helped send four young people to Guggenheim Summer Camp this year.

St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's started a youth group this past year called Impact and now has space to gather in the former St. Anthony's school. The group will meet this fall in conjunction with evening Confirmation classes.

## Alexandria Bay

Father Douglas Comstock, pastor of St. Cyril's in Alexandria Bay reports, "in addition to our catechetical efforts for junior and senior high school students every other Sunday night during the school year, we have a "lock-in" in the spring for the same group. It goes from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. in the parish hall with games, movies, time for personal prayer and confession up in church."

## Brownville

Father Michael Gaffney says "we are in the process of starting a youth ministry here in Brownville (Immaculate Conception) in light of the diocesan initiatives for youth ministry. We have a very well attended religious education program for Junior high students on Sunday nights. We are looking at ways to expand that into a viable ministry for youth."

Bishop LaValley has said the Diocese needs to enhance youth ministry in the Diocese as a way to strengthen the family and the church. These and many other parishes are responding to the call.



Sharon Turner, youth ministry director for the Catholic Communities of Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont; Kelsi Turner, and St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Herrmann (Sharon's aunt) spend time together at the 2015 Youth Rally held in April in Plattsburgh.

# The journey towards the vision

*Members of the Youth Ministry Smart Goal Committee share their hopes for the diocese*

I am currently the Youth Ministry Director for St. Mary's and St. John's in Clayton. Over the past five years as director I have been truly blessed by my parish and community. The support I receive is overwhelming and very powerful at times.

I have had great success with participation and have been involved in many events within the parish community; We are planning on attending the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis Nov.19-22. It will be the third time attending this event held every other year. The NCYC is the highlight of my ministry; there is a lot of planning and fundraising but totally worth it – the reaction of the

kids when 30,000 young people get together to praise God is breathtaking! When it all comes together there is no greater bond that we could ever imagine and have with us forever.

I did not have any special training, nor did I have any guidelines to follow when I started in 2000. It was an honor to be on the Youth Ministry Smart Goal Committee to give others considering Youth Ministry some guidelines.

I am very hopeful that others will follow in my steps to be a youth minister within their parish; If you know the importance of what God can do for the young people in today's world when He is part of their lives, then you would

not hesitate to follow your calling in youth ministry.

The Committee worked together and created a great model for others to follow and made it adaptable for all the parishes within the diocese.

I think this means that the Church cares enough about our youth of today and it puts out a message that "We are here for you", and has the ability to create something new for everyone to utilize within their Ministry. The Church is putting out a message that "We are strong" and that the support is all around you, just ask, we are here.

It was an honor to serve and will continue to serve on this committee.

**Christine Woodley**



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

**Father Scott Belina**, member of the Youth Ministry Smart Goal Committee, served as one of the chaplains at Camp Guggenheim this summer.

## Moving forward with hope

It was truly a privilege to be on the Youth Ministry Smart Goal Committee. As the committee worked together to develop the diocesan vision of youth ministry and the upcoming youth ministry training event, I was repeatedly impressed with what hope there is for the youth of our diocese.

When we assessed the needs for youth ministry in our diocese, it was obvious that we are facing challenges. For instance, our diocese has needs in terms of having a population that is widely spread out with unique needs.

The youth have needs

based on the fact that they are coming of age in a culture that by and large belittles and knows very little about Catholicism.

Despite these and the other needs we thought about and assessed, the overwhelming sense during our work was that we, as a committee, as individuals involved in youth ministry, and as part of the Church, have a lot to look forward to.

There are committed teens, pastors, volunteers, and youth ministers across the diocese who are ready and willing to work towards building youth ministry,

building the relationship teens form with Christ.

Playing a role in voicing some of the ways we can define, refine, and improve youth ministry was both humbling and empowering.

It was a pleasure to work with a group of committed people who each brought their own insights and experiences to go forward with a common vision in hopes that our diocese can grow in the ways we minister to the youth and guide them towards being passionately invested in living out the faith.

**Kelly Donnelly**

## Leaving a lasting impression

I think that a large hope that we had as a committee was to be able to establish something solid that will help youth not only grow in their faith right now, but would leave a lasting impression for them to want to grow in their faith always.

As we all know, it's easy for teens at a certain point in their lives to disengage

from practicing their faith.

By establishing a vision that incorporates personal encounters with Christ, our hope is that their relationship with Jesus will become deep, real and personal—and not something that they will want to walk away from.

**Samantha Poulin**

## Encountering Jesus

Being a member of this committee has certainly contributed to my hope for Youth Ministry in our diocese, and increased my expectations.

Spending time and talking with the other members of the committee gave me new perspectives on what the youth need and what they desire. I sincerely hope that this diocesan vision will give needed direction to current Youth Ministry efforts, and provide stimulus for new efforts.

From our prayer and discussions, our committee came to the conclusion that what we need as a diocese is not necessarily more programs, which are merely resources. Ministering to our youth is not the "job" of the pastor by him-

self, or even a select few who have been "trained" to do so. Though the particular graces and charisms of the pastor are essential, and certain areas of expertise are necessary, youth ministry is a parish-wide effort.

Our youth need to be led to encounter Jesus Christ, and then led in their relationship with him by their other disciples—the other members of the Church!

It is my belief that the implementation of this diocesan vision in our parishes, undertaken in a spirit of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit's lead, will no doubt contribute to our youth encountering Jesus and joyfully following him in their lives.

**Father Scott Belina**

# Pope to celebrate 'simple weekday Mass' for 20,000 at Madison Square Garden

By Beth Griffin  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** - A "simple weekday Mass" is in the works when Pope Francis celebrates the liturgy with 20,000 people at Madison Square Garden during his U.S. visit.

"Simple" takes on a new dimension when the pope is the celebrant and the congregation clears security checkpoints hours before the opening notes of the entrance hymn at the Sept. 25 celebration.

"In substance, every Mass is the same. This one is a little bit more elaborate," New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said of the archdiocese's planning effort Sept. 2.

The liturgical option for the day is the Mass for Peace and Justice, Cardinal Dolan said, explaining that the choice reflects the "high emphasis Pope Francis puts on this, and because that day he will be at the United Nations and also visit two sites in the archdiocese devoted to that."

"The readings and prayers are a given," Cardinal Dolan said. But the music, the gifts, the intercessions, the readers and other elements have been carefully selected to represent the diverse "languages, families, apostolates, parishes and ministries of this vast region," he said.

Father Matthew Ernest, director of the archdiocesan Office of Liturgy, told Catholic News Service, that some of the liturgical options selected "will make it more like a simple weekday Mass," including eliminating the Gloria and the Creed and using only one reading before the Gospel.

The liturgist said the pope will concelebrate the Mass with cardinals, bishops from the New York province and an as-yet-undetermined number of local priests.

## From the North Country

**Originally the Mass** at Madison Square Garden was only to be open to Catholics from New York City area but, this past week, the Diocese of Ogdensburg was notified that 200 tickets would be available for Catholics from the North Country. All the tickets were claimed less than 24 hours after the priests were notified.

Other participants include "faithful parishioners" who represent communities or ministries and seminarians studying at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

"The seminarians will be the servers and, as you can imagine, they're thrilled," Father Ernest said. "We're putting all the seminarians to work. They're not simply attending the event. Some are singing, some are serving, some will direct traffic in the halls."

Jennifer Donelson, director of sacred music at the seminary, said 10 seminarians from the school's Schola choir will sing the communion antiphon.

Father Ernest said the Vatican made few requests beyond keeping the liturgy simple. The Vatican asked that the gifts be presented by a multigenerational family, he said.

Initial planning for the papal Mass began in April, Father Ernest said. He consulted with the priest who planned Pope Benedict XVI's Mass in Washington in 2008. Volunteers were recruited and committees formed.

"This is Mass on a stage. It requires forethought with regard to the movement and placement of people," he said. One of the challenges is providing for the distribution of Holy Communion to 20,000 people, Father Ernest

said.

More than 200 permanent deacons from the archdiocese and the dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre will be deployed throughout Madison Square Garden as eucharistic ministers. They will be assisted by 150 volunteers from groups including the Knights of Columbus, Knights of Malta, Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Father Ernest said immigrant women from the Obreros Unidos Mission in Yonkers are embroidering the altar linens and purificators.

Many of the items used at the Mass may look familiar. The simple ciboria will be the same design as those used for Pope Benedict XVI's Mass at Yankee Stadium. Their lids have a commemorative inscription and the sides bear the papal coat of arms and the seal of the archdiocese. As in 2008, they will be given to New York parishes after the visit.

Pope Francis will use the same chalice Pope Blessed Paul VI used when he celebrated Mass in Yankee Stadium Oct. 4, 1965. It is currently on display at St. Joseph's Seminary. Cardinal Dolan said the Holy Father will carry a pastoral staff that is a replica of one used in New York by Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

Speaking courtside at Madison Square Garden, the cardinal unveiled the oak presider's chair Pope Francis will use at the Mass. It was built by immigrant day laborers from the Don Bosco Workers, Inc. in Port Chester, New York.

"The chair is very important in Catholic imagination," Cardinal Dolan said. "It is a great symbol of unity and the teaching authority the pope has."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Priests in U.S. can already absolve women who had abortions

**BALTIMORE (CNS)** -- Pope Francis' Sept. 1 announcement that priests worldwide will be able to absolve women for the sin of abortion will have little effect on pastoral practices in the United States and Canada, where most priests already have such authority in the sacrament of reconciliation. "It is my understanding that the faculty for the priest to lift the 'latae sententiae' excommunication for abortion is almost universally granted in North America," said Don Clemmer, interim director of media relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Latae sententiae" is a Latin term in canon law that means excommunication for certain crimes, including involvement in abortion, is automatic. Clemmer said it is "the fiat of the local bishop" whether to allow the priests in his diocese to absolve those sins and most bishops granted such permission when giving priests faculties to minister in their local church. Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany, New York, confirmed that in a Sept. 1 statement welcoming what he called the pope's "wonderful gesture."

## Contemplate, give thanks, protect: Pope Francis prays for creation

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Leading prayers for the safeguarding of creation, Pope Francis prayed that people would learn to contemplate God in the beauty of the universe, give thanks and protect all life. During an evening celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, the pope prayed that God would "enlighten the lords of power and money so they would not fall into indifference, but would love the common good, encourage the weak and care for the world in which we live." Pope Francis announced in August that the Catholic Church would join the Orthodox Church in marking the prayer day Sept. 1 each year. In his opening prayer, he asked God to fill people with a desire "to protect every life, to prepare a better future so that your kingdom of justice, people, love and beauty would come." Although the pope led the service in St. Peter's Basilica, he asked the preacher of the papal household, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, to give the homily.

## Church agencies highlight growing urgency of Europe's refugee crisis

**OXFORD, England (CNS)** -- Catholic aid agencies have urged Europeans not to turn against migrants seeking refuge from Syria and other countries, in what media reports describe as the continent's greatest refugee movement since World War II. "The crisis in Syria is now in its fifth year, and the neighboring countries where we've been providing assistance are running out of resources," said Kim Pozniak, communications officer for Catholic Relief Services, the Baltimore-based U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency. She said countries such as Lebanon and Turkey are sheltering 3.5 million Syrians and "can no longer carry the burden of sheer numbers. People have realized they won't be going home and turned to the European Union for longer-term solutions. While they've been shown compassion in some countries, this hasn't been the case everywhere."

# Thirty hearts and sixty hands

*IHC students in Watertown take part in fifth annual summer mission*

By Patricia Minter-Powell  
IHC's Faith Community Service Program

**WATERTOWN** - Thirty hearts plus sixty hands. Now do the math.

If your answer was a new home exterior for a North Country family in need you're correct.

During the last week of July - with temperatures hovering in the high 90's - 30 Immaculate Heart Central Junior and Senior High students joined the First Presbyterian Church to again lend hearts and hands to our school's 5th Annual Summer Mission: Building Blocks (and communities) 2015.

The result: a brand new exterior for a family who had waited five years for a chance at improving their home.

It certainly was not your typical summer vacation week.

Many of our volunteers were on the job at 8:30 each morning and despite the near record temperatures worked through the

heat of each day until late afternoon. In the end it was all worth it. Delighted and appreciative homeowners. Tired but happy students.

And then, of course, was the competence (and confidence) building. And all that practical knowledge. How to set up scaffolding. And tear it down. And move it. Job site safety. Why sand with the grain? What's the grain, anyway? How to trim a window. How NOT to trim one.

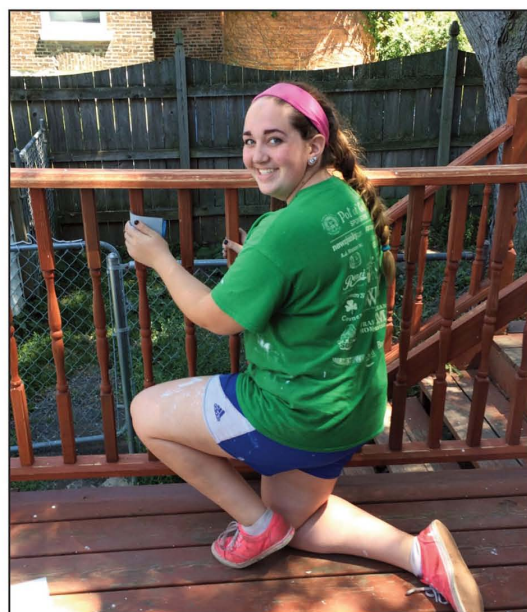
The simple joy of painter's tape, everyone's new best friend. And of a freshly loaded sanding block. The fun and responsibility of working on that second level scaffolding. And especially the old-fashioned fun of connecting with friends and making new ones during an entirely electronic free week.

If you'd like to learn more about IHC's Faith Community Service Program and its on-going service opportunities please check us out on our Facebook group page.

As always we welcome your support!



Hannah Jesmore tackles brush cleanup



Lauryn Quinn preps the deck.



Michelle Snow, Taylor Welch, Philip Moots (IHC alumnus), Tyler Huffman and Abel Yopez-Campos savor the satisfaction of a job well done. They were among 30 students of Immaculate Heart Central School who took part in the fifth annual Summer Mission: Building Blocks and Communities. This year's project was to give a family a new exterior for their home.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# A touch of sadness... a hint of death

As autumn leaves are beginning to turn colors, we find in this season a touch of sadness, a hint of death.

In this week's Gospel, Mark shows a definite change in relationship between Jesus and His apostles.

After months of amazing miracles and healings, Jesus now challenges his followers, "Who do people say that I am?"



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

After some conjecture, Peter speaks up with conviction, "You are the Christ".

Now Jesus explains what being the Christ really entails. It means suffering, death, and defeat. Why?

Because His Heavenly Father wills it.

He goes into clear detail about his coming Passion. Peter is shocked and upset, and rebukes the Master for thinking this way.

Jesus' reaction is equally violent. "Get thee behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do"

Neither the apostles nor ourselves today particularly enjoy the next words of Jesus "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me".

There is no other way to being accepted by Jesus. It is the way to salvation.

Are we surprised? No. We are accustomed in our time to unspeakable acts against

SEPT. 13

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 50:5-9a

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

Christians from the Islamic State and other radical groups in Asia and Africa.

What is our reaction?

It is so important for us this weekend to carefully read and meditate on the Second Reading from the

letter of St. James: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?"

Our Holy Father has said recently that the great problem in our world that is faced with so much injustice, suffering, and lack of peace is indifference.

We can expect the Pope to challenge us during his visit to America this month on that very defect of Christians and others of good will.

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

# Consenting to the unconscionable

In recent years, scientists in industry and academia have come to rely on freshly obtained human tissue specimens for certain types of research and experimentation. Sometimes these tissues and organs can be obtained after routine surgeries like gall bladder removal from adults or foreskin removal during the circumcision of newborns.

The use of such tissues and organs can be morally acceptable if the patient (or the parents of the newborn) provide informed consent.

The use of cells and tissues from fetuses can also be morally acceptable when those cells are obtained from a natural miscarriage, and the parents provide consent. This would be equivalent to consenting to an organ donation from their deceased child.

Recently, however, a phenomenon has come to light that involves the partnering of biomedical researchers with abortionists, for the purpose of securing a reliable supply of human tissues and organs.

In these cases, parental consent (usually from the mother) may be sought

prior to using the aborted child's remains. Researchers claim this consent is necessary to enable the ethical use of the cells or tissues.

This procedural detail is frequently described in the section called "Materials and Methods" found in scientific research papers, as, for example, in this February 2015 article on brain research in the journal *Science*: "Human fetal brain tissue was obtained from the [clinic], following elective pregnancy termination and informed written maternal consents, and with approval of the local University Hospital Ethical Review Committees."

Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in the United States, also seeks maternal consent prior to procuring fetal body parts from direct abortions, as chronicled by the Center for Medical Progress in their bombshell 2015 video exposé in which the sales of fetal heart, lungs, brain and liver were discussed and negotiated.

The strong public outcry that followed these revelations of harvesting fetal organs was understandable on

the one hand, yet difficult to explain on the other, since there hadn't been a parallel outcry when it came to the more offensive act of terminating the life of the unborn child itself. As one commentator observed, "Maybe it is not enough to be outraged at abortion on its face because, I don't know, killing is somehow worse if body parts are sold."

Despite this inconsistency, it is nonetheless clear that the use of tissues and organs from direct abortions raises significant moral concerns, even if the mother's signature may have been sought and obtained.

Typically when we serve as a proxy for someone and give consent on their behalf, we act simply as their agent and provide an affirmation of their original wishes ("yes, he told me he wanted to donate his kidneys").

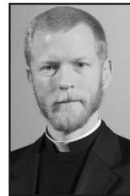
Alternatively, if we do not know the wishes of the deceased patient, we do our best to make a reasonable decision based on the

specifics of their situation, using a "best interest" standard ("based on my friendship with him and concern for him, I think he really would have wanted to donate his kidneys").

When we serve as a proxy decision maker for a fetus, an infant, or a deceased child prior to the age of reason, it is incumbent on us to make a "best interest" decision on their behalf.

The assumption is that as we cared for them in life, and had their best interests in mind while they were living, we can continue to exercise that "best interest" decision-making capacity later when they are deceased.

But if the mother of an aborted child were to sign the dotted line granting permission to utilize fetal cells and organs, that consent would necessarily be void, because she would have already categorically demonstrated that she does not have the best interests of her child in mind, having



Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

arranged for the taking of that child's life.

From the ethical point of view, she has disqualified herself from being able to give valid informed consent on behalf of her now-deceased child.

In the absence of proper informed consent, taking organs or tissues from the corpse would represent a further violation of the integrity of the child's body and constitute a failure to respect the remains of the dead. Thus, the tissues and organs of the directly aborted child should not be utilized for research, transplantation or the development of therapies, but instead should be given a proper and respectful burial. In the final analysis, maternal consent cannot provide moral clearance for researchers to utilize fetal remains from direct abortions in their research.

Such permission from the mother is not, objectively speaking, an authentic form of consent but is rather a type of "sham consent" that secures the veneer of legitimacy for what is ultimately an unconscionable research practice.



AT THE MOVIES

# WAR ROOM

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Prayer becomes the ultimate weapon to save a young family in crisis in "War Room" (TriStar). This Christian-themed drama is the latest offering from Alex and Stephen Kendrick, the fraternal team behind 2008's "Fireproof" and 2011's "Courageous."

A McMansion in suburban North Carolina serves as the film's battleground. There, overtaxed wife and mother Elizabeth Jordan (Priscilla Shirer) finds that the demands of her job as a real estate agent leave her little time to focus on raising her daughter, Danielle (Alena Pitts).

Elizabeth's ambitious but inattentive husband, Tony (T.C. Stallings), isn't much help. His work as a salesman keeps him on the road where sinful temptations lurk.

When Tony does come home, he and Elizabeth do nothing but argue. Frustration and depression take their toll on the family until the Jordan residence resembles an emotional war zone.

Riding to the rescue is elderly but feisty local character Miss Clara (Karen Abercrombie), who just happens to be selling her house. Elizabeth pays a visit and, as the coffee is served, pours out her heart, revealing her bitterness. Clara, in response, immediately insists on a battle plan.



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS. PICTURES  
Karen Abercrombie and Priscilla Shirer star in a scene from the movie "War Room."

Clara shows Elizabeth her favorite hideaway: a walk-in closet, empty except for the letters, notes and photographs taped to the walls. "I call it my war room," Clara explains. Here Clara develops a "prayer strategy" for calling on God and seeking his grace.

"Give me one hour a week and I will teach you how to fight the right way with the right resources," Clara promises. "It's time for you

to take off the gloves and fight for your marriage."

We follow Elizabeth's metamorphosis as she reads Scripture and posts prayer requests in her own empty closet. In a transformative moment, she storms through her home, denouncing Satan. "This house is under new management!" she proclaims. "You go back

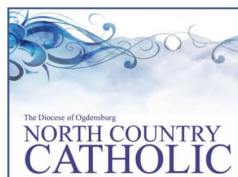
to hell where you belong and leave my family alone!" Slowly but surely, the heaven-sent healing begins. A symbolic turning point comes at the dinner table,

when Tony sets aside a bottle of his favorite brand of hot sauce, "Wrath of God."

Needless to say, subtlety is not the armament of choice and the proselytizing can be heavy-handed at times.

But the brothers' intentions - Alex directed, while Stephen collaborated with him on the script - are obviously sincere and worthy. And, though they approach their subject matter from an evangelical viewpoint, their emphasis on piety, forgiveness and redemption is, of course, fully compatible with Catholic teaching.

The film contains mild domestic discord and some mature themes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



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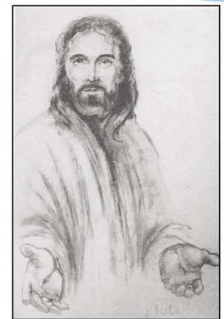
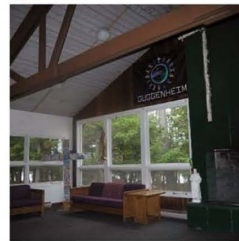
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Deacon Brian at 518-569-5711

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

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

# Safeguarding human dignity

From the director's desk  
 Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSSJ  
 Diocesan Mission Director

This year on Sunday, September 20, 2015 our church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday. This year the theme of the event will focus on "Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person."

Catechetical Sunday is a time to pray, ponder and to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism and being a living example of the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is the time for all to rededicate themselves to this Mission as a community of faith. By virtue of our baptism and by Pope Francis Himself, we are called to be Missionaries and protect the Human Dignity.

Protecting Human Dignity in the Missionary lands is a struggle. People there are exploited in every sense of the word. Human Trafficking, crimes against humanity, the breakdown of the traditional family and its values, and even worse, the treatment of our Earth in these developing lands.

These lands are war torn, famine struck, economically disadvantage and plagued with disease. A normal day is a struggle so protecting human dignity is like climbing a mountain.

What can cause human dignity to be lost? A lack of basic human needs and a lack of understanding into why they are necessary are two ways. These needs can be anything from access to medical care, housing, education or religious freedom. Respect is lost. Respect for life, for the young and the vulnerable, for the sick and the elderly, or for those who cannot speak for themselves.

It our duty as Catholics while adhering to the vows of our baptism, that we stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves both near and far.

Pope Francis urges us to seek out and help communities vulnerable to environmental destruction and other human indignities and to take responsibility for our Earth and our fellow brothers and sisters who are at risk both here and in the Mission Lands.

I urge you to take time to pray for the people of the Mission lands and the places that they call home. They need our prayers, sacrifices, donations and time now more than ever before in our history.

Take the time also to make a difference in our own backyard. Respect, love and most of all be kind to one another and look out for those who cannot look for themselves. God Bless.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>

## OBITUARIES

**Brownville** – Daniel E. Boyle, 93; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2015 at Immaculate Conception church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Brushton** – Philip W. Richards, 86; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, St. Regis Falls.

**Champlain** – Donald R. "Mustard" Emery, 82; Memorial Services Sept. 5, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

**Colton** – Theresa Ann (Connelly) Perkins, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** – Clara Jean Lazore-King, 78; Funeral Services at Aug. 31, 2015 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

**Houseville** – Lucian W. Stanton, 87; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2015 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – William J. "Bill" Sullivan, Jr., 72; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2015 at Church of the Immaculate Conception; burial in parish cemetery.

**Massena** – Beryl I. (Emmons) Fregoe, 90; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Lorraine M. (Holmes) Leffler, 75; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Gay W. Patraw, Sr., 80; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2015 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

**Massena** – Michael Nicholas, 95; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Mary Eileen "Leenie" (Ward) Story, 92; Funeral Sept. 2, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary cemetery.

**Moers Forks** – Dorothy Mae Miller Ero Anderson, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2015 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Jacques D. MacKenzie, 67; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church.

**North Lawrence** – Luella M. "Lou" (Cook) Griffin, 87; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2015 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Wilma F. (Kench) Lewis, 74; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2015 at the Fox and Murray Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Richard D. McDonald, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2015 at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Ronald D. Winters, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 31, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

**Peru** – Adrianah M. Young, 3; Funeral Services Sept. 4, 2015 at the Hamilton

Funeral Home.

**Star Lake** – Maurine E. (Fadden) McKenney, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2015 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** – Desmond H. Allen, 101; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2015 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

**Ticonderoga** – Teresa (Oser) Redmond, 97; Funeral Services Aug. 24, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Parish cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Chalice M. (Gauthier) Dechene, 76; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2015 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Thyra L. (Brickey) Soucy, 93; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2015 at St. Alphonsus Church

**Watertown** – Paul T. Higgins, 81; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2015 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Westport** – Marjorie Elizabeth Beha Lopez, 91; Funeral Sept. 4, 2015 St. Philip Neri Church; burial parish cemetery.



### CAR RAFFLE

Our Annual Car Raffle is underway. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. They are also available at the rectory Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drawing will be held after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 11, 2015 and the winner may choose the car or \$15,000 in cash.

The price for the ticket is \$20 or six (6) tickets for \$100 with all proceeds going to St. Agnes School.

The car this year is a 2016 Subaru Outback fully equipped from Jerry Strack of Central Garage here in Lake Placid.

If you wish to buy tickets by mail, please fill out the form & enclose your check made out to **St. Agnes Church**

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