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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 35

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 17, 2016

## A must for the jubilee: giving

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - A jubilee year that does not open people's wallets to share what they have with others is not a true jubilee, Pope Francis said. "This pope isn't inventing that," he insisted. "It's in the Bible."

At his weekly general audience Feb. 10 in St. Peter's

Square, Pope Francis spoke about the description of a jubilee year in the Book of Leviticus. The religious feast also had serious social implications, he said, because it proclaimed a forgiveness of debts, the freedom of indentured servants and special generosity toward the poor

and the stranger.

"It was a kind of 'general amnesty,' which permitted everyone to return to their original situation with the cancellation of every debt, the restitution of land and the possibility of enjoying once again the freedom proper to members of the

people of God," he said. For God's chosen people, who are called to holiness, the pope said, the jubilee prescriptions help "to combat poverty and inequality, guaranteeing a dignified life for all and a fair distribution of the land on which to live and draw sustenance."

## BROTHERLY EMBRACE

### Pope and a patriarch



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow embrace after signing a joint declaration during a meeting at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana Feb. 12. A flight of almost 12 hours capped months of intense negotiations and more than two decades of Vatican overtures to bring a pope and a Russian patriarch together for the first time. Cuban President Raul Castro played host to the pope and patriarch, who was on a visit to Russian Orthodox communities on the island-nation. Pope Francis had a pastoral visit to Mexico planned for months; the stop in Havana was announced only a week before the meeting. Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill signed a joint declaration that emphasized the things the churches have in common.

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

### It's time to renew your subscription



FULL STORY, PAGE 6

## Young Women of Grace

Program designed to help teenage girls see themselves as daughters of God

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



PHOTO PROVIDED

Malone Mayor Joseph Riccio declares Catholic Schools Week in Malone. He is shown above with members of the Holy Family School family, Eli LeGault, Madison Fleury, principal Marianne Jadlo, Erin Petrelli, Tristen Hellijs and Ryan Hesselstine.

**THANKS TO PATRONS:** Subscribers give extra support to the NCC... pages 8-9



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Seventy years and counting!

It's a good thing we have entered the Year of Mercy because the editor is in need of a little mercy.

After last week's confession that I was old enough to ignore the fast and abstinence requirements of the Lenten season, I need to confess again that I didn't read those Lenten regulations closely enough.

Bishop LaValley found me on Mardi Gras, just in time to make sure I knew that Catholics are *never* too old to give up meat on Ash Wednes-

day or the seven Fridays that follow.

Mea culpa! Fortunately, the bishop doesn't expect perfection from his staff, even those whose errors live on in print forever.

As we look ahead to the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign, he has urged every Catholic family in the diocese to welcome the diocesan newspaper into their

homes.

In his letter, printed on page 6, the bishop points out that,



Mary Lou  
Kilian

since the publication of its first issue – 70 years ago – “the *North Country Catholic* has remained a critical source of communication for our local Church which covers such an expansive area.

“The upcoming months promise to be an extraordinary time for the Diocese of Ogdensburg as we join Pope Francis and the universal Church in the observance of this Jubilee Year of Mercy and continue to realize our Diocesan Pastoral Vision: “Find Your Home in Christ: Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Love,” he said.

Yes, we will certainly follow every new development for the

jubilee year and the implementation of the diocesan vision.

Plans are underway for special features on the two young men who will be ordained transitional deacons in the coming months. We will follow Year of Mercy activities in our schools and parishes and a special issue for the INSPIRE vocation summit will be published.

We may not be perfect but, for 70 years and counting, the *North Country Catholic* has been an invaluable source of unity, education and faith formation for our far-flung local church.

Every bishop since 1946 has agreed.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Remember that you are dust...

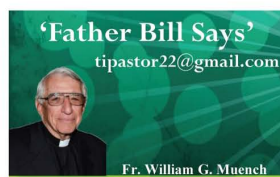
“Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.”

Lent is a time to remind ourselves of many things – one of them is that we are mortal.

The ashes that are placed on our foreheads are a reminder that one day we shall be dust ourselves. Now, I know well that no one enjoys being reminded that we are mortal, that one day we will meet the Lord face to face. Personally, I usually get uncomfortable when writing about my own death, yet, I know that it is important for me to take some time to face this reality for my life. It is much better to pray over this than to sit around worrying about it.

When I was a young priest, people would tell me that I could speak rather boldly about death. Now, I am older and I usually avoid the subject all together. I am not so bold. Yet, I know so well that this is an important challenge for me to face.

I have been a priest of the Catholic Church for 56 years, a rather long time, a life time. In that time, I have celebrated many funeral Masses for family and friends, for parishioners and even for complete strangers. The Catholic funeral



service is so very impressive and truly comforting. Each part of our funeral service – the prayers at the wake, the funeral Mass, the prayers at the burial – draws families closer to the Lord. These prayers are truly a celebration of a person's life. They help each family to face the challenge of a loved one's death. This service, every funeral service, is filled with hope and trust in our merciful and loving God. Each time I proclaim these prayers at someone's funeral, I personally find hope and peace.

Each funeral is a time for me to consider my own death and pray for that gift of hope for myself in the Merciful Lord. This also happens each time I visit someone who is dying in order to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick. As a priest, I am asked to visit many who are near death, to give them the anointing. This sacrament brings peace to so many and to me, also, to face the time of

death.

By the way, I am so pleased that the Second Vatican Council encouraged us, priests, to offer this Sacrament of the Sick to all the sick, to those in the hospital, to those preparing for surgery, to those who are simply troubled or addicted. This sacrament can bring God's grace and help to so many, bringing hope and blessing to them.

This sacrament brings God's love and power to those in need. So, remember, whenever you are in such need because of sickness or other such problems ask your pastor to come and celebrate the Anointing of the Sick with you. Each time I celebrate this anointing of the sick with a community, with a group, I receive the sacrament myself. I know I need and will need the Lord's presence and help to be trusting and unafraid when my time comes.

The preparation of a funeral service with a family is a special time for me. The Church's ritual is so wonderful and powerful and comforting. I want each family to realize how important this time is for them. Often, I think of each preparation is a preparing for my own funeral. Each time, at the funeral Mass and I walk down the

aisle to meet a person's casket I know only too well that one day a priest will be walking down that aisle to meet me.

I am often asked, “Doesn't all this make you afraid?” I must admit that I do experience some fear. And, yet, I often hear at a funeral Mass, the hymn, “Be Not Afraid.” There is God's message to me, as well as to this particular family. So, I plan to trust and depend on the Lord to stand with me and to support me – so that I truly will not be afraid.

Finally, I remember that Jesus suggests that each conversion in life, each time I accept the challenge to change my life, each time I find repentance and conversion, each time I resolve to make myself a better person, there must be a death.

Each time, when I turn to the Lord to repent my failings and to find the strength and power to become better, I must die to my old self, to my sinful self, so that I may become new in the Lord. This new life is a real Resurrection to a new life united with the Resurrection of the Lord, my God. The Lord makes it clear that these deaths to sin may be difficult, may require more pain, than my final death to life.



FOLLOW ME

# A privileged moment

Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily  
for the Rite of Election held  
Feb. 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral

Pope Francis wrote that this Lent can be "a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy, so favorable a time for conversion." He said that "mercy expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him or her a new chance to look at oneself, convert, and believe" (*MV*, 21). As we begin our Lenten journey, our readings today tells us that now is the time to do just that.

As I was reflecting on God's Word, I kept returning to the Book of Deuteronomy. In it, we listen in on a recounting of past events of the Chosen People, of how God heard their anguish and saw their affliction. God freed the people and gave them a land flowing with milk and honey. In the Promised Land, the people enjoyed an abundance of gifts from God, including rich harvests.

As the author of Deuteronomy recounts again for the Chosen People how much they have been blessed, he recalls how the first fruits of their land were gathered and set before the Lord as the people were to "bow down in God's presence." Here we have a *remembering of what's happened and then the giving of homage to God* for the blessings received.

Within these Scriptures, we have a Lenten plan laid out for us. Lent 2016 can be a graced time to recollect and to give homage—a time to review *blessings* received and a time to consider our response to God for having received such gifts. Permit me to suggest a few blessings that we might identify: my very life, Baptism, my marriage, spouse and children, family, faith, employment, good health, friends, the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist, our pastor & parish, freedom to practice my faith, etc.

Why not select a personal blessing of the day during Lent and decide daily how to give homage to God for the blessing bestowed? This could develop into a lifelong discipline, a grateful remembrance. This can change our dispositions, our outlooks on life, maybe even put a smile on our faces. So, this afternoon or sometime soon, reflect on and then list the blessings you've received and assign a blessing to focus on each day during Lent. As you begin each day, name the blessing, then choose a way to give homage to God for the blessing received. It may be a simple prayer of thanksgiving or a specific work of mercy for the day. As time goes on and we be-

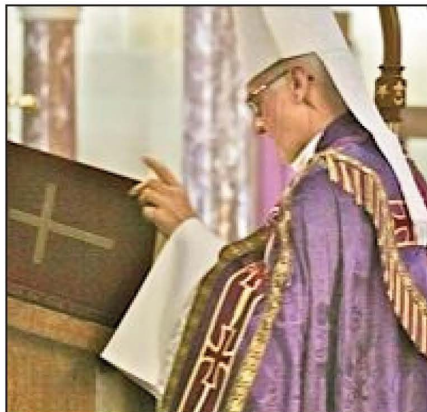


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

In this *NCC* file photo, Bishop LaValley dates and signs the Book of the Elect at the conclusion of last year's Rite of Election. Photos from this year's service, held on Sunday, will appear in next week's paper.

come more attentive to how much we have been given, we'll find our list growing.

Pope Francis recommends doing Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy as an expression of gratitude, of homage, to God for blessings received. In his Lenten message, the Holy Father writes that "when we do corporal works of mercy—we touch the flesh of Christ in our sisters and brothers in need and in spiritual works—we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The two must never be separated." (*Lenten message, 2016*)

You remember the Works of Mercy: *corporal*—feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead; and the *spiritual*—instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead.

Let us try to make a conscious effort to connect the blessing received with a personal act of homage. For instance, if we're reflecting on the gift of our baptism, think about the promises made that day and our responsibilities as a child of God and as a member of the parish family. Fasting and abstinence can help you and me better focus on making a concrete change that can enrich our daily prayer. We might want to reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary's role in our spiritual life. Then, in the area of worship, consider par-

ticipating at more daily Masses. Ask myself: "where am I with the Sacrament of Penance, Holy Hour for Vocations, and parish adult faith formation? When was the last time that I volunteered for a parish activity and did a concrete act to promote religious vocations in my parish? Every day how attentive am I to opportunities to perform acts of kindness?"

**Lent 2016 can be a graced time to recollect and to give homage - a time to review blessings received and a time to consider our response to God for having received such gifts**

There is a whole host of possibilities for you and me to consider as we want to make this a very special Lent this Jubilee Year of Mercy. This Lenten Plan can become an effort for a lifetime, to say nothing of forty days! It calls for daily prayerful recollection of blessings received and an intention to say "thank you" to the Lord for being so graced. An ambitious initiative, to be sure.

Because the Chosen People tended to forget the blessings they received, they needed to recollect, to recount them. Sometimes we have the same tendency to forget in the midst of the busyness of our lives. *We must not forget!* This is a concrete means whereby we can be beacons of hope in a world thirsting for light and joy.

What a day to set out with this Lenten effort as we welcome our catechumens and candidates to our beautiful Cathedral for the Rite of Election! It's truly a day of blessing for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Lent has begun with much promise and hope. With the continued guidance of your parish's RCIA team and staff, please make these days of intense prayer a privileged time of personal encounter and shared joy with Jesus Christ. We are so grateful to all those, who in your faith journey, have been faithful companions: your family members, fellow parishioners, your pastors and members of the parish RCIA teams.

Thank you for coming to St. Mary's Cathedral this afternoon to be counted among the elect. Your presence this day brings such joy to all of us. I pray that, as you continue your pilgrimage of faith, that you develop the spiritual discipline of always being attentive to the blessings you've received in life and then giving praise and honor to God, the Source of all blessings, through your works of mercy, of compassion and love. May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

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WINTERTIME WITNESSING

# FACES OF FAITH

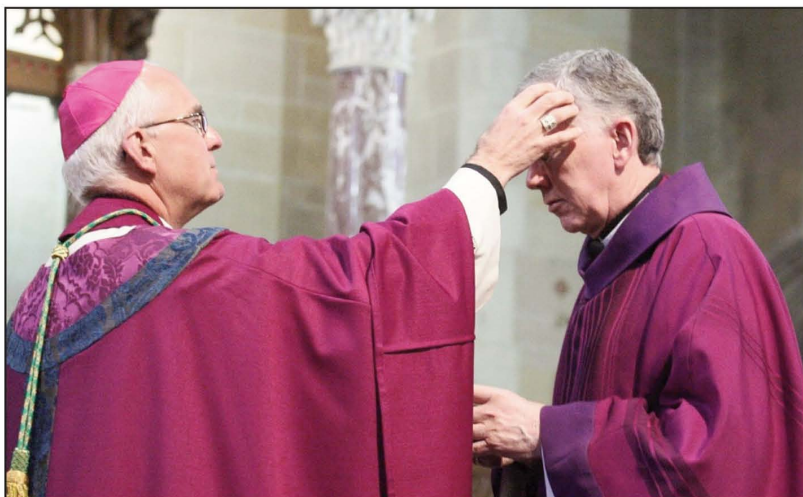


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE  
Bishop LaValley signs Father Joseph Morgan, vicar general and rector of St. Mary's Cathedral, with ashes during the Ash Wednesday Mass Feb. 10 at the cathedral.



Father Thomas Kornmeyer, pastor in Constable and other communities in the Malone area, celebrated a Healing Mass at Holy Family School in Malone. Above, he gives an anointing of the sick to Cassidy Spinner, a second grade student recently diagnosed with cancer as Marianne Jadlo, principal, and Cassidy's parents James and Lori Spinner, look on.



PHOTO BY ZACK LEADER

Three Youth Buses for Life brought nearly 100 teenagers and their chaperones from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Washington D.C. to take part in the annual March for Life. The pro-lifers are shown on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Jan. 21, the day before the march. A historic blizzard in the Washington area on Jan. 22 forced the group to make an early departure. They young people were able to attend a Life is Very Good morning rally sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, and then returned to northern New York before the march began. Among those pictured are four priests who served as spiritual leaders for the group, Fathers Scott A. Belina, Mark R. Reilly, Bryan D. Stitt and Thomas J. Higan.



# 'Let there be light'

*St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh upgrades lighting system of 160-year-old church*

By Alice Scott  
St. Peter's Environmental Stewardship Ministry

PLATTSBURGH - St. Peter's Church is coming into the 21st century by updating the electrical lighting system in the main church and chapel. The present system needs to be brought up to code and doesn't accommodate newer lighting technology such as dimmers, timers and LED bulbs.

When the parish received a large annuity from Mary Busuttill, a parishioner who died in 2014, the Parish Council and Finance Council approved the lighting project and made it a priority.

Recently the company AES

(Architecture, Engineering and Land Surveying Northeast) of Plattsburgh conducted the preliminary study to determine what changes would be needed.

Baker Liturgical Art of Southington, Connecticut, church renovation and restoration specialists, has been hired to complete the project.

The company has overseen renovations in other diocesan churches, including Blessed John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh, St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, St. Anthony's and Holy Family Churches in Watertown, St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid and St. Peter's Church in Lowville.

Baker has also worked for the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and other churches in the eastern part of the country.

Msgr. J Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's, called lighting in a church setting "an art." It must take safety and security into consideration, provide sufficient lighting for parishioners, and be able to artistically highlight special architectural features of the 160 year old church.

In an interview with the Plattsburgh Press-Republi-

can, Msgr. Duprey said, "a lot of electrical work is behind the scenes. They were running new wire under the church and through the attic. It is a lot of out-of-sight work. The fixtures have been removed from the church, so there are just bulbs hanging there now.

"They're restoring the old fixtures," he said. "All the fixtures have been removed to a factory down in New Jersey where they are retrofitting them. We are buying the inside guts of it. It's amazing what they can do."

The new system features zoned programmed lighting with digital switches to light select areas, timers for automatic lighting at specific times, and dimming capacity.

An added bonus will be that St. Peter's is projected to be able to save 40% of its lighting costs, offering a significant reduction in lighting energy usage which helps promote environmental stewardship.

The project is scheduled to be completed around Easter 2016.



PHOTO PROVIDED.

An employee from Baker Liturgical of Southern, Conn., works on the lighting project at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. The project is expected to be finished by Easter.

## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC



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# Bishop: I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to the *North Country Catholic*

Seventy years ago, Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart, Fifth Bishop of Ogdensburg, founded the *North Country Catholic* to foster "a growing sense of unity and common interest among the faithful" of northern New York.

Since that time, every bishop of the diocese has relied on our diocesan newspaper to be a source of information and an effective means of evangelization and unity for our Catholic family.

Since the publication of its first issue, the *North Country Catholic* has remained a critical source of communication for our local Church which covers such an expansive area.

The upcoming months promise to be an extraordinary time for the Diocese of Ogdensburg as we join Pope Francis and the universal Church in the observance of this Jubilee Year of Mercy and continue to realize our Diocesan Pastoral Vision: "Find Your Home in Christ: Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Love."

Our Christ-led, Christ-fed and hope-filled journey of faith will take us to Lake Placid in September as thousands of Catholics fill the Olympic Arena for a vocation summit: INSPIRE: Called to Love. Full coverage of this once-in-a-lifetime event will only be available in our diocesan newspaper.

The pages of our newspaper in 2016 will

also feature reports about other aspects of our Pastoral Vision including the expansion of youth ministry in our parishes, plans for pastoral care in the face of the declining number of priests and efforts to strengthen faith formation within our families.

This weekend, the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins in all of our parishes. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to the paper. Mary Lou Kilian, Christine Ward and the many contributing writers and photographers produce a wonderful, award-winning diocesan newspaper.

Those who read the *North Country Catholic* enjoy timely and relevant articles on prayer, scripture, Church and religious news that are featured every week.

If you are a current subscriber to our diocesan newspaper, please renew your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who don't currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the *North Country Catholic* into your home.

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley**

## OUR READERS WRITE

### Women need to know

On March 2, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, a case that will determine whether states can pass legislation that regulates abortion clinics and requires doctors to have admitting privileges for local hospitals.

My question is, why would a medical facility put its patients at risk by employing doctors who don't have those privileges? What do they have to fear?

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign has submitted an amicus brief in defense of the legislation using 31 of our testimonies. That is a fraction of the testimonies the campaign has gathered.

As of Jan. 16, Silent No More has held 1,582 gatherings in 17 countries and 48 states, with 5,978 women and men sharing their testimonies of abortion re-

gret. Testimonies have also been shared at 117 high schools and universities in the last five years. There are 2,405 testimonies posted on the website and 17,049 people from 77 countries have registered with the Campaign. We also have a list of 248 women who were killed by legal abortion.

The abortion profiteers who oppose the Texas law are supported by an amicus brief from 113 female lawyers who claim they needed access to abortion to fulfill their career goals.

I had my abortion in 1974 because I didn't think I could have a baby and go to college. But after my abortion, I dropped out of college and my life spiraled into a complex set of problems.

Having an abortion did NOT allow me to reach my goals. I did return to college 20 years later to complete my degree, but it took me 30 years to finally forgive

myself for the abortion.

Women need to know the truth about abortion, before they make the wrong choice.

NANCY BELZILE  
WILLSBORO

### To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact: **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY, 12923; e-mail: terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

### Bishop's Schedule

**Feb. 17** – 12 p.m., Mass at Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg

**Feb. 18** – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 19** – 12 p.m., Mass at Ogdensburg Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg

**Feb. 20-24** – Parish Retreat at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville

### Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 17** – Rev. Joseph Alfred Hervieux, 1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

**Feb. 18** – Rev. Charles Guillot, M.S.C., 1985

**Feb. 19** – Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

**Feb. 20** – Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897

**Feb. 21** – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

**Feb. 22** – Rev. Edward Torteil, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H. J. Ryan, 1930

**Feb. 23** – Rev. Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., 1908; Rev. Edward Blanchard, 1922; Rev. André Payette, O.M.I., 1976

### 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 Atoneement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions: **Feb. 25** - 1 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur  
**April 7** - 6:30 p.m., St. Alexander's, Morrisonville

### Environmental Stewardship

#### Sisters bring the issue of environment to voters

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) -- As the eyes of the nation focused on the Iowa caucuses Feb. 1, the 13 congregations of Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley wanted to capture the attention of participants to call for an end to environmentally destructive policies and practices. They did so by placing more than 20 billboards in strategic locations throughout state, southwest Wisconsin and western Illinois.

The billboards, posted in January and into February, carry the message "Standing with Pope Francis; Caring for Our Common Home." In his latest encyclical, "Laudato Si'," Pope Francis urgently calls people all over the world to take action to protect the earth.

Environmental issues have not yet gotten much attention with the candidates and many voters. The billboards are an effort to change this. The Catholic Sisters for a Healthy Earth Committee, which represents the communities of women religious sponsoring the campaign, initiated the plan for the billboards.

"Our big hope is that people see that caring for the climate, caring for the earth is a moral obligation," committee member Sister Joy Peterson said in an interview with National Catholic Reporter's Global Sisters Report. "It's not political, even though we need to influence politicians, but it's an issue so important to the future of all creation. We also want to stimulate further response to the encyclical reminding people of that message that earth is our common home."

People also are urged to call attention to the humanitarian challenges of climate change with legislators and candidates at the caucus and throughout the election season.

"Caring for Our Common Home" also invites each of us to do our part to lessen the detrimental effects our actions have on the environment," said Sisters Kathleen Storms, a School Sister of Notre Dame.



*New program encourages young women to embrace their femininity*

# Young Women of Grace

By Mary Dillenback  
Contributing writer

Women of Grace® is launching a new program for young women that is designed to help counter the toxic messages aimed at girls by social media, magazines, TV and movies. Entitled, "Young Women of Grace: Embrace Your Femininity," it is geared toward, but not limited to, girls ages 12-17.

Many young women have no idea who they truly are nor do they realize the beauty of their call to be daughters of God. This new program encourages them to discover the genius of their femininity and empowers them to embrace God's will for their lives.

This study, adapted from the foundational study "Full

of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life" by Susan Brinkmann, award winning reporter and staff journalist for Women of Grace, presents vital Catholic teaching in a colorful, age appropriate, 200 page magazine-style book that is packed with fun facts, testimonials, and stories of women saints.

Teens will be inspired by stories of young modern women such as pro-life superstar Lila Rose, former model turned chastity speaker Leah Darrow, gold medalist Tara Lipinski and YouTube sensation Lia Mills.

A facilitator/teacher guide, in the form of a three-ring binder, has been developed by Sue Jacobsen, and Mary Dillenback.

This guide offers helpful suggestions and guidelines for getting started as a facilitator/teacher, setting up a

group, and implementing the lessons.

**Throughout the week of Feb. 22-26, Johnnette Benkovic's 'Women of Grace' on EWTN will feature a series of shows presenting 'Young Women of Grace: Embrace Your Femininity!'**

Included in the facilitator/teacher guide are learning activities specifically developed to enhance the content of each chapter. Among these are folding activities such as "How to Be a Saint in Six Easy Steps."

Small group activities in-

clude discussions on study material such as "Do You Believe in Ghosts?"

Each chapter in the guide ends with a "Bright Ideas" page and "Additional Resources" full of more ideas for fun activities!

Throughout the week of Feb. 22-26, Johnnette Benkovic's "Women of Grace" on EWTN will feature a series of shows presenting "Young Women of Grace: Embrace Your Femininity!"

Further information on the study or for help in facilitating this study is available from Mary Dillenback at 315 771 1377 or marydillenback@twcny.rr.com or from womenofgrace.com where a pdf of chapter one may be downloaded.




Young Women of Grace has been designed to help teenage girls understand the "genius of their femininity." Mary Dillenback of Fishers Landing, regional coordinator of Women of Grace, co-wrote a teacher's guide for the Young Women of Grace program.

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*On his way to Mexico, Pope Francis makes stop in Cuba to meet Russian Orthodox patriarch*

## Brotherly embrace brings pope, patriarch together

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

HAVANA (CNS) - At long last, Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow embraced, kissing each other three times.

"Finally," the pope told the patriarch Feb. 12 as they met in a lounge at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. "We are brothers," he told the patriarch.

Amid the clicking of cameras and multiple flashes, Patriarch Kirill was overheard telling the pope, "Things are easier now."

"It is clearer that this is God's will," Pope Francis told him.

A flight of almost 12 hours capped months of intense negotiations and more than two decades of Vatican overtures to bring a pope and a Russian patriarch together for the first time.

Cuban President Raul Castro played host to the pope and patriarch, who was on a visit to Russian Orthodox communities on the island-nation. Pope Francis had a pastoral visit to Mexico planned for months; the stop in Havana was announced only a week before the meeting.

Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill signed a joint declaration that emphasized the things the two churches have in common.

Addressing the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, they said that "whole families, villages and cities of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being completely exterminated." They called on the international community "to act urgently in order to prevent the further expulsion" of Christians, to end violence and terrorism and to ensure that large amounts of humanitarian aid reach the victims of violence.

"In raising our voice in defense of persecuted Christians, we wish to express our compassion for the suffering



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow sign a joint declaration during a meeting at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana Feb. 12. The pope was traveling to Mexico for a six-day pastoral visit.

experienced by the faithful of other religious traditions who have also become victims of civil war, chaos and terrorist violence," they said.

"Attempts to justify criminal acts with religious slogans are altogether unacceptable," they said. "No crime may be committed in God's name."

They called those who have died "martyrs of our times" and said they helped unite various churches "by their shared suffering."

They spoke of the need to be vigilant against European integration that is "devoid of respect for religious identities." They also spoke of extreme poverty, the "millions of migrants and refugees knocking on the doors of wealthy nations" and consumerism.

They spoke of life issues: abortion, euthanasia, new reproductive technologies and threats against the churches' view of marriage.

After they signed the document, the two leaders embraced, and each spoke briefly.

Patriarch Kirill said they had a two-hour, "open discussion with full awareness of the responsibility we have for our people, for the future of Christianity, and for the future of human civilization itself. It was a conversation filled with content that gave us the opportunity to understand and hear the position of the other. And the results of the conversation allow me to assure that currently both churches can cooperate together to defend Christians around the world; with full responsibility to work together so that there may be no war; so that human life can be respected in the entire world; so that the foundations of human, family and social morality may be strengthened through the participation of the church in the life of human modern so-

ciety."

Pope Francis said: "We spoke as brothers, we share the same baptism, we are bishops, we spoke about our churches. We agreed that unity is done walking (together). We spoke clearly without mincing words. I confess that I felt the consolation of the Spirit in this dialogue. I am grateful for the humility of His Holiness, his fraternal humility and his good wishes for unity. We left with a series of initiatives that I believe are viable and can be done."

He thanked Patriarch Kirill and others involved in arranging the meeting and also thanked Cuba, "the great Cuban people and their president here present. I am grateful for his active availability; if it continues this way, Cuba will be the 'capital of unity.'"

The addition of a stopover in Cuba was widely seen as a sign of Pope Francis' willing-

ness to go the extra mile to reach out a hand in friendship. At the same time, observers said, it gave those Russian Orthodox opposed to ecumenism a sense that their church is special and that it bowed to no one in agreeing to the meeting.

In a commentary distributed Feb. 11, Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Borys Gudziak of Paris said: "The pope is demonstrating humility; he is going to the territory of the other. In the eyes of nostalgic Russians, Cuba is almost home territory, a last outpost of a lost Soviet Empire."

For decades, the Russian Orthodox told the Vatican that a meeting between the patriarch and pope was impossible because of the activities of Latin-rite Catholics in Russia and, especially, the Eastern-rite Catholics in Ukraine.

The Moscow Patriarchate had said that while those problems still exist with the Catholic communities, they take a backseat to the urgency of defending together the rights and very existence of persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

The harsh persecution of Christians and other minorities in Syria, Iraq and other parts of the region has been a cause Pope Francis has pleaded before world leaders and for which he has rallied the prayers of Christians across the globe.

He speaks often of the "ecumenism of blood," the fact that Christians are killed for believing in Christ with the persecutors not knowing or caring what denomination or church they belong to. Christians are fully united in that suffering and, the pope has said, those who die for their faith are in full communion with each other and with centuries of martyrs now in the presence of God.

But the fate of persecuted Christians was not the pope's primary motive for meeting Patriarch Kirill. Simply meeting him was the point.



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope sends off missionaries of mercy to help open hearts to God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis marked the beginning of the church's Lenten journey by sending off several hundred religious and diocesan priests on their own special path as "missionaries of mercy" in local parishes. "Look upon your servants, Lord, that we are sending as messengers of mercy, salvation and peace. Guide their steps" and sustain them with "the power of your grace," the pope said during a special Ash Wednesday liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 10. "May Christ's voice resound in their words and Christ's heart in their gestures," he said. More than 700 of the 1,142 missionaries specially appointed by the pope attended the Mass. Dressed in white vestments and purple stoles, the men received the pope's mandate to preach about God's mercy and special authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See. Their mission was echoed in the day's second reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, in which he proclaims, "We are ambassadors for Christ" with God working and speaking through them, imploring people to "be reconciled with God."

## Pope says he goes to Mexico as a 'missionary of mercy, peace'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis said his reasons for going to Mexico are "easy and simple. I want to come as a missionary of mercy and peace," the pope said in a video message to the Mexican people released by the Vatican Feb. 7. "I want to meet with you to profess our faith together and share a fundamental truth in our lives: that God loves us very much, that he loves us with an infinite love, beyond our merits." The pope said he was "very happy" for his apostolic visit Feb. 12-17 and that he carries the people of Mexico in his prayers and in his heart. "I want to be as close as possible to you, but in a special way to those who suffer, to hug them and tell them that Jesus loves them very much, that he is always at their side," he said. One of his "greatest desires" during the six-day visit, he said, is to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which houses the image of Mary that was miraculously imprinted on the cloak of St. Juan Diego. The pope said that to feel the "tenderness of her gracious presence" would be a "beautiful" experience.

## To priests: Year of Mercy means unpaid overtime, but God gives joy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis told Rome's priests that offering God's mercy during the jubilee year will mean lots of unpaid overtime. "I think this year there will be lots of overtime that will not be paid," he said to laughter. "But the Lord will give you joy for working overtime, being merciful like the father," he said, as he met with them at the Basilica of St. John Lateran Feb. 11. On the eve of his Feb. 12-17 visit to Mexico, which will include a brief stop in Cuba, the pope as usual traveled to Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major. He prayed to Mary for her intercession and placed flowers on the altar in a side chapel before the basilica's famous Marian icon, "Salus Populi Romani" (health of the Roman people). He then went to St. John Lateran for his annual Lenten meeting with pastors of Rome parishes and heard confession from a few priests, according to Vatican Radio. In a short, unscripted address, the pope told the priests to make sure they try to understand their people, "to put themselves in the other's shoes" and be generous with forgiveness.

# Texas cardinal discusses transformative power of Eucharist at congress

By Christopher Guntz  
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) - As the book of the Gospels was enthroned in a prayer service to open the fifth annual Mid-Atlantic Congress Feb. 4 in Baltimore, a dozen women originally from Cameroon greeted the word of God with chanting and dancing.

Led by Emambu Beatrice Fomanka, members of the Catholic Women's Association, dressed in colorful garb depicting Mary, used brooms to symbolically sweep up the congress attendees in the word.

The association's Immaculate Heart of Mary Branch is based at St. Gabriel Parish in Windsor Mill.

The prayer service framed the opening general session for this year's Feb. 4-6 Mid-Atlantic Congress. The gathering serves pastoral and administrative leaders in the church at the parish and diocesan level, professional staff and volunteers.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston reflected on the words of St. Luke's Gospel that had been proclaimed in song by Deacon Mark S. Loepker of Our Lady of the Fields Parish in Millersville.

The cardinal noted that the Pharisees were complaining that Jesus ate and drank with sinners and tax collectors. Jesus responded to their "murmurings" with "the parable of searching for the lost" -- the lost sheep and the lost coin.

"All the lost are actively sought out and brought home," the cardinal said, noting that the passage helped set out his theme, "Becoming a Disciple." He said "disciple" is an elementary and substantive word.

"A disciple is a follower, is

a learner, is an adherent to another," he said. "Becoming a disciple is to become a learner and a follower."

**When you're a disciple in the presence of the Eucharist, something happens to you. You're transformed.... Body broken, blood poured out**

The cardinal noted that St. Ignatius, in his early third-century letter to the Ephesians, written while he was on his way to be eaten by lions for his belief in Christ, called himself a beginner as a disciple:

"I am not giving you orders as though I was a person of importance," St. Ignatius said. "Even if I am a prisoner for the name of Christ, I am not yet made perfect in Jesus Christ. I am now beginning to be a disciple, and I speak to you as a fellow disciple. It is you who should be strengthening me by your faith, your encouragement and your serenity."

Cardinal DiNardo noted the importance that Ignatius gave to strength, encouragement and serenity as characteristics of one becoming a disciple, while on his way to his own death.

The cardinal pointed out that of the 15 dioceses in Texas, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has the dubious distinction of having more prisons within its boundaries.

On one of his pastoral visits to a prison, he was to confirm seven non-Catholics who had been previously baptized in other churches and three Catholics who had never been confirmed, as well as one man who was to be baptized and confirmed and receive first Communion.

"Do you know what it must be like to step forward in a jail, in a big prison, and to declare, 'I want to become Catholic?'"

He further recounted the story of Eric, who was receiving the three sacraments of initiation. After receiving Communion, he was off to the side, on his knees with his catechist, and he was sobbing, Cardinal DiNardo said.

As a choir sang, "We are one body, one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone," each of the others who received Communion passed by Eric and patted him on the shoulders.

"When you're a disciple in the presence of the Eucharist, something happens to you. You're transformed. ... Body broken, blood poured out. He became a witness to that," the cardinal said.

"That's what the Eucharist does to someone who is becoming a disciple."

More than 1,350 participants from more than 60 dioceses attended the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Congress, more than any other year.

The reach extended beyond the Mid-Atlantic region, with participants from as far as Boise, Idaho; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Miami.

The annual conference is co-sponsored by the Association of Catholic Publishers and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in partnership with the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management.

The congress also included a half dozen boot camps and more than 70 workshops and breakout sessions, including a track in Spanish.

Topics included everything from liturgy to music to youth ministry to staff development to how parishes can support hurting families.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Where do I place my hope? In Jesus

The readings for this Second Sunday of Lent are all about hope.

In Dante's famous vision of Hell, he puts these words over the front gate: "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here." Hope is essential for life. A person who loses any kind of hope quickly deteriorates.

Sometimes our hopes are too short-sighted. We may hope for a soft job, an exotic vacation, or a windfall of money, but when it happens, we're often disappointed.

Where do I place my hopes? Just before the words of the second reading today, St. Paul writes: "My

entire attention is on the finish line as I run towards the prize to which God calls me—life on high in Christ Jesus."

For us too that's where we should place our entire hopes!

In the first reading, Abraham hoped for a child born of his wife, Sara. God had promised him many descendents, yet Sara was barren. He "hoped against hope".

One day, Abraham enters into a trance, and sees two animals split open, and a mysterious fire passing through. It was a clear sign of God's covenant—a promise.

God never goes back on His promises, and eventually Sarah has a son, Isaac. It took immense faith for Abraham to trust that God would keep his promise.

In the Gospel, after Jesus had shocked and disappointed his apostles with the news that He would suffer much and die on a cross, he takes three of his trusted apostles up a high mountain, and there is "transfigured" before them.

Now Jesus always had the vision of the Father's glory in his heart, but to all appearances he was just an ordinary human being.

In this experience witnessed by Peter James and John, Jesus allows the glory to burst through and become visible.

In the shimmering glory,

FEB. 21

Second Sunday of Lent  
READINGS

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18  
Philippians 3:17—4:1  
Luke 9:28b-36

he is seen talking to Moses and Elijah, the great Lawgiver and the great Prophet. God the Father's voice thunders through the clouds, "This is my chosen Son; listen to Him".

What remarkable proof to the Apostles that Jesus would keep the promises He had made to them.

What had he promised?

Nothing less than eternal life to all who would believe in him!

Would they forget the part

about suffering and even death to those who would proclaim his name?

St. Paul tells the Philippians today: "...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body..."

If we're really serious about Lent, we'll make sure that we place our hopes in the promises of Jesus. As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to strengthen our faith. We do that by a lot of listening to Scripture and Christ's vicar on earth, Pope Francis. Eventually, Jesus will lead us to the fulfillment of all his promises, and all we hope for.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore



## THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN CHARITABLE APOSTOLATES

**WHEN: Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**WHERE: Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg, NY**

**PRESENTERS: Deacon Mark & Theresa Bennett & Sr. Donna Franklin, DC**

The day will consist of a morning and an afternoon conference.  
Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValley at 11:30 am. Lunch included.

Offering for the Day - \$15 – Please mail the completed registration form along with offering to:  
Diocese of Ogdensburg (Lenten Day of Reflection), PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317  
or register online at [www.rcdony.org/lenlen](http://www.rcdony.org/lenlen) **Registrations due by March 1.**

### 2016 LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

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Parish \_\_\_\_\_ | Apostolate/Ministry involved in \_\_\_\_\_



AT THE MOVIES

# ZOOLANDER 2

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Some four decades ago, Steve Martin and Dan Aykroyd appeared on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" as the Festrunk brothers, two self-billed "wild and crazy guys."

Flamboyant in dress and as dim as a pair of 40-watt bulbs, these memorable characters successfully diverted viewers for a few minutes at a time.

Flash forward and their would-be modern counterparts are Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, who reprise their roles as outrageous fashion models in "Zoolander 2" (Paramount).

Unfortunately, what might be amusing as a brief sketch is stretched to a rather unfunny (and often crude) 102 minutes. Sex jokes and disrespectful references to religion abound. Believers, accordingly, will be as little tickled as Queen Victoria on a bad veil day.

Like its 2001 predecessor, the film is directed and co-written by Stiller. He also resumes his role as Derek Zoolander.

As viewers of the original will remember, Derek once battled his blonde rival, Hansel McDonald (Wilson), for the title of world's greatest male model, though the two wound up as friends.

Fifteen years have passed

since the pals' glory days, and both men have withdrawn from the fashion world. Derek is in seclusion, mourning the death of his wife, Matilda (Christine Taylor), and the removal of his son, Derek Jr. (Cyrus Arnold), to an orphanage. Unsurprisingly, Daddy has been deemed an unfit parent.

Hansel, on the other hand, has been busy with his principal hobby: participating in orgies with enthusiasts of both sexes.

The duo is drawn back into the fashion world by fetching Interpol agent Valentina Valencia (Penelope Cruz). "Someone is killing the most beautiful people in the world," she explains. The latest victim is Justin Bieber (playing himself), who's been gunned down in Rome.

All of the deceased have died with an unusual expression fixed on their faces: a signature pout made popular by Derek.

That clue leads the team to top fashion designer Alexanya Atoz (Kirsten Wiig). She's in the Eternal City mounting her runway show. Her intentions are evil, of course, and at her side is the dastardly villain of the first go-round, newly sprung ex-con Jacobim Mu-

gatu (Will Ferrell).

The baddies are searching for the fountain of youth, and this is where "Zoolander 2" goes off the rails with a revisionist take on the Book of Genesis. According to this hip updating of the Creation story, there was a third person in the Garden of Eden: "Steve," the first male model. He had the gift of eternal youth.

The search is on for Steve's descendant, the "chosen one," since whoever drinks his blood will obtain everlasting life. The unlikely scion to whom the trail leads has both an unglamorous demeanor and a weight problem. The script -- co-written with Justin Theroux, Nicholas Stoller and John Hamburg -- uses this latter fact as the cue for numerous fat jokes.

Derek, Hansel and Valentina are alerted to the conspiracy by rock star Sting, who impersonates a priest and offers them the information in a confessional. Within the same sacred enclosure, Hansel goes on to quiz the singer about his legendary sex life.

None of this is remotely funny. And by the time Mugatu assembles the fashion industry's movers and shakers (cameos by Valentino, Tommy Hilfiger and Anna



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT  
Owen Wilson and Kyle Mooney star in a scene from the movie "Zoolander 2."

Wintour, among others) in a mock religious ceremony involving images reminiscent of the Crucifixion, "Zoolander 2" has thoroughly outworn its tentative welcome.

The film contains sacrilegious humor, a frivolous treatment of religious themes and of human sexuality, some action violence and frequent crude and profane language.

The Catholic News Service

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

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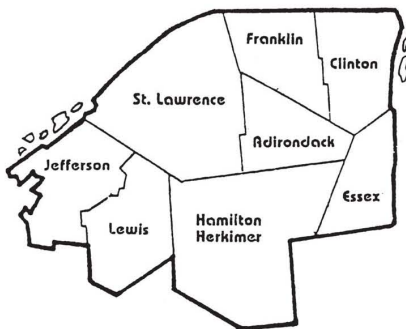
**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Paul Smiths** – Climate change as a moral issue discussion to be held.

**Date:** March 5  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Paul's Smith's Freer Auditorium  
**Features:** Catholic Climate Change Ambassadors from the Nation are invited to bring the light of faith to the topic of climate change. Dr. Gerry Gada, head of Cardiology in Rochester, who has spoken several times in our Diocese on care for God's Creation, will be one of the panelists. Event is supported by Catholic Climate Covenant and National Science Foundation and is being promoted by the Faith and Ecology Groups in the Diocese. The Public is invited. No cost.

**Contact:** For more information contact Curt Stager at cstager@paulsmiths.edu or Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ at sr-bethssj@gmail.com



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to: North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296; e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

**CLINTON**

**LENTEN PROGRAM**

**Ellenburg** – Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer to host Lenten Program.

**Date:** Feb. 18  
**Time:** 5 p.m. with light supper; 6 p.m., Stations of the Cross; 6:30 p.m. Jeff Cavins' video "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" (Overview of Old Testament).

**Contact:** To register please contact House of Prayer at 518-594-3253 or olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

**Date:** March 6 and April 3  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church parish hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

**SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER**

**Morrisonville** – St. Alexander Church and the Knights of Columbus 7248 and 6067 will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for vocations to the priesthood.

**Date:** April 16  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Alexander's Jubilee hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**Peru** – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 20  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$2.50; under 5, Free; Families (parents and children), \$20

**Features:** Take-outs are available. Diner profits will assist local charities and council programs.

**SETON SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**Plattsburgh** – The Seton Catholic National Honor Society is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 27  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6:30  
**Place:** Seton Academy  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children under 12, \$5  
**Features:** Take outs available, money is being raised to build four houses for the Mission of Hope this summer.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**West Chazy** – St. Joseph's Men's Club will host their Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** March 6  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to noon  
**Place:** Parish center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-10, \$3; under 5, free

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER**

**Peru** – Catholic Daughters' Ct St Monica's to have their annual St Patrick's Dinner.

**Date:** March 12  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m. to 6:30  
**Place:** St. Augustine Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 4-12, \$5  
**Features:** Corned Beef or Ham dinner with all the trimmings. Irish Dancers, Traditional Irish music performed by

Elisabeth Churchill and George Schnob, Guinness and Baileys for the adults, 50/50 raffle and take out available.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

**Plattsburgh** – 40 Days for life to be held.  
**Date:** Feb. 10 – March 20  
**Place:** In front of Planned Parenthood  
**Time:** 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
**Contact:** Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or nancys\_56@hotmail.com. More info at 40daysforlife.com/Plattsburgh

**LENTEN ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – St. Peter's will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Chapel. Will conclude with Benediction on Tuesday of Holy Week at 7 p.m..  
**Schedule:** Mon. and Tues  
**Time:** 7:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.

**ESSEX**

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER**

**Elizabethtown** – The Annual St. Patrick's dinner, ham or corned beef, sponsored by St. Elizabeth's parish to be held.  
**Date:** March 13  
**Time:** 2 p.m. to 6  
**Place:** St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children under 12, \$5

**FRANKLIN**

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**Brushton** – St. Mary's will be having a breakfast buffet.  
**Date:** Feb. 14  
**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.

**DOORS OF MERCY**

**Malone** – This Lent, St. Andre Bessette Parish will be offering a special study for the Year of Mercy, "Doors of Mercy."  
**Schedule:** Two sessions being offered beginning Feb 10, Wed. from 10:30 a.m. to noon or Thurs. from 6 p.m. to 7:30  
**Place:** Notre Dame Parish center  
**Cost:** \$10 donation for materials; but all are welcome regardless of ability to give.  
**Features:** Doors of Mercy "is an eight-session, DVD and discussion group based study series exploring God's mercy in the covenants of the Bible, the Divine Mercy devotion, and the ways we can experience hope, healing, and mercy  
**Contact:** Registration forms and information can be obtained by calling Michael Jacobs or Rachel Daly at Frassati House (521-3299) or calling the St. Andre Bessette Parish office (483-1300)

**JEFFERSON**

**ADULT BIBLE COURSE**

**Evans Mills** – An adult bible course to be held.  
**Date:** Introductory class, Feb. 24  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Features:** Part DVD and part discussion, running 90 minutes on eight Wednesdays. Start time is 6:30 p.m. Course materials are free.  
**Contact:** Students should register in advance at 767-1065.

**BEREAVEMENT MEETING**

**Watertown** – Bereavement meeting to be held.  
**Date:** Feb. 22  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Place:** SSJ Motherhouse  
**Speaker:** Rev. Fred Garry, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Watertown Topic: "Dying, Death, and Loss

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**Watertown** – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.  
**Schedule:** Beginning Good Friday March 25 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chapel in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 3 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chapel of Divine Mercy, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.  
**Contact:** For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

**HIBERNIANS SEEKS MEMBERS**

**Watertown** – Ancient Order of Hibernians are looking for new members.  
**Features:** The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) the oldest and largest Irish Fraternal Organization in the World, is looking for new members, Catholic male, 17 years or older of Irish descent  
**Contact:** nnyirish@gmail.com or Pat Keogh 519-1961 or Sean Hennessey 775-0570.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

**IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS**  
**LENT 2016: "Oh, The Places We'll Go Tour"**

Date	Place	Time
Feb. 17	Holy Family Church South Deerfield, MA	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 18	Newman Center UMass-Amherst, MA	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	SSJ Motherhouse Watertown	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 26	Sacred Heart Church Watertown	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 28	St. Mary's Church Evans Mills	7:00 p.m.
March 6	St. Mary's Church Copenhagen	7:00 p.m.
March 11	St. Stephen's Church Phoenix, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 13	St. Anthony's Church Watertown	7:00 p.m.
March 17	St. Peter's Church Rome, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 18	St. Matthew's Church Voorheesville, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 19	Immaculate Conception Church Fayetteville, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 25	St. Patrick's Church Watertown	7:30 p.m.

www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players





**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

# Gratitude for the North Country Catholic

Our best means of informing people across our 12,000 square mile Diocese about the work of the Mission Office is surely the *North Country Catholic*. Each week, when the *North Country Catholic* arrives in the seven Deaneries, stories about life in the mission countries are shared for all to enjoy. Through the generosity of the North Country Catholic and its staff, there's a place in each edition to foster a missionary spirit while sharing about the life and needs of the Catholic Church in the missions.

The Mission Office is grateful for the opportunities to seek prayers and sacrifice for pastoral and evangelizing programs in mission dioceses. The *North Country Catholic* has always been there for us to say thank you to our readers for their many contributions.

Each week the *NCC* features our on-going appeals or informs readers of where their donations are helping make a difference. Occasionally, individuals who have experienced a Mission enjoy writing about their experiences and share with readers of the *NCC*.

We encourage those who have been on Mission to forward their words and experiences to us here so that we may share them through the *North Country Catholic*. There is no better way to exhibit the human experience of the Mission than to read the stories of those who have gone and done the work and deeds of our Lord.

The Mission office is blessed to share experiences from the Missions with the assistance of the *North Country Catholic*. Truly, it is the primary and most effective means we have to express our gratitude, experiences and needs. God Bless the *North Country Catholic* for their hard work and their good deeds as they share the message of the Missions and updates of joy!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>

**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN**



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



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

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

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** - Pasquale J. Caramanna, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2016 at St. Cecilia's Church.

**Black River** - Dr. Anthony Mattis; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2016 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** - Richard M. Cudlipp, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Cadyville** - Harold L. Cromie, 90; Funeral Feb. 8, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in Saranac Independence Cemetery.

**Canton** - Betty D. (Trippany) Smith, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** - Clara Ada (Shippee) Abrantes, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in Spragueville Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** - Cecelia "Sadie" Peters, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2016 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesasne.

**Lake Placid** - Ronald M. Purdy, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at St. Agnes Church.

**Malone** - Glenn A. Bissell, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at Notre Dame

Church, Malone

**Malone** - Lloyd H. Bruso, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

**Massena** - Keith A. Hart, 70; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

**Massena** - Phyllis (Trees) Marlow, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** - Rinda A. Premo, 55; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

**Peru** - Jean (McGeechan) Wagner, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

**Peru** - Edna M. Wallace, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Port Leyden** - Carolyn (Martin) Trombley, 81; Funeral Feb. 13, 2016 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** - Walter Howard Fiedler, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

**Watertown** - Kayden Lee Foote, 3; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.

**Watertown** - Edward K. Hludzinski, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Michael G. Loftus, 62; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

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# Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

## LEWIS

## K OF C BRUNCH

**Lyons Falls** – Fr. Pascal Rys Knights of Columbus will be having an all you can eat pancake brunch.

**Date:** Feb. 21

**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** St. John's Church Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

**Harrisville** – St. Patrick's Day dinner to be held.

**Date:** March 5

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6

**Place:** St. Francis Solanus Church

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 5-12, \$6; under 5, Free

**Features:** Baked Ham, take-outs after 4, "Fraser Family and Friends" will be there to entertain with Irish music!

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** March 6

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

## LENTE EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Lowville** – Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Dates:** Feb. 18, 25 & March 3, 10, 17

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5

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

## ST. LAWRENCE

## COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS

**Ogdensburg** – The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association will hold a Lenten afternoon of Prayer and Reflection.

**Date:** Feb. 20

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 followed by Mass at 4

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral Bishop Brzana Hall

**Theme:** "Communicating God's Mercy"

**Speaker:** Sr. Jennifer Votraw, SSJ, diocesan coordinator of ministry to lay pastoral leaders

**Contact:** Register before Feb. 16 by contacting Jeannie Grizzuto at (315) 393-2920, Ext. 1413 or by email at: jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

## LENTE ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph will be offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mon. & Fri. during Lent.

**Time:** 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Features:** Spend some extra time with God in prayer. Adoration will be held in the side Chapel here at St. Mary's, just to the left of the sanctuary.

## MANICOTTI MONDAY

**Norfolk** – Manicotti Monday is the first Monday of every month.

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6:30

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9.75; Under 5, Free

**Contact:** Laurie at 315-384-4242

## FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

**Gouverneur** – A Family Guggenheim

Winter Event has been planned

**Date:** Feb. 27

## STORY TIME AT ST. CYRIL'S



The first grade religious education class at St. Cyril's of Alexandria Bay recently climbed three flight of stairs to the choir loft and had story time. They loved looking down at the main body of the Church. From left are Michaela Adsit, Brody Hilts, Ty Stiefel, Jasmine Wise, Madison Bradley, Jaleigh Horton, Peyton Rogers and Lillian Spies.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School

**Cost:** \$10, includes lunch

**Features:** Fun, food, and prayer. Connect with old friends, meet new friends

**Contact:** Steve Tartaglia at (315) 393-2920 startaglia@rcdony.org,

## MOVIE NIGHT

**Ogdensburg** – Movie night at St. Mary's Cathedral to be held.

**Date:** March 12

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Brzana Hall

**Features:** The Quiet Man, an Oscar winning classic from 1952. Retired American boxer (John Wayne) returns to the village of his birth in Ireland where he meets a Woman (Maureen O'Hara).

**Contact:** Amy at 315-393-3930

## FISH &amp; SHRIMP

**Gouverneur** – Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday.

**Date:** Feb. 12 to March 25

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:15

**Place:** St. James School

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

**Features:** Take-outs available, phone ahead for faster service and deliveries, 287-0130.

## 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.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Massena** – Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## LENTE DAY OF REFLECTION

**Ogdensburg** – A Lenten Day of Prayer & Reflection, a Year of Mercy program, for all involved in charitable apostolates in the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been planned.

**Date:** March 8

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2:30

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Program:** The presenters will be Deacon Mark and Theresa Bennett of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh and Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop LaValley at 11:30 am. Lunch will follow. This day is open to all who are involved in the charitable works of our parishes and local communities"members of the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Project Gabriel, Catholic Daughters of America, Soup Kitchens, Food Pantries, Visiting Nurses, etc

**Registration:** There is no fee for the day, but participants are asked to complete the registration form available from pastors or the online registration at [www.rcdony.org/lenten](http://www.rcdony.org/lenten) by March 1. A registration form is also printed on page 12 of this Week's *North Country Catholic*.

## DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

**Potsdam** – Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.

**Dates:** Feb. 28; March 13; April 3 & 17

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory

**Features:** Reflection and vespers.

**Contact:** Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Howard Venette, pastor

@stmaryspatrick.net, 315-265-9680;

Father Douglas Lucia,

frdoug@twcny.rr.com or Father Bryan

Stitt, diocesan vocation director

bstitt@rcdony.org

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

**Saranac Lake** – The Spring Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be offered.

**Date:** June 3-5

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** A Rachel's Vineyard retreat offers a safe, non-judgmental environment of hope and healing for those suffering after abortions. The chaplains for the spring retreat are Father Mark Reilly of Massena and Father Thomas Higman of Saranac Lake.

**Note:** The fall Rachel's Vineyard retreat will be held over Labor Day weekend Sept. 2 – 4. Confidential registration forms will be available soon.

**Contact:** For a list of retreat locations or for more information about Rachel's Vineyard visit [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life).

.org and for local information [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life).

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