

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A look at the human side of Pope Francis | PAGE 10

To prepare to vote: 'dig deeper than the debates' | PAGE 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 36

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 24, 2016

A focus on families

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, MEXICO (CNS) - Pope Francis warned against moves to diminish the importance of the family, peppering his talk with anecdotes and off-the-cuff remarks that kept a packed soccer stadium cheering, laughing and applauding.

Speaking under a scorching-hot sun as dozens were treated for heat stroke, the pope said family life was not

always easy and often was a struggle, but he pleaded for perseverance, saying family life was one of the solutions to increasing isolation and uncertainty and its unintended consequences.

"I prefer a wounded family that makes daily efforts to put love into play to a society that is sick from isolationism and is habitually afraid of love," Pope Francis said Feb.

15 in front of a boisterous audience of families, who came from across southern Mexican and nearby Guatemala for a celebration in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez.

"I prefer a family that makes repeated efforts to begin again to a society that is narcissistic and obsessed with luxury and comfort. I prefer a family with tired

faces from generous giving to faces with makeup that know nothing of tenderness and compassion."

The pope's focus on families turned the focus of his six-day visit toward the pastoral issues after hitting hard on matters such as corruption, crime and the country's often impoverished and exploited indigenous populations.

Renovations, repairs at St. Stephen's

The ceiling of St. Stephen's Church in Croghan faces "inevitable collapse" without extensive renovations that have begun on the 114-year-old building.

The parish has hired Baker Liturgical Art LLC, Southington, Conn., for the project.

The specialized conservation process that Mr. Baker will use is a system that will stabilize and repair the ceiling. The work entails repairs in the sanctuary, to side aisles, walls, the choir loft and vestibules, with painting and re-stenciling with like colors, and cleaning statues and the Stations of the Cross.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Mark your calendars:

Lenten day of reflection for those in charitable apostolates, March 8;

Chrism Mass, March 17; End of life conference in Saranac Lake, March 19

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NEWEST NAMES IN THE BOOK OF THE ELECT



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop LaValley is shown with catechumens who will receive the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation - at parishes across the diocese at Easter. They each signed the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election held Feb. 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral. See page 5 for more photos.

SUMMER IS COMING: It's time to sign up for CHWC and Guggenheim, p. 6

REST IN PEACE, JUSTICE SCALIA

Remembered as upstanding Catholic, jurist



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is seen in this Aug. 30, 2013, file photo at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington. The 79-year-old justice was found dead of apparent natural causes at a resort in West Texas Feb. 13. Among the tributes which poured in, Villanova University law professor Michael Moreland, a former domestic policy adviser to President George W. Bush, said "Justice Scalia was arguably the most consequential Catholic in American public life since the death of John F. Kennedy."

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY
PresidentREV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/
General Manager

Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping one week in Jan. and every other week

beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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

Editorial Office:

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

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.Paper is printed each
Monday;dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

March is marching in... hooray!

While February is a perfectly fine month, I'm perfectly fine with the fact that it's a short one!

Yes, we know that March can certainly come in like a lion and go out like one too, but March means spring and, this year, March means Easter so I welcome its arrival with joy.

In our diocese, March 2016 is also bringing significant spiritual opportunities as we continue our journey through Lent.

The March 8 Day of Reflection at Wadhams Hall - for those involved in charitable apostolates - should be a true

Year of Mercy celebration.

There are thousands of Catholics in our diocese who feed the hungry and offer clothing, shelter and loving care to those in need. This special day should give them a little spiritual nourishment in return.

A couple weeks later, a program on the other side of the diocese will surely offer information and encouragement to those struggling to keep the insidious right-to-die

legislation out of our state. (See page three for more information about this end of life conference set for March 19 at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake.)

Mary Lou
Kilian

"Death with dignity" may be a popular notion these days, but as people of faith we must be ready to protect those who will surely be victimized by such a law - elderly people who worry about spending their children's inheritance, disabled people who don't want to be a burden, depressed people who see death as an answer to their prayers. The list goes on and on.

And, of course, if Easter is on the horizon, it's time for us to gather again for our diocesan Chrism Mass.

In 2014, the Chrism Mass marked a turning point in our diocese as Bishop LaValley revealed the diocesan pastoral vision in his "Find Your Home in Christ" pastoral letter.

Two years later, we've made significant strides in making the priorities and goals a reality in our diocese.

The work isn't done yet, but at this year's Chrism Mass, we can take stock of all that has been accomplished towards creating a Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled church.

The Chrism Mass is unique in the way that it highlights the sacramental nature of our faith: oils which are used for baptism, confirmation, ordinations are blessed; and the priests who preside at these sacraments renew their commitments.

So we're stepping into a month with days devoted to charity, life and the sacraments. How Catholic is that?

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Companions for my Lenten journey

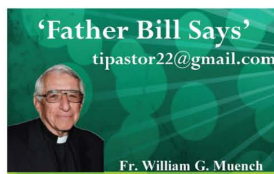
Lent is flying right by. Some days when I consider my Lenten program this year, I am rather disappointed; I don't seem to be becoming holier.

Am I becoming a better person this year? I really haven't changed that much. I still give in to my usual temptations, even those that interfere with my relationship with God.

So, I have to get serious about my resolutions for Lent. I need a lot more time for prayer. I simply can't miss these opportunities give me during this sacred season of Lent.

The next step for me is to find some help from some companions for Lent. My first thought is Thomas Merton. You remember him and his wonderful writings. Merton became a Catholic during his college days and, later on, became a Trappist Monk and a priest. His writings beginning with his early biography and the many journals that contained his teaching on prayer.

Merton was also very ecumenical and reached out to others of various faiths, searching for further ideas



about prayer. Near the end of his life he studied Buddhism and searched to find meaning in the prayer life of Buddhists. He died in an accident while attending a conference in India, a meeting of Christians and Buddhists.

I would like share a bit from the writing of Thomas Merton. This is powerful thought that is familiar to many from his book, "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander."

He writes this: "In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like wak-

ing from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness."

Will I ever have this holiness, this understanding of the following of Christ - a goal for Lent?

My next companion will be Catherine Doherty. Again, I am certain that you know about her. She is the Founder of the community of laymen, lay women, and priests called Madonna House, located in Combermere, Ontario.

Catherine's writings continue to be a gold mine of spiritual wisdom and a guide for my prayer life. She has always been a wonderful guide for many years for me. She urges me to set good goals for my Lent.

I would like to quote from her book on "Reflections in Lent." She writes this, "How much do I love? How often in my life does the pronoun 'I' disappear - replaced by the words, them, us, him or her? In this we have a very simple yardstick of love. Let us say a thought comes into your mind:

'I want to do this.' If it is something God would like you to do, go ahead and do it. But if not, erase it and keep on erasing it. The world 'I' will disappear.

I just now looked at my book case with some of my favorite books and I came upon another good companion for Lent - that is Brother David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B. I have ready and enjoyed many of Brother David's books; they have a good influence on me.

This book that I noticed today is entitled, "Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer, An Approach to Life in Fullness."

Let me share with you a quote from this book: "Maybe I shouldn't have mentioned uninterrupted prayer at all. The very thought may seem over-awing and scare someone off. Many of us might, in fact, say: 'Praying at all times? Goodness! From when I find myself it would be a long way even to praying at those times when I am saying my prayers!' All right, then, let us start once again where we are. What is it to the secret of that spontaneous prayerfulness? That

St. Bernard's to host end of life conference

SARANAC LAKE – Kathleen Gallagher, Director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, will lead a conference on end of life issues at St. Bernard's Church March 19 from 10 a.m. to 3:30.

She will discuss proposed New York State legislation on physician assisted suicide as well as the Catholic understanding of end of life issues.

The program will also feature testimony from J.J. Hanson, a former Marine, husband and father who was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2014.

This is the same type of brain cancer as Brittany Maynard, the terminally ill California woman who became the public face of the right to die movement in 2014 when she moved to Oregon to end her life under that state's Death With Dignity Act.

Hanson is now president of the Patients Rights Action Fund, a group opposing assisted suicide efforts nationally.

A suggested offering of \$20 will be accepted for the March 19 program to help with the cost of lunch and materials.

Chrism Mass set for March 17

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the annual diocesan Chrism Mass March 17 at 11 .m. St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Mass is open to all the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The liturgy features the annual renewal of priestly commitment, the blessing of the holy oils and consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all churches of the diocese.

During the Mass, Bishop LaValley will continue to reflect on the diocesan "Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled" diocesan vision.

The bishop originally proclaimed the Pastoral Vision of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the 2014 Chrism Mass.

During the past two years, considerable efforts have been made towards realizing the three priorities an-

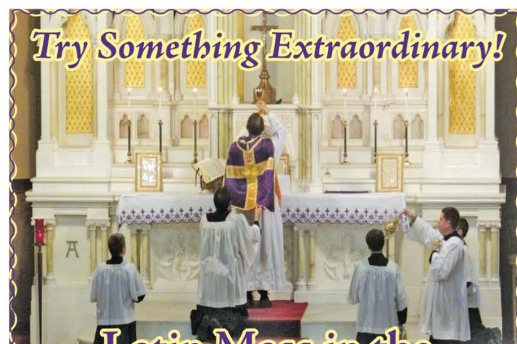
nounced at that time: to create a culture of vocations, to strengthen faith formation in family life and to build parishes with living stones.

Committees have been working on five goals related to the three priorities including planning for a vocation summit in September. The event, called INSPIRE, is expected to bring 7000 Catholics to the Olympic Arena in Lake Placid.

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669



Try Something Extraordinary!

**Latin Mass in the
Extraordinary Form**
Every Sunday + 9:30am
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Potsdam



Save the Date!

Mark the Year for Mercy with the
Annual D.O.V.S. Pilgrimage for
Vocations to the
Divine Mercy Shrine in
Stockbridge, Massachusetts.
Buses departing from across the
Diocese.

Two nights and three days

October 11-13, 2016

Stay tuned in bulletins and the
North Country Catholic
for more information





Scaffolding lines the interior of St. Stephen's Church in Croghan, supporting workers three and four levels above. Parishioners who are currently worshipping in the church basement are expecting to be seeing a completed renovation by Memorial Day.



James J. Pecorelli, senior project manager for Baker Liturgical Art, shows one of many locations in the ceiling needing reinforcement. Wall and ceiling portions had actually become flexible, and if not attended to soon, large chunks would have started to tear away, he said



Carlos Jaramilla, Queens, tends to resin work along the walls beneath the ceiling.

Croghan parish working to save ceiling, artwork

By Dave Shampine
Staff Writer

CROGHAN— A million dollar effort to save St. Stephen's Church, a landmark dating back to when this village recovered from a disastrous fire more than a century ago, began in December.

The house of worship, erected in 1902, is in danger of suffering extensive damage if renovations are not undertaken.

The ceiling shows evidence of "inevitable collapse," an expert in church renovations, Brian Baker, owner of Baker Liturgical Art LLC, Southington, Conn., has determined.

The effort to prevent that

from happening has been blessed by an emergency line of credit granted by Bishop Terry R. LaValley for the total anticipated cost, \$1.4 million, according to Carol Schneeberger, parish administrative assistant and member of the "Restoring our Tradition" drive to raise funds for the project.

"We believe the factors that aided in the deterioration of the ceiling will be corrected and the ceiling will be preserved for many future generations," Father Daniel I. Chapin, pastor, told his parishioners in a letter last year.

The pastor's plea to his people — last year's census shows 512 families — and anybody else who might

hear his call, is this: "St. Stephen's needs your help and support with a very challenging and crucial repair and renovation project."

\$1.4 million project to preserve St. Stephen's Church is underway

For several months, small pieces of plaster have been found on the carpet in a few locations in church, and cracks in the plaster have become more visible.

"The beautiful artwork and canvas murals painted (in 1933) by Professor Louis Carracciolo, who studied in Urbino, Italy, can be preserved," Father Chapin wrote.

"The repair of the ceiling

will also assure the safety of our beautiful 1910 Moller pipe organ," he said.

The specialized conservation process that Mr. Baker will use is a system that will stabilize and repair the ceiling. The work entails repairs in the sanctuary, to side aisles, walls, the choir loft and vestibules, with painting and re-stenciling with like colors, and cleaning statues and the Stations of the Cross.

"The willingness and dedication of our parish families, extended friends and family as we move forward in 'Restoring our Tradition' is," Father Chapin wrote, "an assurance of securing the future of our parish for many generations that will follow as a community that God is the source of all that we have."

His letter reminded parishioners that for many of them, parish members in years gone by "may have been your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or former neighbors. Their support and dedication has helped St. Stephen's to remain an active and growing parish."

The building, rising from

the ashes left by a conflagration which leveled 21 structures on April 24, 1902, is the fifth in a succession of Catholic churches to be built in the village. A log cabin first served worshipers in 1831. Newer churches were built in 1834, 1852, and 1879.

The Romanesque style building that stands today was built in 1902 under the direction of Fr. Leo Henrichs, who is said to have raised funds for his new church by traveling up to sixty miles a day to beg woodsmen in lumber camps for donations.

Father Leo, whose name was taken for the parish school that no longer exists, was murdered during Mass in 1908 in Denver, Colo. He was once considered for sainthood.

The last significant renovation at St. Stephen's was in 1966, although smaller projects were carried out in 1975 and 2004. In the latter project, the original church and sanctuary metal roofs' shingles were replaced.

Anybody wishing to assist St. Stephen's can call the parish office at 315-346-6958.

Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste 304, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901



Bibles, Crosses, Missals, Rosaries, Medals, Cards
Baptism, Wedding & Sacramental Gifts, Statues
Memorial, Candles, Icons, Music, DVDs, Recovery
Willow Tree Products, Seasonal, Maple Syrup & More!
Gifts of the Spirit! Shipping Available!

Hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(518) 561-5083 www.peacefuldovebooksandgifts.com
Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy

For a New or Used Car

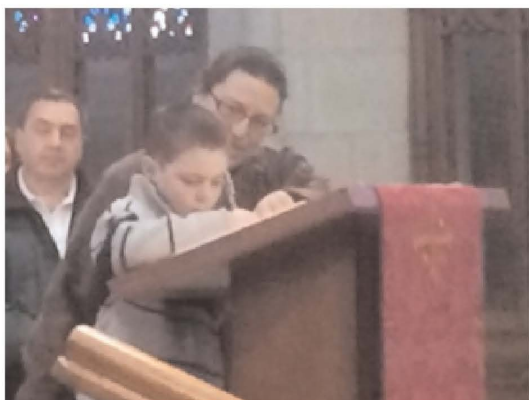
Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



RITE OF ELECTION

'The RCIA made it easy to learn and understand the basics of Catholicism'



Young Hunter Cash signs the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates held Feb. 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Hunter will receive the sacraments of initiation at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena. He is shown with his sponsor, Theresa Demo.



Bishop LaValley greets Dennis Bradley, catechumen for St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake, and his wife Carrie.



Dr. John McLaughlin of Norwood and St. Mary's Church, Massena, a candidate, meets Bishop LaValley as his sponsor Dr. Charles Robinson looks on.

By Julia Lashomb
Member, Diocesan Catechumenate Committee

When you have been raised Catholic you wonder where the people come from who want to be received into the Catholic Church. Some have been baptized Christian but never received the other sacraments of initiation. Others have never been baptized. Some hear about the RCIA process by word of mouth, flyers, and ads in the paper and bulletin announcements. No matter where they come from their lives are changed during the process and after they are able to receive the sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

The following remarks are from a man who has taken part in the RCIA process at Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence Parish in Massena. Comments from other new Catholics will appear in upcoming issues of the *NCC*.

John states that as a new Catholic I now have a deeper relationship with God through the Trinity. I know that we are children of

God, and He has a purpose for each of our lives which can be discovered through prayer and hearing His word. I know that the Church is the Body of Christ, and the sacraments are for our benefit to strengthen His body.

I know that the Church is indeed bible-based and the scriptures areas relevant today as when they were written. Modern interpretation is available for us to inculcate His word more easily. I know that we are invited to His ministry through the church community and can serve with gifts and talents He has given us can be used and developed. For me, I feel more confident in my faith and that I have a solid foundation and resources to use when needed.

The RCIA made it easy to learn and understand the basics of Catholicism. The classes offered us opportunities to explore our own questions and see things from each other's various perspectives. It gave us views on current topics as well as many historical and traditional stories. I see life

In support of RCIA

Members of the Diocesan Catechumenate Committee meet regularly to support parishes in their efforts to Wards implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children. The committee members are Father Daniel Chapin, pastor in Croghan; Deacon Patrick Donahue, Western regional director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation; Pamela Ballantine, eastern regional director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation; Julia Lashomb, Massena; Starr Burke, Plattsburgh; and Stephen Bateman, Ogdensburg.

in Christ as a journey, and understand how God is in all things along the way. I believe we can discover Him in places we wouldn't expect to if we're open to seeking His presence.

I've become more aware of His closeness to us when we listen and obey His prompting through prayer and scripture. I've learned to pray regularly, whether it be a simple silent prayer while working or kneeling in a pew at church.



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE PHOTOGRAPHY

Bishop LaValley is shown after the Rite of Election with candidates who will commit to full communion with the Catholic Church at parishes across the diocese at Easter.

Diocesan summer youth camps are announced

Two youth camping programs for the summer of 2016 in the diocese of Ogdensburg have been announced

Camp Guggenheim

Registration for Camp Guggenheim 2016 is now open.

Camp Guggenheim is located on Lower Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. The Camp operates six weekly sessions from late June through August. Each weekly Camp begins on Sunday at 3 pm and concludes with Liturgy on Friday at 1:30 pm.

Each week-long session provides campers with a mix of faith, fun, and adventure. Camp activities include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, arts & crafts, campfires, dances and more.

Faith formation and growth is at the heart of the Guggenheim experience and is an important part of every day! Campers are actively involved in living out and sharing their faith.

Dates for 12-15 year olds are: Week 1: June 26 - July 1; Week 2: July 3-8; Week 3: July 10-15; Week 4: July 17-22 and Week 5: July 24-29.

The program for 16-18 year olds will be held July 31-Aug. 5.

Contact: For online information and registration of campers see www.rcdony.org/youth/guggenheim.html.

Further information or registration without a computer is available by calling the diocesan Youth Office 315-393-2920.

Catholic Heart Work Camp

Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) has announced that it will be returning to Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg this summer, from Sunday, June 26 to Friday, July 1.

This week-long camp is open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2016) and college students.

CHWC is a national organization whose mission is to inspire young people to live as disciples of Christ through serving others and to foster

the Catholic faith of each participant.

During the week, campers will volunteer at various sites throughout the Ogdensburg area during the day and participate in fun, faith-building programs in the evening. Daily Mass, adoration, penance and prayer nourish campers for their work in the community.

The cost is \$375 per person, which includes meals, lodging, transportation to the work sites, t-shirts and snacks.

For information about the Ogdensburg camp or to register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com.

Also, additional information about CHWC can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



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

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



Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 25 – 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop's Residence

Feb. 26 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Feb. 27 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4 p.m., Mass for Campus Ministry Retreat at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Feb. 28 – 9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls

Feb. 29 – 10:30 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting with the Deans of the Diocese in the Brzana Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 1 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence

March 2 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 24 – Rev. George Belanger, 1932;

Feb. 25 – Rev. William Howard, 1888; Rev. P.J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1895; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912; Msgr. L. Kevin Connors, 1971

Feb. 26 – Rev. Francis X. LaChance, 1916; Rev. John F. Wiley, 1984

March 1 – Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, 1997

To Report Abuse

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

Environmental Stewardship

Lent...A Springtime for the Soul

The etymology of the word Lent means "springtime." How can this Lenten Season be a time that brings 'springtime' of new life to my relationship with God, with my sisters and brothers, and with the earth itself?

The first Sunday of Lent focuses our attention on Jesus who is "led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days" (Lk. 4:1) to fast and pray before he embarks on his public ministry. The Church's tradition of fasting provides us with an opportunity to be more mindful of the act of eating. When we pray Grace at meals during Lent, it can be a time to remember of how connected we are to all of Creation. "The act of eating unites us to the soil, water, and animals of this planet like nothing else." (Lent 4.2 Program, published by Liturgical Press) Pope Francis tells us "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature."

In the words of Thomas Merton, "From the moment you put a piece of bread in your mouth you are part of the world. Who grew the wheat? Who made the bread? Where did it come from? You are in relationship with all who brought it to the table. We are least separate and most in common when we eat and drink."

Our patterns of buying and eating have an impact on the whole of creation. Did you know that pound for pound, livestock requires more water, land, and energy than growing grains and vegetables. Nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger or malnutrition while much of the corn and soy grown in the world feeds cattle, pigs, and chickens. (Lent 4.2 Program) Consider the impact from simply choosing to eat less meat this week, as the Church encourages us to do during Lent.

Catholic Daughters donate to military groups

WILLSBORO – The Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Joan of Arc #867 has shown support for the military with donations through the past year.

Members Jan Orłowski and Robin Pearce undertook research to discover which groups would benefit most from funds raised from the court's annual bake sale. After several discussions, the court decided that the Cup of Joe for Joe, the North Country Honor Flight and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #179 would be the recipients.

• Cup of Joe for a Joe is a way to express support to the military men and women serving overseas through the simple act of buying a cup of premium coffee and having it delivered along with a personalized message of thanks. The court's donation will send free coffee to 25

different service members overseas.

• The North Country Honor Flight exists to honor the veterans of the North Country with a trip to Washington, D.C. so they can experience the thanks of a grateful nation. St. Joan of Arc's donation will help fund their next trip. In addition to monetary donations, they are in need of guardians to accompany the veterans on this trip and volunteers to see them off and greet them on their return.

• The Disabled American Veterans Chapter #179 has a mission of helping eligible veterans receive their rightful benefits and services that they earned through their sacrifices for their country. The court's donation will help fund a new van transporting veterans to medical appointments at the VA Hospital in Albany.



Members of the Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Joan of Arc #867 are shown as they present a \$100 donation to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #179. From left are Greg Lee, Laurie Mero, Pat Trzaskos, Shirley Estes, Tina Bigelow and Commander Gary Hamel.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!




Who will replace Sister in the fields?

Go to:

<http://www.rcdony.org/episcopal-delegate-for-religious/consecrated-life.html>

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC



*Join us as we walk together in our
Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled
Journey of Faith*

Subscribe to the *North Country Catholic* today



Subscribe online at our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org
 call or office at 315-608-7556



Order your 2016 Diocesan Directory!



The Official 2016 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at www.northcountrycatholic.org or call our office at 315-608-7556 to order yours today!

\$15.00 each

FACES OF FAITH



PHOTO BY HEIDI SAMPLE

Members of the Catholic Community of Burke & Chateaugay Youth Group in conjunction with the Chateaugay Community Bowling Alley sponsored a Family Bowling Day event to help raise money for charity Jan. 31. The students raised \$186 and chose to award the money to the Chateaugay Central School Athletic Association. From left are members from the CCS Athletic Association, Josh Secore, Nathan Roach, Dylan LaBare, Derek, LaBare and Rebecca Roach, Mr. LaPlante, Leena Hoseler, representing Chateaugay Community Bowl; and youth group members, Madison McComb, Ainsley Crawford, Drew Crawford, Kennedy Boyea, Anna Dalton, Luke Dalton, Hannah Cook, and Cody Warriner.



The Office of the New Evangelization exists as a resource to parishes, groups and individuals. Some ways that our office can assist:

WORKSHOPS FOR PARISH EVANGELIZATION

Establishing a Parish Evangelization Team
Forming Intentional Disciples workshops
Workshops on Documents: *Go and Make Disciples*, *Disciples called to Witness*, *Evangelization in the Modern World*, *Joy of the Gospel*, *On the Role of the Laity*, etc.
Evangelization through Social Media
Welcoming Catholics Home

SPEAKING TO GROUPS

Telling our Story, Sharing our Faith
The New Evangelization and You
TV, Movies, Games and Evangelization
Speaking to and supporting Young Adult Groups

SUGGESTING RESOURCES

The Office of the New Evangelization can suggest books, DVD-series, and other material for group study, prayer groups, and individual enrichment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Marika Donders, Director at mdonders@rcdony.org or see www.rcdony.org/evangelization



The Northern Conference of the Knights of Columbus recently held a Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh. Pictured are John Recore, Jim Recore, Clarence Rampersad, Joseph Dubuque, and Robert Rodier, all of Plattsburgh; Father Tojo Chacko, Massena; Walter Todd, Star Lake; Father Justin Thomas, Ogdensburg; and Clayton Luce, Old Forge; missing from the photo, Father Patrick Mundy, Plattsburgh.



Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Warm up with Good News!

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

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

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

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:
 New Subscription Renewal

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



Leave A Legacy

Ways to give through our Planned Giving Program include:

- * *Charitable Gift Annuities*
- * *Bequests/Wills*
- * *Gifts of Stock*
- * *Gifts of Life Insurance*
- * *Gifts through Memorials/Tributes*
- * *Gifts of US Savings Bonds*
- * *Endowment Gifts*
- * *IRA Contributions*



The beneficiary choices for your gift can include:

- * The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- * The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- * Your Parish or Catholic School
- * The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- * The Priests Retirement Fund
- * The Bishop's Fund
- * Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- * Catholic Charities
- * Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- * St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- * Any Diocesan institution of your choice



For more information please contact:

Scott Lalone, Executive Director
 Development Office
 PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.
 315-393-2920 Ext. 1330
 slalone@rcdony.org



VATICAN LETTER

News flash: the pope is human

During trip to Mexico, Pope Francis delights many and frustrates some, too

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The pope is human. Pope Francis demonstrated that in Mexico, as he does wherever he goes, and most people find it attractive most of the time.

In Pope Francis, Catholics can see a real person trying to live his faith in a complicated world. Sometimes he waves at them and they can see the frayed edges of his soutane sleeve. When his sciatica is acting up, he needs extra help going down steps. His aides do not keep his reading glasses, so sometimes he fumbles with the soutane pocket trying to get them out.

Crowds "ahhh" when he tenderly strokes the face of an obviously sick person, and they applaud when he gives a big hug to a child. However, they can be shocked when the human side of the pope is impatience or downright anger like it was Feb. 16 in Morelia, Mexico, when one of the thousands of people who grab the pope at public events yanked him, pulling him on top of a person seated in a wheelchair.

"What's the matter with you?" the pope snapped. "Don't be selfish!"

While security officers helped the pope back up, Pope Francis caressed the face of the boy he'd fallen on.

The off-the-cuff Pope Francis is very human, too. That touches people who experience a pope really listening to them and who is taking notes as people ask him questions. It sometimes frustrates journalists who are given his prepared remarks in advance, knowing full well that he may use lit-



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis embraces Rodrigo Lopez Miranda, 5, as he visits the Federico Gomez Children's Hospital of Mexico in Mexico City Feb. 14. At left is Mexico's first lady Angelica Rivera.

tle or none of the printed text.

For people who do not usually agree with Pope Francis, the ad-libbing is just a nightmare. And, those spontaneous remarks can be frustratingly incomplete or imprecise.

But the pope knows that. For example, when he speaks about the growing gap between the rich and poor, he openly approximates. "If I'm not mistaken -- the figures are approximate -- but more or less 80 percent of human wealth is in the hands of less than 20 percent of the population," he said Feb. 10 at his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

When people call Pope Francis "the pope of surprises," they usually say it with a delighted sense of expectation. But there are people in the world who really don't like surprises.

As far back as the papal trips of St. John Paul II, journalists have valued being on the papal plane because it is the only time they are guaranteed a chance to ask the pope questions. Popes do not hold regular news conferences. With Pope Francis, unlike with Pope Benedict XVI, the questions are not submitted in advance, and his answers almost always make the news.

Flying back from Mexico Feb. 17, Pope Francis was

asked to react to Donald Trump's accusations that the pope is political and, since the pope had just celebrated Mass at the Mexican-U.S. border, he also was asked to comment on Trump's proposal to build a wall along the entire length of the border and deport millions of immigrants. Pope Francis answered, "If he says these things, this man is not Christian."

The pope was less clear in responding to a question about whether "avoiding pregnancy" could be considered a "lesser evil" when facing the possibility of birth defects from the Zika virus. The pope used the word "contraception" when refer-

ring to Blessed Paul VI allowing women religious in the Belgian Congo in the 1960s to take the pill to avoid becoming pregnant if they were the victim of rape, which was being used as a weapon of war.

Then, answering the question about Zika, he said, "Avoiding pregnancy is not an absolute evil. In certain cases, such as the one I mentioned of Blessed Paul VI, it was clear." The answer led to headlines saying the pope said it was possible that using birth control in response to Zika could be tolerated.

The pope's responses to journalists, particularly, to the Trump question and to the Zika question made a splash in the news and on social media.

Thomas Peters, who tweets as @AmericanPapist, tweeted, "For the 1 millionth time, no more in-flight papal news conferences please!" And a bit later, he added, "Seriously, who believes that off-the-cuff interviews at 30,000 feet after a weeklong international trip is a good idea anymore?"

Pope Francis' answer to another question, one that did not make the news, also illustrates his human side. He was asked what he was praying for during the 20 minutes he sat before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

He said he prayed for so many things that Mary, "poor thing," probably had a headache when he was done. He said he prayed for forgiveness, for the growth of the church, for the Mexican people, for priests, nuns, bishops. "I asked for a lot."

But he would not say more or give more details. "The things a child tells his mother are kind of secret," he explained.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Appeals court rules against EWTN, other Catholic groups on mandate
ATLANTA (CNS) -- The head of the Eternal Word Television Network said Feb. 18 that a federal appeals court ruling handed down earlier that day "in effect" orders the Catholic global network "to violate its religious beliefs and comply" with the federal contraceptive mandate or "pay massive fines to the IRS. We are extremely disappointed that the court has refused to protect our religious freedom," Michael P. Warsaw, EWTN chairman and CEO, said in a statement. In a 2-1 decision, a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta upheld the Health and Human Services mandate that is part of the federal health care law. In one decision, the panel ruled on two cases. One was filed by EWTN, based in Irondale, Alabama, and the other was filed by Catholic entities in Georgia -- the Atlanta Archdiocese, Catholic Education of North Georgia Inc. and the Savannah Diocese. The majority opinion rejected the Catholic organizations' argument that complying with a requirement it opposes on moral grounds violates its freedom of religion. The decision also dismissed the groups' position that they would be unduly burdened by the Obama administration's "work-around" whereby they could notify HHS in writing of their religious objections and a third-party administrator would be told by the government to provide the objectionable coverage at no charge to employees. However, the ruling also said the HHS mandate should not be enforced until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on the issue.

Synods should get more input from lay faithful, church experts say
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- An assembly of bishops at the Vatican should have more input from the lay faithful, said church experts attending a seminar hosted by the head of the Synod of Bishops. A renewed understanding of the role of the people of God and their bishops "warrants considering not just the bishop of Rome (the pope) and the episcopate in the synodal process, but also the lay faithful," said a communique issued by the synod's secretary general, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri. The communique, released by the Vatican press office Feb. 17, provided a brief summary of the conclusions reached by a seminar held Feb. 6-9 at the Vatican. Sponsored by the synod's secretary-general, the gathering looked at the Synod of Bishops as being at the service of a "synodal church." Participants, who included professors and experts in ecclesiology and canon law from all over the world, reflected on Pope Francis' call "to overcome self-referentiality in the ordained ministries in order to go back to seeing bishops as those" who each represent their local diocese and together represent the entire church, the statement said. This rediscovery of the bishop's relationship to the local and universal church and the role of the lay faithful requires rethinking ways lay Catholics can play a bigger part in the entire synodal process -- in preparing for a synod, in the actual gathering and in implementing final decisions, it said.

Justice Scalia remembered as both an upstanding Catholic and jurist

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Tributes to the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia poured in almost as soon as news emerged of his Feb. 13 death at a Texas ranch while on a hunting trip.

Scalia "was routinely described as a conservative, and so he was. He held fast to a lot of traditional values. He loved his church, his wife and nine children, and his country. He favored small government over big, and local over national," said a Feb. 14 column by Catholic University of America president John Garvey written for Catholic News Service. "But as a judge he was a democrat, not a conservative, and his death diminishes by one strong voice our commitment to constitutional democracy."

"Justice Scalia was arguably the most consequential Catholic in American public life since the death of John F. Kennedy," said Villanova University law professor Michael Moreland, a former domestic policy adviser to President George W. Bush, in a Feb. 15 statement. "Justice Scalia remarked once during a visit to Villanova that there is no such thing as a 'Catholic judge' just as there is no such thing as a Catholic way to cook a hamburger," Moreland added.

"But, in his commitment to textualism, penetrating prose style, and aspects of his jurisprudence, there are marks of his Jesuit education and lifelong Catholic faith. While Justice Scalia thought contentious social and moral questions were best left to the political process and not to the judiciary, he increasingly came to worry about the state of the legal culture in ways that were inevitably

informed by his Catholicism."

Justice Scalia was arguably the most consequential Catholic in American public life since the death of John F. Kennedy

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who represents the Trenton-area district where Scalia was born, said in a Feb. 15 statement that Scalia was "an extraordinary man of deep faith, great intellect and with -- who wrote complex legal analysis with a strength and clarity that will leave an enduring mark on American jurisprudence.

Smith added, "His commitment to the Constitution, as written and not as interpreted, and to the separation of powers among the three branches of government, led to Justice Scalia's ongoing concern about actions by the Supreme Court which he deemed 'legislating from the bench' and which he vehemently opposed with his persuasive arguments and votes. A truly gifted writer, he offered articulate, consistent and persuasive opinions on the important issues of our time."

A challenge to the federal Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate under the Affordable Care Act is one of several cases scheduled to be heard in March by the now-eight-member high court.

Calling Scalia "very witty and funny," Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore dwelt more on his legal mind. "Whether one agrees or not with his juridical approach, he was a brilliant jurist. I think that even those who disagreed with him widely appreciated him and he took positions that were widely appreciated within

the church."

The archbishop also took note of the vacancy on the bench, given the upcoming hearing on the HHS mandate. "There's no doubt that (Scalia's) death introduces instability in the court and that instability is a source of concern," he said.

"The community of Thomas Aquinas is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia," said a Feb. 13 statement from Michael F. McLean, president of Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. "A faithful Catholic, a patriot and a brilliant jurist, Justice Scalia will long be remembered for his fidelity to the Constitution of the United States," McLean added, calling his death "an enormous loss for our country."

At the court, in keeping with tradition, Scalia's bench chair and the bench directly in front of it have been draped with black wool crepe in his memory. There also is a black drape hanging over the courtroom doors. According to a Supreme Court news release, the tradition dates back at least as far as 1873 when Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase died.

President Barack Obama ordered flags to be flown at half-staff at the high court and other federal buildings throughout the country, as well as at U.S. embassies and military installations throughout the world.

Scalia's current and past colleagues on the Supreme Court each issued separate statements.

"He was an extraordinary individual and jurist, admired and treasured by his colleagues," said a Feb. 13 statement by Chief Justice John Roberts. "His passing is a great loss to the court and the country he so loyally served."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Getting out of our comfort zones for Lent

The first reading this Sunday gives us a favorite story. It's about Moses and the burning bush.

Imagine Moses, who at this point, is just a lowly shepherd, living in exile in Midian when he wanders with his sheep to the Holy Mountain and there sees a bush on fire - and the bush is not destroyed.

Filled with curiosity, he moves closer.

When he hears a divine command, he takes off his sandals.

Then God calls him to go

on a mission to free the Israelites. He gives God excuse after excuse in protest, but to no avail. God then reveals His name to Moses: "I am who Am,,,tell them that Yahweh sent you."

In fear and trembling, Moses goes back to Egypt to announce God's decision to the elders.

On our Christian journey through Lent, as we hear read the stories about the

prophets, and listen to the teaching of Jesus, there is a danger that we'll keep the same cozy distance that we

do when watching a TV drama or an old movie.

Should we stick to our comfort zone this Sunday as we hear Jesus struggle to convince his "righteous" hearers that it's time for action, time for them to repent of their sins and change their ways before God's grows tired, and brings them to final justice?

Toward the end of the Gospel, Jesus tells them about the owner of the vineyard who wants to cut down his barren fig tree. Year after year, he's waited. Now he's tired of waiting. Fortunately, he's persuaded to wait just one more year... just one more year!

FEB. 28

Third Sunday of Lent
READINGS

Exodus 3:1-8:1, 13-15

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

God, in His mercy, is so very patient with us.

That fig tree is a symbol of each one of us today.

In what way have we perhaps exhausted God's patience? Lent is the time for some action on our part that will remedy that.

St. Paul, in his exhortation

to the Corinthians, is urging them not to be complacent at all the good they have done, but to make sure they have gotten rid of any sinfulness.

How about us? Are there sins that we've been unwilling to part from?

God is calling each of us this week to move out of slavery into the desert freedom of prayer and penance. Above all, we throw ourselves on God's mercy. That, of course, means making a good confession - at least once - during this season of grace.

"Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness."



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

RESPECT LIFE

To prepare to vote: dig deeper than the debates

by Kathleen M. Gallagher
Director, Pro-Life activities for the
New York State Catholic Conference

Is it just me, or are you as weary of these presidential debates as I am?

I am so tired of the malicious, childish and rehearsed behavior --- of the candidates and the modera-

tors as well -- that I can no longer watch. They play out like Republican and Democratic reality shows, alternating between spews of venom and strings of boredom. Give me a Law and Order rerun, an episode of House Hunters, a basketball game, anything but these God-awful spectacles.

The sudden death of U.S.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia made the South Carolina debate seem more uncharitable than usual, as his passing on that very day was politicized before the country even had a chance to mourn. To borrow Uncle Jesse's famous phrase on Full House, "Have mercy!"

Coming from me, an admitted political news junkie, this is quite a statement. What are we voters to do?

The simple answer is, we have to dig deeper. And, yes, we have to have mercy.

As citizens of this great country, we enjoy all the rights and privileges and protections of the United States of America. We are blessed. But along with those rights come certain responsibilities. And chief among them is the moral obligation to inform ourselves about our political choices. If the television performances (and they are performances) are not informing us, then we must do it ourselves.

Virtually every candidate

running for office has a website, not to mention a Facebook page, a Twitter feed and various other apps for your phone. You could

start there, but quite frankly, those are just going to give you more carefully scripted acts. As an alternative, I recommend "On the Issues" at www.OntheIssues.org.



Kathleen
Gallagher

"On the Issues" lists all of the 2016 Presidential candidates and

their positions on a wide range of issues, from international issues of war and peace, to domestic issues like health care and gun control, to social issues like abortion and education, to economic issues like tax reform and Social Security. It doesn't rate anybody, attack anybody or endorse anybody. It simply gives you each candidate's positions, based on things they have said on the record, with sources for every quote. I find it helpful.

It's also critically important to understand what our faith teaches about the pressing issues of the day. For that I recommend the U.S. Bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" documents, all available by going to www.faithfulcitizenship.org. There is a wealth of information here, like the key principles of Catholic teaching and how to apply them to a broad range of issues. There are also lots of resources you can share with your parish, like prayer and liturgy suggestions, bulletin inserts and announcements, and do's/don'ts for the election season.

Digging deeper for a closer examination of our political choices requires more time and effort than just sitting in front of the television. Yet our faith calls us to do just that. Because we are Catholic, we must demonstrate that we care about the future of this country; that we value civility, morality, mercy, and true public service; and that we vote.

Start today. There is much to be done.

Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness, so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

AT THE MOVIES... BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS

RISEN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

In days of yore, Hollywood knew how to make Christian themes pay off at the box office. Though the result was not always decorous - risqué content in 1932's "The Sign of the Cross" helped spur the formation of the National Legion of Decency - they were sometimes spectacular.

And so there arose the biblical epic, a genre which gave us such iconic spectacles as the chariot race in 1959's "Ben-Hur" and such memorable lines as Pharaoh's imperious order in "The Ten Commandments" (1956): "So let it be written. So let it be done."

The formula behind such films blended some of Western civilization's most familiar narratives - scriptural literacy then being a much more widespread asset than it is today --with action sequences and, preferably, a love story.

High-caliber special ef-

fects, whether they involved slave-powered sea battles or the parting of the Red Sea into towering walls of water, were another purely secular draw. It's a recipe few were cooking up in the last third of the 20th century, however.

Avoiding alienation from the sacred source material without, on the other hand, declining into a lazy stance of believers-versus-the-world piety can be a tricky business. But the makers of the Resurrection-themed drama "Risen" (Columbia) have pulled it off to splendid effect.

Wisely, writer-director Kevin Reynolds begins by giving us a hard-bitten, cynical protagonist.

Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), the Roman tribune at the heart of "Risen," is too battle-weary and blood-soaked to entertain any easy hopes for the world. So the execution of Jesus (Cliff Curtis), which he witnesses almost accidentally, makes little impression on him.

Similarly, when his supe-

rior and patron, Pontius Pilate (Peter Firth), orders Clavius, a few days later, to investigate the disappearance of the crucified man's body, it strikes the jaded officer as just one more task in the endless work of maintaining Roman sovereignty over a religion-crazed populace. As Caiaphas (Stephen Greif) explains, Jesus' fanatic followers are spreading wild rumors of his return from the dead, so physical proof is needed to contradict their crazy fable.

Assisted by Lucius (Tom Felton), an ambitious, though untested, junior officer whose major qualification for serving as Clavius' aide-de-camp lies in the fact that he's a family friend of Pilate's, Clavius sets out on what he imagines will be a straightforward hunt for a corpse. Instead, of course, the pursuit turns out to have life-altering consequences for him.

Fine acting, lavish settings and the sense of humor frequently evident in Reynolds' script all add up to an un-



CNS PHOTO/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Joseph Fiennes and Tom Felton star in a scene from the movie "Risen."

usually effective big-screen treatment of the origins of Christianity.

Fiennes is especially impressive as the solitary, combat-haunted warrior whose relentlessly practical outlook offers nonbelievers a ready path into the story of the Resurrection. And Maria Botto brings transcen-

dent joy to the character of Mary Magdalene.

The film contains some harsh but mostly bloodless violence and a few disturbing images. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

Book advocates using science to deepen faith

By Agostino Bono
Catholic News Service

Walking hand in hand through history has not been easy for science and faith. People on both sides too often and easily toss invectives at the other, such as "superstition" and "heresy."

At the same time, ambitious historical efforts have been made, going back at least to the fourth-century St. Augustine of Hippo, to

reconcile or bridge some of the gaps between the two.

True, faith and science abide comfortably in many people; but so far no one has succeeded in convincing all of the diverse mentalities in either camp to accept a basic compatibility.

Adding his voice to the reconciliation effort is Michael Dennin. A cradle Catholic who continues to attend Mass regularly and is active in parish life, Dennin also is a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of California, Irvine. Dennin's book, "Divine Science," uses his faith and scientific knowledge to make a case that believers should embrace science as a tool for deepening their belief.

As others before him,

Dennin uses several key building blocks to make his case: science can't prove or disprove the existence of God; the Bible is not a scientific textbook; science can tell us how the earth and its inhabitants came to be but can't tell us why this occurred; science deals with the physical while theology and philosophy deal with the nonphysical.

To these, he adds a definition of God as the "fullness of reality," the "I am who am" of the Old Testament. His thesis is that as science helps us understand the reality of the physical world, this knowledge deepens our understanding and personal relationship to God, the "fullness of reality." While arguments over the existence of God can be fruit-

less, believers and scientists can more easily come together to discuss what is reality, goes his argument.

Dennin squarely confronts scientific evidence that many things described in the Bible could not have occurred, such as God creating the world in six days. He parries this by debunking literal biblical interpretations such as creationism, noting that the Bible is more interested in conveying truths rather than facts.

The book is strongest and most convincing in its chapters on creation and evolution.

In these, Dennin uses the metaphor of a fetus in the womb: The mother represents God while the fetus represents creation and evolution. The fetus is depend-

ent on the mother/God but is destined to become independent while still sharing in the identity/reality of the mother/God.

Dennin is not so convincing in discussing biblical miracles and the afterlife. His basic argument is that while science may not be able to prove specific miracles or the afterlife, it does provide academic underpinnings that these things may be possible.

Despite some failings, Dennin succeeds in his overall aim of showing believers that science is an aid rather than an obstacle to furthering their faith.

Like science, "true faith, agile faith, dynamic faith is about constant reflection, constant revision, and constant refinement," he writes.

About the book

"Divine Science: Finding Reason at the Heart of Faith" by Michael Dennin. Franciscan Media (Cincinnati, 2015). 288 pp., \$16.99.

ADIRONDACK

END OF LIFE ISSUES

Saranac Lake - Join Kathy Gallagher from the NYS Catholic Conference to discuss proposed NYS Legislation on Physician Assisted Suicide and the Catholic understanding on End of Life issues.

Date: March 19
Time: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Place: St. Bernard's Church
Cost: \$20 will be accepted to help with the cost of lunch and materials.
Features: Includes testimony of JJ Hanson, a former Marine, husband and father who will share the story of his will to fight against a terminal cancer.

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 Gacia, 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: Curt Stager at cstager@paul-smiths.edu or Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ at srbethysj@gmail.com

CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

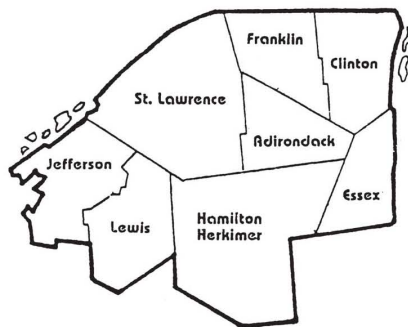
Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.
Date: March 6 and April 3
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph's Church parish hall
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

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 30
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

ANNUAL FISH FRY

Chazy - Sacred Heart Church to have its annual fish fry.



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

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

Date: March 18
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 8:30
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Cost: Adults \$10; Children 6-12, \$5. Take outs available for \$10.
Features: fried perch, macaroni and cheese, tater tots, cole slaw, dessert.

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

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Malone - A Jubilee of Mercy observance called for by Pope Francis has been planned for Franklin Deanery
Date: March 4-5
Time: 1 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Saturday
Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: Adoration of the Blessed Sacra.m.ent will continue for 24 hours (throughout the night); the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung at 3 p.m. on Friday; Confessions will be heard on Friday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (with two priests available at all times).

SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Malone - A service of meditations on the Passion for the beginning of Holy Week has been planned by the music ministry of St. André Bessette Parish
Date: March 20 (Palm Sunday)
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church
Features: Readings from Scripture, written reflections by the saints and other authors, and songs for both choir and congregation.

JEFFERSON

DIVINE COMEDY

Watertown - Immaculate Heart Central School is hosting Dan Reynolds' "Divine Comedy" presentation "How to give yourself a 'faith-lift' with humor."
Date: March 8
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: IHC; free and open to the public.
Presenter: Dan Reynolds, a professional cartoonist and part-time coordinator of parish life at Divine Mercy Parish in Central Square, NY. A native of Oswego, he graduated from SUNY Oswego, spent four year in the Navy and then worked 22 years at the Oswego City County Youth Bureau as the Youth Activities Coordinator. For the past 25 years, Dan has been a professional cartoonist. His cartoon work is distributed nationally via National Greeting card companies like American Greetings. He has five nationally published books with Andrews

McMeel Publishing, the publishers of Calvin and Hobbes and The Far Side. He and his wife, parents of four sons, reside in Brewerton.

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS

Clayton - The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Mary's and St. John's Churches present "The Way of the Cross", a dramatic presentation of the Passion and Death of the Lord.
Date: March 25
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Church
Contact: St. Mary's Parish office, 686-3398 or Christine Woodley, 778-5125.

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.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - A Spaghetti and meatball dinner will be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.
Date: March 5
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown - Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

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

Date	Place		Time
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, SSS, Director
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
 mbrett@rcdony.org

Discover the Missio App

Missio is a mobile digital technology platform that offers a direct, reliable and communal way to be a change-maker in some of the world's poorest places. Direct: Missio gives you an unfiltered access to those in greatest need – and to those who are making the greatest difference in their lives.

Reliable: Our existing global network guarantees that your support will go directly to the project and the people that you select.

Communal: You can get in touch with others close by or friends around the world to make a difference.

What is Missio?

Missio is an online tool that connects people to the people to change the world, providing a variety of ways to show your support: give, share or act. Who is Missio? Pope Francis launched Missio from the Pontifical Mission Societies in May 2013 as a way to disseminate news of heroic work being done all over the world. The latest version of Missio makes connecting people with people and projects so much easier.

Missio is an app you may download from iTunes or GooglePlay. It is currently available for iOS and Android, and a web based interface is under development. Below is an example of something you may find on Missio....

News From The Change-Makers...

Tuberculosis is one of the most common infectious diseases worldwide. While significant progress has been made toward its elimination in the United States, this disease remains an urgent public health threat in many other parts of the world. In the Philippines, Sister Maureen Cejas is working to change that.

At the Canossa Health and Social Center, she and the other Sisters in her Community serve the poorest of the poor who are sick and suffering. Patients receive free health care and pastoral care. Last year, the center treated 100 adults and 40 children with tuberculosis. The Center has a 98 to 100% cure rate for tuberculosis, in fact; the world target for success: 85%. There is also outreach to address the nutrition needs of poor children and families, specifically treating malnourishment.

Through the Pontifical Mission Societies' new app, Missio, Sister Maureen and her team of change-makers received support to collect food to feed its young patients and to purchase the necessary equipment and medications for tuberculosis treatments. In just four days on Missio, the project raised its target of \$1,000.

Through Missio, you can also be a change-maker with Sister Maureen and other missionaries half a world away. As she and the smiling children say in the video they posted on Missio, "thank you... we love you... we pray for you!" Watch on Missio for updates on updates on how that support is used – and for another project from Sister Maureen.

Through Missio, you can also be a change-maker with Sister Maureen and other missionaries half a world away.

Download the new Missio app today!

OBITUARIES

Bombay – Gerald F. Jock, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Burke – Freeda H. Whitney, 98; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. George's Church; burial in Ridgeway Cemetery,

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

Lowville – Nancy C. (Feisthamel) Boliver, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Lowville – Shirley E. Dening McGrath, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2016 at St. Peter's Church.

Malone – Martin "Marty" G. Bissonette, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Bernard L. M. Ashley, 65; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2016 at Donaldson Funeral Home.

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

Massena – Joseph R. Romeo, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Bertha M. (Martin) Wood, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Phillips Cemetery.

Norfolk – Agatha P. (Robideau) Carson, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2016, at Church of the Visitation; burial in parish cemetery.

Newcomb – Elizabeth Mary Fennessy; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Therese; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Ambrose J. Kipp, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2016 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Byron T. "Joe" Mosher Jr., 86; Memorial Services March 18, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in So. Glens Falls.

Redford – Dona J. (Hart) Parnell, 72; Fu-

neral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at Church of the Assumption.

Rouses Point – Rodney J. Harvey, 57; Funeral Feb. 22, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Raymond A. Susice, 85; Funeral Feb. 18, 2016 at St. Ann's Church.

Tupper Lake – Gloria "Dolly" May La-Pointe Gerrelts, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Parish Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Alan LaFlamme, 53; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Theresa A. (LaLonde) Yaworski, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Peter E. Hare, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Westville – Odena Emma (Henault) Chatland, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2016 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

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

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
 is on
FACEBOOK

 ● Find Us
 ● Like Us
 ● Follow Us

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
 Rosary
 Fasting
 Day Offering
 Eucharistic Adoration
 Offering of Sufferings
 Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

March

 St. Joseph

DIocese of OGDENSBURG, NY **MARCH 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more copies write to: Diocese of Ogdensburg, PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669	BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	1 REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN	2 REV. THOMAS KOENMEYER	3 REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	4 REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG	5 REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG
6 REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF V.F.	7 REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. ROBERT O. LAMITTE	10 REV. VICTOR E. LAMORE	11 REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	12 REV. PAUL F. LEDERMANN
13 REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS	14 REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	18 REV. DOUGLAS J. LUCIA	19 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH
20 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED V.F.	21 REV. GEORGE F. MAROUN	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	24 MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	25 MSGR. ROBERT J. MCCARTHY	26 REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN
27 REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS	28 REV. BERNARD D. MENARD	29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	31 REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU		

For more information visit us online at: www.mprapostolate.com
 A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.
 The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg www.myvocation.net
 Vocation Society

