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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 33

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 3, 2016

Pope: poor at center of Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Evangelizing the poor is central to the Gospel message and is less about giving social assistance than about converting hearts and healing wounds, Pope Francis said.

A Christian is a missionary called "to proclaim the Gospel with words and, even before that, with one's life," he said Jan. 24 before recit-

ing the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square. "To evangelize the poor: this is the mission of Jesus, according to what he himself says," the pope said. "This is also the mission of the church and of every person baptized in the church." In the day's Gospel reading from St. Luke, Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth pro-

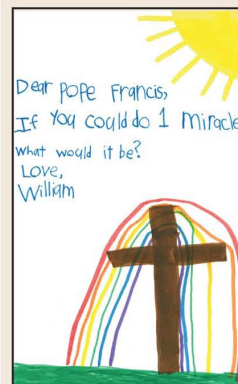
claims the fulfillment of Isaiah's call to "bring glad tidings to the poor."

Jesus' words, Pope Francis said, summarize the work of evangelization and demonstrate his priority for "those who are furthest away: the suffering, the sick and those discarded by society. What does it mean to evangelize the poor?" the pope asked.

"It means above all being close to them, having the joy of serving them, freeing them from oppression, and all this in the name of and with the spirit of Christ, because he is the Gospel of God, he is the mercy of God, he is the liberation of God. It is he who was made poor in order to enrich us with his poverty," he said.

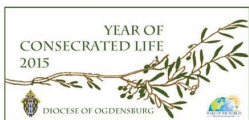
'DEAR POPE FRANCIS'

Children's questions become a book



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY LOYOLA PRESS
This is one of many drawings by children ages 6-13 that appear in the book "Dear Pope Francis," which will be published March 1. "What did God do before the world was made?" one child asked. "Do bad people have a guardian angel, too?" asked another. In the book, coordinated and published by the U.S.-based Loyola Press, Pope Francis responds to those and 28 other queries; some of the questions are theological, others are practical and a few are about the pope personally, including what the pope wanted to be when he grew up.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12



Year of Consecrated Life concludes

With the Feast of the Presentation, Feb. 2, the worldwide celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life came to an end. Bishop Terry R. LaValley shared a message about the year noting that "although their numbers have diminished significantly, the impact of the ministry of these women and men on the lives of the faithful continues to be strong."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Christian Unity

Scenes from the annual diocesan ecumenical service held Jan. 17

at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!



SCHOOL PHOTO

Brigid Duffy, Lillia Campeau, Anna Scott and Grace Brink are all smiles as their school - Augustinian Academy in Carthage - joins other Catholic schools across the country for the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Jan. 1 to Feb. 6. The NCC takes part in the celebration with special reflections on Catholic schools by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools; and a trio of seniors from Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh.

MARCHING FOR LIFE: Snow stops marchers but not their commitment, p. 16

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hooray for our Catholic schools!

As a great fan of Catholic education, it's always a joy to hear about all the ways that Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are celebrating themselves.

Catholic Schools Week started this past Sunday and continues through Saturday, offering a perfect opportunity to salute the students and teachers who fill classrooms across the diocese.

Special activities at Seton, IHC and all the schools in between help the children to understand what makes their Catholic school so important.

At Immaculate Heart Central High School in Watertown, for

example, every morning this week opens with prayers of thanksgiving for Catholic education and families.



Mary Lou
Kilian

Activities during the week include Dove Day with ABC Prayers, blessing of the throats and a day long retreat.

There will also be sporting contests, Crazy Sock Day and family breakfasts but the focus is certainly on the *Catholic* in Catholic school.

For this week's focus on Catholic schools in the NCC, Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent, asks and answers the critical question:

"How is a Catholic school

unique? What does it offer that is distinct from public education?"

Parents who make great sacrifices to send their children to our schools would certainly agree with her response:

"Christ is the gift that students encounter in our Catholic schools. And from this gift comes so much more, namely a supernatural vision of life, an awareness of the dignity of the human person, the experience of a faith community, a curriculum which acknowledges the relationship between faith and culture and the personal witness of teachers and administrators."

This is true in 2016 and it was true back in 1960 when I first stepped into Sister St. Thomas' first grade classroom

at Bishop Conroy Memorial School.

So, for me and others, I'm sure, Catholic Schools Week is a time to remember and appreciate our own Catholic school experiences.

There's no question that the Grey Nuns in my grade school and Jesuit priests in college had a profound influence of every aspect of my life. I'm sure that my Catholic friends taught by Sisters of St. Joseph, Ursulines, Mercy Sisters Brothers of Christian Instruction, Servites or Dominicans would say the same.

Yesterday and today, our Catholic schools were *communities of faith, knowledge and service* offering great blessings to every student and to every parish in the North Country.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Is anything more important than mercy?

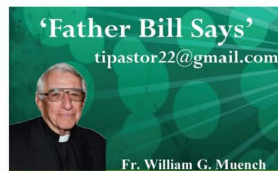
I would like to share with you some ideas that I discovered from a recent book by Pope Francis, "The Name of God is Mercy."

This book is the result of an interview that Pope Francis gave to the Vatican Reporter, Andrea Tornelli. As the title indicates the interview concerns Pope Francis' message of God's mercy. He also explains his reasons for proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

I found the reporter's questions to be very personal – and Pope Francis answers them honestly. They certainly reflect his deep spirituality and profound faith in God's loving mercy. The book became a spiritual journey for me. I often paused to meditate on how I would answer these questions myself.

Pope Francis speaks of how many people think he is speaking and writing too much about mercy. His response was simply to give a definition of mercy to demonstrate how important the whole notion of mercy is. For him nothing can be more important for our Church.

His definition is this: "Mercy



is the divine attitude which embraces, it is God's giving himself to us, accepting us, and bowing to forgive. Mercy is God's identity card – the Name of God is Mercy." Can anything be more important?

He adds this: "The Church does not wait for the wounded to knock on her doors, she looks for them in the streets, she gathers them in, she embraces them, she takes care of them, she makes them feel loved."

I was thrilled and inspired by the Pope's words. They are so powerful, so challenging for me as a priest. I stopped to question myself of how I matched up to his image of a merciful and compassionate priest and confessor. Pope Francis lays down a challenge for all of us priests.

One of the questions that Pope Francis was asked truly

caused me to take some time for meditation and consideration. He was asked, "When you think of merciful priests whom you have met or who have inspired you, who comes to mind?" Pope Francis answers very precisely – he takes the trouble to name some priests who have inspired him.

Pope Francis tells a story about one of these priests, a certain Father Leopold. He says: "A priest, a friend of mine, who went to confess to him, said, 'Father, you are too generous. I am glad to have gone to confession to you, but it seems to me that you are too generous.' And Father Leopold said to him: 'But who has been generous, my son? It was the Lord who was generous, I wasn't the one who died for our sins, it was the Lord who died for our sins. How could he have been more generous with the thief, with others than this!'"

So, I took some time to think back over my life, remembering those priests, many of them my friends, who demonstrated so well being a merciful and caring priest. I thought of many who impressed me so

much and became examples for me. I thought of many who touched my life and truly changed me because of their compassion as a confessor.

I pray that all us, priests, continue to develop our understanding of the mercy and love of God for all people – for saints and sinners – through our homilies and as confessors.

I pray especially for our young priests that they will recognize this call from Pope Francis to show and guide others with the merciful spirit of Our Savior. I pray that they will discover examples to show them the way – so that they may develop a merciful spirit in their ministry. I would hope that there will be an increase in priests, especially loving and compassionate priests.

I believe that the spirit and the leadership of Pope Francis will help to demonstrate the heart and soul of the priestly vocation to those who hear God's all.

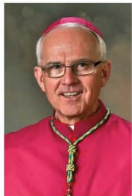
I like to believe that it will be a thrilling moment for those who realize that the can bring God's love and mercy to God's people in our parishes.

FOLLOW ME

Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service

From January 31 to February 6, we celebrate *National Catholic Schools Week*. This Jubilee Year of Mercy provides us with a graced opportunity in which to reflect on how our Catholic schools help to form the minds and touch the hearts of our youth with Christian values that inspire genuine concern for every person made in God's image and likeness.

As part of their religion curriculum, our students study and reflect upon the



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

Gospels. Here they learn about Jesus' compassionate care and tender mercy for all of God's children.

As they come to know and celebrate the great gifts we have in each of the Sacraments, our students experience the power of God's grace and forgiveness.

The Gospel value of giving respect to the dignity of every human person, a prerequisite for mercy, is a fundamental lesson in all course work.

Every member of the Catholic school family ap-

plies this lesson of mercy each day in the classrooms, ball fields, basketball courts, cafeterias, the hallways and even in the principal's office.

More and more, our culture has dropped "mercy" as a virtue to be embraced. In a countercultural spirit, our schools work hard to provide an environment where mercy is not seen as a sign of weakness, but as a characteristic of the truly virtuous person.

Mercy is more than an abstract concept to be learned, but a lesson to be lived. To that end, the Community Service Programs of our Catholic schools enable our

students to participate in a variety of works of mercy in the local neighborhoods.

Academic excellence continues to be a hallmark of our schools. Inasmuch as schoolwork is graded justly (tempered with *mercy*, I'm sure), our Catholic schools maintain high academic standards.

Our gifted teachers encourage and expect self-discipline and good study habits from our students while using the latest technology in our classrooms.

Partnering with our parents, our Catholic Schools are truly *Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*. Through the exercise of

these integral dimensions of Catholic school life, our schools develop a culture of hope for tomorrow because students develop the self-confidence and community-mindedness that are essential features of a healthy society. Our Catholic Christian faith instills in us the courage to walk the journey of faith Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled.

We are so grateful to all those who support our Catholic Schools. They are such a gift to the North Country. I hope that our school families have a wonderful celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



First graders at Trinity Catholic School in Massena recently took an assessment for their Superkids Reading Program in the school's up-to-date computer lab. Principal Kathleen Behrens reports that the students enjoyed taking the assessments on the computer and their teacher, Mrs. Doe, liked the ease of having all of her students' scores broken down for her in a way that easily determines their strengths and weaknesses, allowing for her to make modifications in their instruction, as needed. Here, Beckett Sovie focuses as he finishes his assessment.

Bishop marks closing of Year of Consecrated Life

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

While the Church closes the *Year of Consecrated Life* with the celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, we continue to give thanks to God for the tremendous contributions made to the Church and our society through the wide array of ministries undertaken by those in consecrated life, particularly here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. This Jubilee of Mercy, we are keenly aware of their corporal and spiritual works of mercy among us.

Although their numbers have diminished significantly, the impact of the ministry of these women and men on the lives of the faithful continues to be strong.

As we conclude this year of special celebration, I want to thank Atone-ment Ellen Donahue, Episcopal Delegate for Religious, for her invaluable assistance to the Diocese, and the Council of Religious, particularly for their coordinating efforts throughout the *Year of Consecrated Life*.

In addressing our Diocesan Priority of Creating a Culture of Vocations, let us intensify our prayer and invite young women and men in our parishes to consider a vocation to serve the Lord as a consecrated Religious. Generous hearts given unconditionally to the Lord and His Church bestow and receive boundless blessings.



These five Sisters of St. Joseph, shown at their motherhouse in Watertown, are among the consecrated Religious who have offered decades of service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. At the conclusion of the *Year of Consecrated Life* Feb. 2, Bishop LaValley said, "We continue to give thanks to God for the tremendous contributions made to the Church and our society by those in consecrated life, particularly here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg." From left are Sisters Ronald Marie Hax, Marie Angele Ellis, Gabriel Marie Meyer, M. Catherine Labouré Goodbout and Anne Hogan.

Three seniors at Seton Catholic discuss the value of their Catholic education

'I love this school'

By Shawn Ryan
Staff writer

PLATTSBURGH—With Catholic Schools Week upon us, three seniors at Seton Catholic Central reflected on what it means to attend a Catholic school, as opposed to one of the many public schools in the area.

Across the board, the consensus is that the focus on Catholic and Christian values learned throughout their academic career at Seton Academy, and later Seton Catholic, has helped set the stage for success in college and beyond. Small class size and the ability and willingness of teachers to truly get to know and care about their students, is the other factor that sets Seton apart from public schools.

Walking Seton's hallways, it quickly becomes apparent that there is a comradery not just amongst the rather small senior class, but among all the students at



Olivia Nachbauer

the school regardless of class. Everybody knows his or her classmates, and they get along in a manner not regularly seen in public schools. And the teachers are able to know each of their students. The biggest disciplinary issue of the day: possibly a skipped homework assignment or an un-tucked shirttail.

We spoke with college-bound seniors, Sam Bashaw



Emily Nachbauer

and sisters Emily and Olivia Nachbauer. All three have been in the Seton system (and St. John's before the Academy was formed) since third grade. Without hesitation, the trio agreed that they would definitely recommend a Catholic School education to any students considering the possibility.

Olivia Nachbauer

"Just being at a school centered around Christian values, it's a better sense of morals and a better environment.

"People are nice, and helpful, and teachers are willing to help you out. "People are friendlier. You know all your classmates.

"When we were in Middle School you worried a little bit about not being cool, but as you get older you start to think about your education



Samantha Bashaw

and getting into a good college. Being at a private school as opposed to a public school, you have a better chance because of the attention that is given to the individual student.

"Your education is greater here because it's a close knit community of people. If you want to play sports it's easier, and there are clubs and activities that you can try out. You just get to be yourself. It's just easier. Plus there's a great diversity of people here - different races and different religions."

Emily Nachbauer

"Having religion classes brings attention to the faith that we all have. If we didn't have religion classes we wouldn't be as deeply thinking about our faith as we do here. Since Seton is a small school, this brings us closer to each other, and helps bring us closer to our faith because we are able to practice it in our daily lives.

"Teachers here at Seton care more about us because they know us better [than

they would in a public school]. I think that we are taught more about what we will need for college than at a public school.

"Our workload is a lot more than you would have in a public school. It will make it much easier to transition into college and keep up with the work.

"As for Seton versus a public school, I would just say that a lot of people who thought of leaving and didn't, really ended up loving it here. It's just a better place to go because everyone here cares about the students. The teachers care, the principal cares; everyone cares."

Samantha Bashaw

"I think there's really a community environment here. With the small size of the school, the relationships form better with the teachers and your classmates. You get the space to grow, and find out who you are here.

"We see more of what is right in school, as opposed to what is wrong. Seton has a reputation to uphold, and we try to live that out to the best of our abilities.

"Our work ethic here is a huge thing for us. Our class has a hugely competitive nature and work ethic, and a lot of that comes from teacher involvement and the faith component. What we've learned here will definitely help us in college and in our future lives.

"We've had people transfer to the public schools for a year and then return to Seton. It just shows the impact the school has on the students.

"I love this school. For me it's the people. People might not really realize that it's the faith aspect of Seton that sets it apart. That's one thing that is very important for me."



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All drawings will be held on "Twenty Week Tuesday"
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Catholic Schools Week

January 31 - February 6

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lisa.parsons@ihschools.org

RCIA teams prepare new people to enter the church

By Julie LaShomb
Diocesan RCIA committee

In the days before Advent, Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg looked forward with anticipation to a new liturgical year.

Rite of Election set for Feb. 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral

There are people in our parishes who are anxious to be accepted into the Catholic Faith as full members. They have been discerning through various RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programs about receiving fully the sacraments many cradle

Catholics take for granted. Some were never baptized. They are called catechumens.

Others were baptized Christian but for one reason or another never went through the process of receiving the rest of the sacraments. They are called candidates. These people will be acknowledged during the Rite of Acceptance when they will be asked what they want from God's Church and what faith will offer them.

As members of our parish communities we are asked to support these candidates and catechumens by prayer and good example of Christian living.

Ask your pastor about the programs that are available in your parish. There are many ways you can share your talents in the RCIA program..

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

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

GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world. E-mail cward@dioceseogdensburg.org to sign up today.

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 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. 9 - 5 p.m.**, St. Mary's School, Canton
Feb. 11 - 1 p.m., Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown
Feb. 25 - 1 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

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Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 4 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Feb. 5 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg
7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Feb. 7 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 8 – New York State Catholic Conference Board Meeting in New York City

Feb. 9 – 8 a.m., Induction Ceremony for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter the National Honor Society at Immaculate Heart Central High School in Watertown

Feb. 10 – 12:00 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. 1 - Rev. Robert L. Cotter, 2015
Feb. 4 - Rev. Joseph Redington, 1892; Rev. Edmund Walsh, 1925; Msgr. Michael R. Burns, 1932; Rev. Alexander Klauer, 1935; Rev. Henry McArdle, O.S.A., 1969; Rev. Francis Maurus Kearns, 1990
Feb. 5 - Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Cosco, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005
Feb. 6 - Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009
Feb. 8 - Msgr. Patrick Bernard Riley, 1981
Feb. 9 - Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

Environmental Stewardship

Pro-Life: Connecting the Dots

This past month of January has been filled with challenges for us as followers of Jesus to "act with justice and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

On January 11, as a nation, we observed Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Although slavery was abolished 150 years ago, there are more men women and children in slavery today than ever before in our history.

We are challenged to lift our voices in prayer, become more informed, and to take action to help end this modern day slavery.

On January 18 we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. His works and life remind us of the challenge to work towards racial equality and justice for all, as Jesus prays "that all may be One." (John 17:21)

On January 22 thousands of people from around our Nation set out for Washington to participate in March for Life protesting the legalization of abortion in the U.S.

We need to create a climate of support for women facing this choice between life or death for the unborn.

Daily on the news we witness the plight of children, women and men fleeing for their lives from violence, war, famine in Central America, the Middle East, and many parts of the world.

We are again challenged, as citizens of this incredibly blessed Nation, to seek ways to "welcome the stranger," and communicate this to our legislators.

Our call, as Christians, is not to allow fear alone to dictate our response to the cries of the poor.

How are all of the events connected to "care for our common home"? Pope Francis tells us in *Laudato Si* (#50) "a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach... need to hear the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor."

When people lack the basic necessities of life, they become vulnerable to promises for a better life made by human traffickers, drug dealers, radical military groups.

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IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools: building a bright future

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

There are certain events that mark the passage of each school year. One of these is the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme is *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*.

Our Catholic schools offer quality academic programs, but quality academic programs are available in public schools as well. Our schools' programs address the whole person, but more and more public schools are addressing components of the whole person, the most notable addition being their acknowledged commitment to character education and ethical behavior.

Our Catholic schools are often close knit "communities" where a safe, secure and orderly environment support student learning. Many of the public school districts where our schools are located are relatively small and offer the same benefits.

Thus, the question becomes. How is a Catholic



Among the children served by the Catholic school "Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service" in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are Brayden Skinner, Adyson Aus, Cole Finn of Augustinian Academy in Carthage, at left; and Ethyn Morrissey and Halee Lennon of St. Mary's School in Canton, shown working on their Rube Goldberg machine.

school unique? What does it offer that is distinct from public education?

Christ is the gift that students encounter in our Catholic schools. And from this gift comes so much more, namely a supernatural vision of life, an awareness of the dignity of the human person, the experience of a faith community, a curriculum which acknowledges the relationship between faith and culture and the personal witness of teachers and administrators.

Our Catholic schools see education as a process which forms the whole child not only for this world but also for eternal life. The specific purpose of Catholic education is the formation of students who, animated by the Gospel, will be good citizens of this world and of the world to come. It is neither for this life only that God created us, nor for this life only that our students require an outstanding education. Our students have been created for eternal life. This is the supernatural vision offered in a Catholic school.

The eternal destiny of our students is accompanied by a profound respect for their dignity as human persons, made in the image and likeness of God and called to life in Christ. Catholic schools have their foundation in Christ. The words and deeds of Jesus are central to a school's program and environment. Christ is not an afterthought or an add-on to the foundational principles of a Catholic school. His words and deeds are the living memory imparted to the students. He is the one who gives meaning to human life. The mystery of the human person becomes clear only in the mystery of Christ, the Word made flesh.

The human person does

not develop in isolation from others. The person has been created as a social being whose fulfillment is achieved in relationship with others. Thus, community is an essential component in a person's development. Catholic schools are communities of faith, extensions of the first and essential community of the family and the extended family of the parish. In the school community of faith the student experiences relationships based on the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. These experiences foster good habits or virtues that instill, maintain and cultivate an environment in which the social nature of the human person can develop and flourish.

An integral education seeks to develop gradually and systematically every capability of the human person: intellectual, moral, physical, psychological and spiritual. In pursuit of this, a Catholic school fosters the love for wisdom, for the true and the beautiful, and integrates the Catholic faith with the life and culture of its students. The Catholic school seeks to create the climate in which the student's faith will gradually mature and the relationship between faith, culture and life are brought into harmony.

Every academic institution imparts values - ideals for which a student is prepared to pursue and eventually achieve. The ideal that provides the foundation for our Catholic schools is a person, Jesus Christ. From Him students discover a supernatural vision of life, the full dignity of the human person, the importance of community and the recognition of the relationship between faith and culture. Christ is the supreme gift that is offered to the students in our Catholic schools. He is the one who leads our students into a bright future in this world and, eventually, in eternal life.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the parents who have chosen a Catholic school for their children. I realize that in many instances this choice brings with it a financial sacrifice. This sacrifice, however, is an investment in your child's future that will result in benefits for your child, the Church and society.

Likewise, I want to thank the administrators and teachers in our Catholic schools. I am most appreciative for their commitment to our Catholic schools which more often than not is accompanied by a personal financial sacrifice. The Second Vatican Council said it so well. "... Let teachers recognize that the Catholic school depends upon them almost entirely for the accomplishment of its goals and programs" (*Decree on Catholic Education, #8*).

Theirs is a supernatural calling and not simply the exercise of a profession. "The nobility of the task to which teachers are called demands that, in imitation of Christ, the only Teacher, they reveal the Christian message not only by word but also by every gesture of their behavior." (*The Catholic School, #43*) We are indeed blessed to have administrators and teachers who are willing to assume this noble task.

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2015

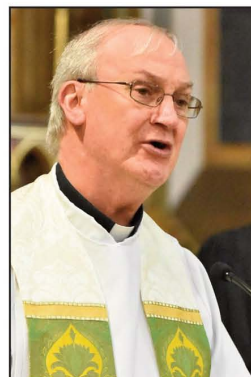
Date	Place		Time
MARCH 1	Summit Village	Watertown	6:30 P.M.
MARCH 7	St. Alexander and St. Joseph	Morrisonville	7:00 P.M.
MARCH 13	St. Mary's	Massena	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 15	St. Mary's Cathedral	Ogdensburg	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 20	St. James	Cazenovia	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 21	Holy Family	Little Falls	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 28	Christ the King	Albany	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 29	St. Jude	Wynantskill	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 30	St. Stephen's	Phoenix	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 31	St. Martin of Tours	New Hope, PA	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 1	St. Rose of Lima	Newtown, CT	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 3	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 P.M.

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

CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE MIGHTY ACTS OF THE LORD

A DAY FOR UNITY

Annual Diocesan Ecumenical Service held Jan. 17 at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh opens Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Above, Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, episcopal delegate for religious for the diocese, leads the procession into St. Peter's Church. The Franciscan Friars and Sisters of Atonement are recognized for their commitment to and leadership in the ministry of Christian unity. At left is Father Daniel Chapin, chairman of the the ecumenical committee for the diocese.



In his homily, Bishop LaValley said "the disunity in the Christianity is a scandal to the world that weakens the Christian message and witness."

PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

Christian leaders from throughout Clinton County took part in the 2016 diocesan ecumenical service held Jan. 17 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. In front are the Rev. Tim Osborn, pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Plattsburgh; and the Rev. Robert Svenson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Plattsburgh; center, the Rev. Edie Poland, pastor of the Methodist Church in Keeseville and Harkness; Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Bob Goetz, lay minister at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Plattsburgh; back, Father Daniel Chapin, pastor in Croghan and chairman of the diocesan ecumenical committee; Bishop Don Ray of the New Jerusalem Church in Plattsburgh; and the Rev. Jeff Long-Middleton, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Plattsburgh.



Dominican Sister Barbara Langlois of Plattsburgh lights a candle during the service.

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Catholic Schools Week January 31 - February 6, 2016

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Catholic schools are 'vital'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- National Catholic Schools Week 2016 will be celebrated across the United States Jan. 31- Feb. 6 with the theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

"Catholic schools are a vital aspect of the church's mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and so an important aspect of our own teaching mission," said Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Catholic Education.

About 1.9 million students currently attend nearly 6,600 Catholic schools in the United States. Families of the the Diocese of Ogdensburg are served by ten elementary Catholic schools and two high schools.

Archbishop Lucas said the backbone of Catholic education is the relationship between the parent, the school and the church.

The observance of Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. Schools and parishes around the country mark the week with special Masses, open houses, service projects and school assemblies.

The week also highlights the educational successes of Catholic schools around the county, stressing, for example, that an estimated 98 percent of Catholic school students graduate from high school and 86 percent of Catholic school graduates attend college.

More information on the week is available online: www.ncea.org/our-services/catholic-schools-week and www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catholic-education/index.cfm.

Catholic schools are encouraged to share their events during the week on social media using the hashtag #CSW16.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope: Patch up family feuds, forgive, let go of painful past

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Let the Year of Mercy be the time to end all family feuds, to forgive each other and let bygones be bygones, Pope Francis said. "I think about so many brothers and sisters who are estranged from their families; they don't speak to each other," he said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Jan. 27. "This Year of Mercy is a good occasion to meet up again, to embrace each other and forgive each other, to leave bad things behind," he said. The pope continued a series of talks dedicated to divine mercy, looking specifically at how God has always been faithful and merciful toward his people. God never ignored the Israelites' cry of suffering and he sent Moses as a "mediator" on his behalf to free his people and lead them to salvation, the pope said.

Says religious freedom is being challenged in fundamental ways

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious freedom is being challenged in fundamental ways, according to speakers at a panel discussion on "Religious Liberty and the Future: Faith, Skepticism, Culture and Hope" at the Heritage Foundation in Washington Jan. 21. Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore said the fundamental problems include "the decoupling of our basic freedoms from the search for truth." He noted that 50 years ago, the Second Vatican Council issued a document on religious freedom known as "Dignitatis Humanae" ("Of Human Dignity"). Some of those debating the document wanted it to focus only on the freedom from coercion, which is important. "Indeed," he said, "no government and no social force should coerce individuals or groups in religious matters, and that made its way into the document." However, the archbishop added, other Vatican II fathers, including then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, later Pope John Paul II, argued that religious freedom is linked to the search for truth — truth about the human person made in God's image and endowed with free will, made for the search for truth.

More than 1,000 missionaries of mercy will serve during jubilee

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 1,000 "missionaries of mercy" from all over the world will receive a special mandate from Pope Francis to preach and teach about God's mercy, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella. About 700 of the missionaries who were chosen by Pope Francis will be in Rome to receive their special mandate in person during an Ash Wednesday ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 10, said the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, the office organizing events for the Year of Mercy. For the holy year, which runs until Nov. 20, Pope Francis said he would designate "missionaries of mercy" to be unique signs of God's mercy. He is also giving them special authority to pardon sins that carry penalties that only the Holy See can lift. During a news conference at the Vatican Jan. 29, Archbishop Fisichella said there had been a huge response from priests and religious men who — with permission from their bishops or superiors — requested to serve as these special missionaries. The original plan was to have just 800 missionaries, however, the number of requests was so great, 1071 men ended up being chosen, Archbishop Fisichella said. The missionaries will serve in their own dioceses, but they may be invited by other bishops to visit other dioceses as well.

Iowa priest now famous for celebrating Mass for snow-bound group

By Joanne Fox
Catholic News Service

SIoux CITY, IOWA (CNS) — Father Patrick Behm of Le Mars confessed to being overwhelmed by all the attention.

"I'm just happy being a simple priest," he insisted.

That "simple priest" went viral on social media for celebrating Mass Jan. 23 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Father Behm was returning with others from the Diocese of Sioux City following the annual March for Life rally Jan. 22 in Washington, when Winter Storm Jonas consumed the East Coast. The bus — and many other vehicles — had to stop on the turnpike because of an accident on the road.

"We were at mile-marker 132.9, and we couldn't go anywhere," he told The Catholic Globe, Sioux City's diocesan newspaper. "We were just bidding our time and twiddling our thumbs."

A knock on the door of the bus changed it all for Father Behm and about 500 others.

"It was Bill Dill from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis who told us some people had constructed an altar out of the snow and would I want to celebrate Mass," he said. "I was caught off guard. I thought they had probably found a garbage can and turned it over."

Father Behm added, with a laugh, "Those Minnesotans really know how to build stuff out of snow!"

Although there were about eight priests available to celebrate Mass, the honor of principal celebrant went to Father Behm, "probably because I had my travel Mass kit," he speculated.

When all of the priests gathered to work out the particulars, Father Behm asked who was preaching.



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY CAROLYN VON TERSCH

Father Patrick Behm of Le Mars, Iowa, checks out his cellphone during Mass Jan. 23 at an altar constructed of snow alongside the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The group from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, was returning home from the annual March for Life rally in Washington when Winter Storm Jonas consumed the East Coast.

"They all looked at me and said, 'You are,' but I hadn't looked at the readings," he said, referring to the day's Gospel from Matthew. "Thankfully, Father Shaun Haggerty of the Diocese of Sioux Falls (South Dakota) had, and said it would be easy to preach because the Gospel was about how everyone thought Jesus was crazy and they probably thought we were, too."

Distributing Communion to several hundred individuals was next on the to-do list for Father Behm and reminiscent of another Gospel story.

"I guess it was kind of like the loaves and fishes because we did have to break up the hosts into small pieces," he said. "I would guess about five pieces were not consumed."

The inclement atmosphere did take a toll on Father Behm, who attributed weathering the cold to "many years of working in the frozen-food section at Hy-Vee (su-

permarket)."

"I had my coat on under my alb and stole, but I had no chasuble," he said. "When it came time to distribute Communion, I told the others my hands were too numb and they took that on."

Father Behm recounted that the response to the 35-minute service, which started at noon, was gratifying.

Father Behm also stressed the reason behind that Mass was initially the reason for the trip — the March for Life to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion.

"Make no mistake about it, the tide is changing and I believe, this is the generation that will see Roe overturned," he said. "Every time I go to the March for Life, the crowd gets younger and younger. Christ was with us in this storm. He's with us in every storm, and it is he who will ultimately bring the victory."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Following Jesus with courage, generosity

When you ask children what they want to be when they grow up, the answers range all the way from fireman or astronaut or nurse—to president!

Wouldn't we be surprised if a child were to tell us that they want to be a "disciple of Jesus"?

In the greatest writing of Pope Francis, his encyclical called "The Joy of the Gospel", our Holy Father tells us that we're all called to be disciples.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Until every Catholic Christian is convinced of this, the Church will never be what Jesus wants it to be.

This Sunday's readings are all about the call of both Isaiah and Peter to answer God's call. They both felt unworthy to accept, but finally have the courage to say 'yes.'

Isaiah has a vision of God sitting on his throne, trying to find someone to clean up the disastrous mess left by King Uzziah.

After an angel has touched his lips with a burning coal, Isaiah cries out, "Here I am—send me".

In the Gospel, Jesus has been preaching to the crowds from a fishing boat. He finally turns to the frustrated fisherman who has nothing to show for the night's work and says, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Peter reluctantly does as the Master asks, and, to his surprise, finds the nets almost breaking with the weight of hundreds of large fish. He calls for help to the second boat.

Peter falls to his knees

FEB. 7

READINGS

Isaiah 6: 1-21, 3-8
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Luke 5: 1-11

and cries out "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man". Jesus says in reply, "Do not be afraid; from now on, you will be catching men".

Peter and his fellow fishermen, James and John, immediately leave the means of their livelihood for a life filled with uncertainty and

danger.

What courage and generosity of heart it took for Peter and his companions, as well as for Isaiah in the Old Testament to answer the Lord's call. But they transformed the lives of thousands!

The season of Lent begins this Wednesday. It's a perfect time for us to reflect on the urgings of Pope Francis to overcome our fear of being unworthy, as well as our indifference to the crisis of our present times.

In what ways will we accept the level of discipleship to which Christ is personally calling us?

VATICAN LETTER

Kids' questions become a book by Pope Francis

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children may say the darnedest things, but when it comes to questions about faith they can make even the most learned parents and priests pause.

"These are tough," Pope Francis said when presented with questions from 30 children from around the world.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, who went through the questions with the pope, said half the time he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope wasn't.

The questions, illustrated with the drawings of the children aged 6-13, and the pope's answers will be published March 1 as the book "Dear Pope Francis."

"What did God do before the world was made?" one child asked. "Do bad people have a guardian angel, too?" asked another.

In the book, coordinated and published by the U.S.-based Loyola Press, Pope Francis responds to those

and 28 other queries; some of the questions are theological, others are practical and a few are about the pope personally, including what he wanted to be when he grew up.

To the question about what God was doing before creation, the heart of the pope's answer is, "Think of it this way: Before creating anything, God loved. That's what God was doing: God was loving."

Questions about Jesus, war and peace and about heaven also are included, though Father Spadaro was keeping those exact questions and answers under wraps during a late January interview.

Some of the personal questions made Pope Francis laugh and the pope's answers to those questions made Father Spadaro laugh, the Jesuit said. The pope admits in the book that when he was small he wanted to be a butcher because the butcher his grandmother bought meat from had an apron with a big pocket that seemed to be full of money.

The children's questions are "simple, but not silly," said Father Spadaro, who

discussed them with Pope Francis and recorded his answers.

The children's questions about Jesus, war and peace, and personal questions about the pope are simple, but not silly'

Father Spadaro heads La Civiltà Cattolica, a Jesuit journal filled with articles on philosophy, theology, literary criticism and political theory. He has never worked with young children and said he was in awe of how the pope handled the questions -- taking them seriously and responding to them honestly and clearly.

Some of the pope's answers, he said, are "inspired."

"This is important," Father Spadaro said. "It says a lot about the magisterium of Pope Francis; he knows his ministry can reach children."

At the request of Loyola Press, Father Spadaro asked Pope Francis last May if he would be willing to do the book. "The pope said yes

immediately, with enthusiasm," Father Spadaro said.

Loyola Press then reached out to dozens of Jesuits and collaborators around the globe, asking them to solicit questions and drawings from children. Sometimes Loyola had to ship off crayons, markers and paper because the children had none.

In the end, 259 children in 26 countries submitted questions. The big batch of letters are in 14 languages and come from children in wealthy cities, poor rural areas and even refugee centers.

In August, Father Spadaro read the letters out loud to the pope in Italian, but the pope also scrutinized the drawings, the Jesuit said. He commented on the scenes and colors and often had a good laugh over the way the kids drew the pope.

For the answers, "I was not just taking dictation," Father Spadaro said. The pope enjoys a conversation; for the book, that meant the pope would sometimes discuss the questions and potential answers with the Jesuit scribe and, often, would return to add some-

thing to an answer after they had already moved on to other letters.

"He's a volcano," Father Spadaro said.

The pope would look off into space as if picturing the children and responding to them in person, usually in Spanish, but sometimes in Italian, the Jesuit said.

The questions stayed with the pope, who later referred to some of them in speeches and homilies, he said.

The most noticeable example was the question from 8-year-old Ryan in Canada about what God was doing before creation.

In the pope's unscripted talk at the Festival of Families in Philadelphia in September, Pope Francis told the crowd, "A young person once asked me -- you know how young people ask hard questions! - 'Father, what did God do before he created the world?'"

"Believe me, I had a hard time answering that one," the pope admitted in Philadelphia. "I told him what I am going to tell you now. Before he created the world, God loved, because God is love."

AT THE MOVIES

ROOM

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

"The mind is its own place, and in itself/Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven." These words from poet John Milton's 17th-century epic "Paradise Lost" capture at least one theme of the poignant, multifaceted drama "Room" (A24).

As a tale of confinement and isolation with far-reaching and universal implications, director Lenny Abrahamson's somber but ultimately hopeful parable might also be said to recall Daniel Defoe's novel "Robinson Crusoe," published a little over 50 years after Milton's classic work.

In lieu of the shipwrecked sailor Crusoe, screenwriter Emma Donoghue's script, adapted from her 2010 novel, gives us two characters caught in a more modern form of exile: a 5-year-old named Jack (Jacob Tremblay) and his unnamed mother, known to him - and to us - simply as Ma (Brie Larson).

Two years before Jack was born, Ma was kidnapped by a sexual predator they both refer to as Old Nick (Sean Bridgers) who has kept her locked in a backyard shed equipped with an elaborate security system ever since.

Born and raised within this confined space, Jack - whom Ma loves deeply, despite the circumstances of his conception - is confused by tales of an outside world he has only experienced

through television.

When an opportunity for escape presents itself, however, Jack must rally his courage to seize the moment.

Donoghue and Abrahamson successfully render everyday life as an alien environment for their youthful, bewildered protagonist, who also narrates.

Additionally, their film subtly examines human adaptability, the power of imagination and the ironies underlying what appears, on the surface, to be an all-too-straightforward situation.

Viewers of faith will particularly appreciate the movie's biblical overtones.

Besides the fact that the villain's moniker has traditionally been used as a nickname for Satan, they'll notice the implicit parallel drawn between Jack's never-barbered hair and the unshorn, strength-conveying locks of Samson as described in the Book of Judges. The ruse by which Jack and Ma hope to obtain their freedom, moreover, involves a form of death, burial and resurrection.

But if ordinary reality is, in one sense, the heavens to which they both aspire -- a point reinforced by Ma's quiet rendition of the tradi-

tional folk song "Big Rock Candy Mountain" -- it also represents the fallen world into which they are in danger of passing should they abandon the safe parameters of the titular space.

This skillful interplay of apparently contrary ideas -- a redemption and liberation that is also, at some level, the surrender of the main characters' shared Eden -- sets "Room" far above ordinary movie fare.

So, too, does the emotional wallop it delivers, thanks in no small measure to Larson's outstanding performance as well as the deep appeal Tremblay evokes.

Given its moral significance, which also includes an essentially pro-life message affirming Jack's inherent worth, despite the criminal and tragic nature of his parentage, the picture is probably acceptable for at least some mature adolescents, the elements listed below notwithstanding.

The film contains brief abusive violence, mature themes including serial rape and suicide, an overheard but unseen sexual encounter, a couple of profanities and several rough terms.

The Catholic News Service



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY A24

Jacob Tremblay and Brie Larson star in a scene from the movie "Room." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



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LENTEN REFLECTION

Lake Placid – St. Agnes Church is planning a Lenten program on God's mercy led by Dr. Maura Hearden Felner.

Schedule: Feb. 16, The reality of God's mercy; Feb. 23, The need for God's mercy; March 1, The source of all mercy; March 8, The structure of God's mercy; March 15, The reception of God's mercy.

Time: Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. followed by a light community supper in the school, the one-hour session starting at 7 p.m.,

Contact: To plan appropriately for food and seating please register by contacting the rectory: 523-2200 or stagnes@roadrunner.com before Feb. 10.

CLINTON

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.

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 p.m.

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

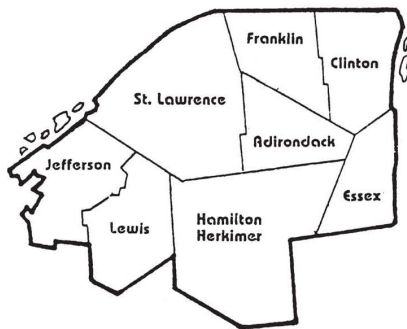
Contact: Registration forms and information can be obtained by calling Michael Jacobs or Rachel Daly at Frassati House (521-3299) or calling the St. Andre Bessette Parish office (483-1300).

FRANKLIN

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Malone – A Family Guggenheim Winter Event has been planned

Date: Feb. 13



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.

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

Place: Holy Family School

Cost: \$10, includes lunch

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

Contact: Steve Tartaglia at (315) 393-

2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org, or

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: Feb. 6

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's parish center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

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.

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. Are you a Catholic male, 17 years or older of Irish

descent? The AOH will be visiting parishes across the North Country to spread the word about the charitable works we do across our community.

Contact: nnyirish@gmail.com or Pat Keogh 519-1961 or Sean Hennessey 775-0570.

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Lowville – The Altar & Rosary Society will be sponsoring a spaghetti Supper.

Date: Feb. 4

Time: Take-outs at 4:30 p.m.; Eat in 5

p.m. – 6:30

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-10, \$4; under 5, Free

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Feb. 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Evening Prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

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"

and will prove to enrich your Lenten journey of faith.

Speaker: Sr. Jennifer Votraw, SSJ

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

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – St. Mary's Church is holding a special rosary to mark first Saturday.

Date: Feb. 5

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: The Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima will be prayed in reparation to Her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace followed by a 15 minute meditation. Confession is available starting at 2:45. Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4.

K OF C BREAKFAST

Potsdam – The Knights of Columbus Council 340 are planning a breakfast.

Date: Feb. 7

Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Potsdam Town Hall

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 5, Free;

Immediate Families of 4 or more, \$20

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus Council will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: Feb. 14

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children under 12, \$5;

Under 5, Free; Family of 4, \$20, each additional \$3; Take-outs available

LENTEN 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. This is for everyone. Being able to dedicate time to quiet prayer is a great practice. You can spend that quiet time with the Lord. 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

Features: , serving homemade meat-filled manicotti and/or homemade spaghetti and meatballs. The meal includes the main course, tossed salad, Italian bread, beverage and dessert.

Contact: Laurie at 315-384-4242

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Gouverneur – A Family Guggenheim

Winter Event has been planned

Date: Feb. 27

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,

DIOCESAN EVENTS

RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg – The Rite of Election for those entering the Catholic Church at Easter has been set

Date: Feb. 14

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – A Lenten Day of Prayer & Reflection 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 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 by March 1.

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: Feb. 14 & 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

@stmarystpatrick.net, 315-265-9680;

Father Douglas Lucia,

frdoug@twcny.rr.com or Father Bryan

Stitt, diocesan vocation director

bstitt@rcdony.org



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13689
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Catholic Schools Week tribute

POPE FRANCIS SAYS ..

"In your school, take part in various activities to be open to others - especially to the poorest and neediest - to work to improve the world in which we live."

On behalf of the Mission Office, I would like to take this opportunity to shed praise and accolades on our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, their staff, teachers, students and parents.

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) would cease to exist or be able to do "good things" were it not for the dedication, prayer and sacrifices made by our Catholic schools both locally and nationwide.

National Catholic Schools Week 2016 is to be held January 31 - February 6. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2016 is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, teachers and principals, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Catholic schools weeks provides a wonderful platform to go forth and follow the words of Pope Francis, "... take part in various activities to be open to others - especially to the poorest and neediest - to work to improve the world in which we live." Our Catholic school children do so much good for their surrounding communities with service, prayer and support. Not a day goes by that these children are not putting others above themselves. Through nationally supported programs like the MCA, these students do good on a global level too. Each school year, the Diocese of Ogdensburg catholic school students raises thousands of dollars in support of the MCA program.

This year's Catholic school week themes says it all: faith, knowledge and service. Those three words in essence sum up the basis of the MCA: awareness and sacrifice. Again, on behalf of the Mission Office, we salute our Catholic schools and the work they continue to pour into their effort to "... improve the world in which we live.....".

God bless you and your families.

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

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



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OBITUARIES

Altona - Patti L. (Blondo) Goldfarb, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2016 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Louis of France Cemetery, Sciota.

Black River - Rosalie J. (Petersen) O'Brien, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2016 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Burke - Theresa M. (Carey) Mastin, 89; Funeral Feb. 1, 2016 at St. George's Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery.

Carthage - Jeanette (Benware) Caulkins, 85; Funeral Jan. 22, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chazy - Patricia Ann (Favreau) Dwight, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church.

Clayton - Anthony Zach, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Clayton Cemetery.

Colton - John R. Watson, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Hogansburg - John Bigtree Jr., 86; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2016 Jan. 26, 2016 at St. Regis Church.

Houseville - Joseph Gyore, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2016 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Lowville Rural cemetery.

Keeseville - Rena T. (St. Denis) Keymel, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in the Port Douglas Cemetery.

Lake Placid - Roselyn Carey, 99; Funeral Jan. 25, 2016 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville - James L. DuFlo, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Herman H. Gillette Jr., 50; Funeral Jan. 29, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Janet Irene (Roe) Noel, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's

Cemetery.

Malone - James Arthur Eaton, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2016 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone - Warren P. Fish, 80; Funeral Feb. 2, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery, Chasm Falls.

Malone - Mardan (Mahoney) Rogers, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone - Marion (LaBarge) Tracy, 64; Funeral Feb. 3, 2016 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena - Bertha J. (Posewitz) Fregoe, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Debra J. (Barney) LaCombe, 61; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2016 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Moers - Donald R. Rabideau, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Moers Forks - Eldora Helen (Brassard) DeCoste, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2016 at St. Ann's Church.

Moers Forks - Leo Joseph Gadway Jr., 86; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2016 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk - Laura P. (Zappia) Lavigne, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2016 at Church of the Visitation.

Norfolk - Joseph J. Suzdak, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2016 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Bangor - Beverly J. Mulvana, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Ogdensburg - Brenda Chevrier, 47; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2016 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg - Ellen "Phyllis" (Rumble)

Ritchie, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru - Nancy A. Wells, 74; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Claire F. Deloria, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

Plattsburgh - Virginia Emily (LaValley) Ellsworth, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2016 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh - Dennis G. Pesca, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry - Alfred Joseph Rule, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam - Mary Jane (Compeau) Douglas, 79; Funeral Services at Seymour Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Redford - Janette (Fournier) Pellerin, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2016 at Church of the Assumption.

Star Lake - Frederick J. Cooper Sr., 81; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2016 at French Funeral Home; burial in Woodland Cemetery, Fine.

Tupper Lake - Laurette C. (Fournier) Nadeau, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus parish cemetery.

Watertown - Elizabeth M. (Dangerfield) Gaffney, 106; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2016 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.

Watertown - Marie (Scott) Thomson, 95; Funeral Services March 12, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Purwilla "Pug" M. (Canaan) Weideman, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.



Service Available

D.L. CALARCO Funeral Home, Inc.

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A VOICE OF FAITH

'Our life is a march of hope'

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer

As I climbed aboard the Northern Youth bus early Thursday morning, my hopes were high. I was excited for my oldest son and I to attend the 43rd annual International March for Life in Washington, D.C., something I'd wanted for years. The march occurs on January 22, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1973 which legalized abortion.

Sitting in the last seat at the back of the bus, I prayed the Rosary with the other travelers. As we rode, sunlight from the east slanted through the windows bathing us in a golden glow. I felt filled with purpose, filled with just cause, filled with motivation. I was anxious yet excited to belong to something so important to me, to march with hundreds of thousands of other peaceful warriors in the pro-life movement.

As we traveled most of the day, a huge storm approached our destination, a historic storm that would blow in and leave close to two feet in a place where milder weather was the norm. We'd receive texts, calls and posts from loved ones urging us to be safe, be careful, to cancel plans.

Believing we were called to march despite the circumstances, and considering it an adventure, we continued to our destination. Arriving late in the afternoon, we drove through the heart of the capital stopping briefly at the national mall for a group picture and a short sightseeing stint. Later after checking in at the hotel and dinner, we listened to pro-life speakers then celebrated Mass in the hotel lobby. That evening, it was announced we would leave immediately after the



PHOTO BY DAVE BOROWSKI, ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HERALD

Pro-lifers from the Diocese of Ogdensburg took part in the "Life is Very Good" morning rally and Mass sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, prior to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Bishop Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of Arlington and former Bishop of Ogdensburg, was the main celebrant of the Mass; priests from the North Country who concelebrated were Fathers Mark Reilly, Bryan Stitt, Thomas Higman and Scott Belina. Shown above are Aidan and Brendan O'Neill, Massena; Leyton LaDue, Norfolk; Candice O'Neill, Massena; and Colleen Miner, Saranac Lake, diocesan respect life director. Because of a snowstorm approaching the Washington area, the group was forced to leave the city before the march. NCC reporter Kristina Dean reflects on the experience on this page.

march on Friday to miss the storm which was slated to begin around 5 p.m.

That night, I couldn't sleep. Finally, I thought, I'm here. I will stand up for the unborn, for the voiceless who can't protect themselves. I wondered what it would feel like to be surrounded by people who all believe the same thing. Probably like many, I feel alone in my faith sometimes. My views can be unpopular and are sometimes criticized. It can be hard to be Catholic in this world. I feel alone at work, and sometimes even with family. I remember thinking it would be amazing to be surrounded by hundreds of thousands of pro-life advocates.

In the morning, the news was filled with dire weather predictions, but nothing could dampen my excitement. We attended a Life is Very Good Rally and Mass at

George Mason University sponsored by the Archdiocese of Arlington, Virginia. The plan was to drive downtown, attend a rally at the Washington Monument, then march down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court.

But as we waiting to leave, we were informed the snow was coming earlier than expected, and the decision was made for us to miss the march and head back home.

I was stunned. It felt wrong to leave after traveling all that way and not accomplish our goal. I was upset. My heart hurt, and tears starting leaking. I felt like kicking something. Sitting in all my layers of clothing including my purple March for Life shirt, I stared out the window. I was angry, but had no target for my anger. I didn't blame the decision makers, how could I? They were keeping us safe. I was angry at the situ-

ation. I prayed, "God, I know I live according to your will and not my own, but I don't like this! I want to march. I don't want to leave without marching!"

Somehow in the midst of my self-pity and inner temper tantrum, a thought slowly dawned.

Perhaps.....perhaps our life is a march where we carry the cause in our hearts and love in our souls. Our life is a march of hope. A march of living our lives through our faith, speaking out against injustice, praying and loving those who need healing, gently persuading others and carrying them to Christ with us. Protecting and speaking for those who can't. Loving all. That's our march.

It's not just a once-a-year event. Offering up our prayers, our disappointments, anxieties, sufferings and joys is another way we can march together as well.

Bus captain and chaplain Father Mark Reilly suggested to the Northern bus that we not only pray for all touched by abortion, but to offer any disappointments and sadness as a sacrifice to God. Our suffering can be united to Jesus' suffering on the cross, and can be used for others we may not even know.

Catholic author Peter Kreeft explains it as, "if we are 'in Christ', we, like him, can offer up our sufferings to the Father - and he uses them. They become seeds, or rainwater, and something beautiful springs up that we seldom see in this life."

And Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote, "Pain, agony, disappointments, injustices - all these can be poured into a heavenly treasury from which the anemic, sinful, confused, ignorant souls may draw unto the healing of their wings."

So although I wouldn't describe my disappointment as agony or an injustice, sitting there on the bus I held up my disappointment to Jesus, in the hopes that perhaps He would use my tiny drop, poured with thousands of other tiny drops into an ocean of mercy for those that need it.

It is a beautiful thing that our suffering and disappointments can be transformed and used in this manner. My trip without a march was not meaningless in helping the pro-life cause. Perhaps my tiny disappointment in some way helped another person heal from the pain of abortion. Perhaps it changed someone's mind. Perhaps it simply comforted another. Perhaps it was added into that "heavenly treasury" and will be used in a manner of which I could never conceive.

I trust in God that we followed His purpose in His time. In faith, may we continue together in our march of life, our march of hope, our march of love.