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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 39

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 16, 2016

Pope: God leaves us free

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Gospel parable of the prodigal son presents the image of God, the father, who gives people the gift of freedom, even to make mistakes, Pope Francis said. When it comes to our God-given freedom, "it is up to us to put it to good use. This gift of freedom that God

gives us always amazes me," he said March 7 before reciting the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The day Gospel's reading of the parable, he said, illustrates the characteristics of God, a father, "who is always ready to forgive and who hopes against all hope." Even

as his son leaves with half of his inheritance and returns humbled, the father meets him with tenderness and welcomes him back. However, the father also shows the same mercy and love to his oldest son who doesn't understand and "doesn't share that goodness toward

his brother who did wrong," the pope said.

"When one feels righteous -- 'I have always done good things' -- the father also comes looking for us, because that attitude of feeling righteous is an evil attitude: It is pride. It comes from the devil," he said

Report of special funds in the diocese

Michael J. Tooley, diocesan fiscal officer, presents the annual Special Funds report in this week's *North Country Catholic*.

Special funds are monies that the diocese holds for specific purposes such as disability insurance, mission projects, priests' retirement, lay employees' retirement and unemployment insurance.

The report also includes an accounting of the Diocesan Trust Fund and message about the report from Mr. Tooley and Bishop LaValley.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7-12

Funeral for Oblate priest

Among the survivors of Oblate Father Clarence Menard, native of Mooers, is his brother Father Gilbert Menard

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Father Alan Lamica, chaplain at the Altona Correctional Facility; and Ken Lushia, director of Our Lady of the House of Prayer in Ellenburg Center, were among the participants at a Lenten Day of Prayer for those involved in charitable apostolates held March 8 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. See more on pages 2 and 5.

VOCATIONS SUMMIT

What's the big deal?



Final plans are set for *INSPIRE: Called to Love* Vocation Summit to be held Sept. 25 at the Olympic Arena in Lake Placid. This week, Father Garry Giroux, who chairs the planning committee for the summit, answers the question "what's the big deal about this summit?" One of the points he makes is that "it is a big deal when internationally known speakers, the likes of Bishop Robert Barron (creator/host of the Catholicism series) and Mr. George Weigel (Pope St. John Paul II personally chose him to be his biographer) as well as Mrs. Jennifer Fulwiler and Bishop Christopher Coyne come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for *INSPIRE: Called to Love*. Whether we are single or married, a consecrated religious or ordained, these speakers will remind us of the world's need for our holiness. For those already committed to a particular vocation, and for those in the process of discerning God's call, these speakers will provide both formation and encouragement."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

IT'S TIME TO RENEW: The NCC has served the diocese for 70 years... p. 15

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Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
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R. LAVALLEY
President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSSJ

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/
General Manager

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

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

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountrycatholic.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Discovering God's call for each of us

As promised, news about the Sept. 25 diocesan Vocation Summit is beginning to grace the pages of the *North Country Catholic*.

On page 3, Father Garry Giroux, pastor in Brasher Falls and North Lawrence and chair of the Vocation Summit committee, answers the all-important question "what's the big deal?" about the summit.

Read what he has to say about "INSPIRE: Called to Love" and mark your calendars today!

It will be an amazing day for the Church of Ogdensburg.

As we look ahead to this major celebration, we can also look back on a quieter, though no less significant, spiritual gathering held at Wadhams Hall this past week.



Mary Lou
Kilian

About 65 Catholics from around the diocese involved in charitable apostolates took part in a Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection. Sister Donna Franklin of Catholic Charities and Deacon Mark Bennett of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh offered words of en-

couragement to members of the St. Vincent de Paul, Gabriel

Projects, Legion of Mary, K of C and others.

Sister Donna told the group something they already knew: "We are living in a difficult time - it's hard to be Christians."

"But this is the time that we've trained for," she said. "We pray for courage so we can stand up for the good of our brothers and sisters in the midst of secularism, in the midst of things that degrade and defile human life."

"We need to stand up and raise our voices against injustices against the poor," Sister Donna said. "What that means is different for each of us and we need to pray to discover God's call for us."

This "prayer to discover God's call for us" is also a critical element of the Vocation Summit in the fall.

In the words of Father Giroux: "The Vocations Summit will celebrate the universal call to holiness; this call is given to everyone at his or her baptism; the call to holiness is to be lived out in the vocations of marriage, the single life, the consecrated religious life or the ordained ministry."

The Vocations Summit, he continued, will offer each of us a chance to consider the best way we can live in a "breathtaking holiness" that captures the attention of the world.

How great is that!?!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Looking ahead to the holiest of weeks

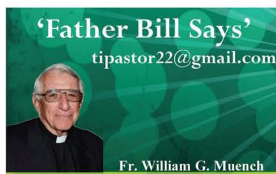
Let's talk about Holy Week today. This is a good time to prepare ourselves for a successful Holy Week spiritually.

That first Holy Week began with Jesus and his apostles coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the Hebrew feast of the Passover. That day - a day that we celebrate on our Palm Sunday - was filled with joy, singing and joyful crowds of people. Everything seemed to be going so well. That would change very quickly.

This year our Holy Week comes as we are celebrating a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Holy Week will be a perfect time for us to recognize God's great Mercy for us all. This mercy and love is demonstrated to us by Jesus' suffering, his Passion and Death.

We are saved through God's great love and mercy. Jesus leads our Exodus. That brings to mind the Exodus of the Old Testament when Moses rescues the Hebrew people, taking them from the slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.

Our Exodus is led by Our Savior, Jesus Christ, who rescues us from the slavery of sin to the joy of being the children of God. Jesus shows us that God's great love brings us forgiveness and Mercy.



On Holy Thursday, we celebrate God's great gift to us of the Blessed Eucharist as we join Jesus and the apostles at the Last Supper. Each pastor is reminded of our call to be dedicated to the needs of his parishioners, especially the poor, by imitating Jesus in washing the feet of some parishioners. It is such a humble moment yet, such a powerful reminder to each priest, to kneel before a parishioner and wash his or her feet.

Good Friday - such a strange title. What makes it good is the love of Jesus. Jesus often told us, "Greater love no man has than to lay down his life for his friends." This is a call for all of us to follow Jesus in "laying down our lives, by dying and living for another. Jesus' suffering would have been wasted if he had not endured it with love. It was not Jesus' suffering that saved the world but his love. Anyone who pretends

to love suffering is crazy yet, we are glad to suffer for someone we love. Our love gives a meaning to our suffering.

Spiritual writers speak of Holy Week as a victory for Jesus. Good Friday is a triumph of good over evil, of love over hate, of life over death. That victory became evident in Jesus' Resurrection to new life, a resurrection that we all hope to share in; one day Jesus will lead us to that new life.

I want to share with you one more event of our celebration of Holy Week in our day. That is the Chrism Mass. (Although in recent times, the Chrism Mass is celebrated the week before Holy Week so that more priests can attend.) The Chrism Mass is celebrated by the Bishop at the Cathedral Church. At this Mass, the Bishop consecrates and blesses the holy oils that will be sent out to each parish for the celebration of the sacraments during the next year. There are three sacred oils - the Sacred Chrism used in the conferral of Confirmation and Ordination. In addition, there is the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens.

The priests of the diocese all attend this Mass of the Chrism; they come to the Cathedral to

receive the oils for their parish. In addition, this is the time in which all the priests are called to renew publicly their priestly promises.

I would like to share with you the words of these promises that we, priests, renew at each Chrism Mass: "I am resolved to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more closely conformed to him, denying myself and confirming these promises about towards Christ's Church which, prompted by love of him, I willingly and joyfully pledged on the day of my priestly ordination. I am resolved to be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ, the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls."

Then, the Bishop turns to the congregation seeking prays for all priests so that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, so that they may lead people to the Lord Jesus. I also ask you to pray for all priests and to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

The Vocations Summit

INSPIRE: Called to Love is coming... what's the big deal?

By Father Garry Giroux
Chair, Vocations Summit Committee

If we encounter someone who appears animated and joyful, being curious, we will probably ask, "What's the big deal? What has you so excited?" Enthusiasm and joy awaken our healthy curiosity. Why? Enthusiasm and joy are attractive, and often contagious.

As the history of our Faith attests, healthy curiosity has led millions of souls to peace and joy on this side of the Kingdom, and eternal happiness, on the other side. So, where can we find some excitement, some enthusiasm and joy to attract our healthy curiosity?

- Bishop LaValley is very excited about the upcoming Vocations Summit, *INSPIRE: Called to Love*;

- The Diocesan Envisioning Team of 2013-2014, which conceived the idea of a Vocations Summit, is *overjoyed* that its idea is taking shape;

- The Summit Planning Team, which has been meeting and planning *INSPIRE: Called to Love* since July of 2014, is *filled with enthusiasm and fired by hope* as it works toward the September 25th Vocations Summit at Lake Placid.

Why should our parishioners, our consecrated religious, our deacons and priests be excited about the September 25th Vocations Summit? What is the big deal?

- The Vocations Summit will **celebrate** the universal call to holiness; this call is given to everyone at his or her baptism; the call to holiness is to be lived out in the vocations of marriage, the single life, the consecrated religious life or the ordained ministry.

Inspire CALLED TO LOVE

The Vocations Summit will **remind** participants that holiness catches the attention of our world because holiness is truly breath-taking. As St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans 12:2, "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

The Vocations Summit will **inspire** participants to **imagine** what our homes, our parishes, our schools and our communities could be like if a good portion of the people that attend *INSPIRE: Called to Love* claim Christ's invitation to holiness!

The Gospel enthusiasm and joy engendered by the Vocations Summit could **captivate** the attention of the young, the indifferent and the lapsed.

This is a big deal!

- Metropolitan areas like New York, Boston, Los Angeles, or Chicago regularly attract world-renowned speakers to their universities and convention centers; in those cities, it is not a big deal. But, it is a big deal when *internationally known speakers*, the likes of Bishop Robert Barron (creator/host of the *Catholicism* series) and Mr. George Weigel (Pope St. John Paul II personally chose him to be his biographer) as well as Mrs. Jennifer Fulwiler and Bishop Christopher Coyne come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for *INSPIRE: Called to Love*.

Whether we are single or married, a consecrated religious or ordained, these speakers will remind us of the world's *need for our holiness*.

For those already committed to a particular vocation, and for those in the process of discerning God's call, these speakers will provide both formation and encouragement.

This is a big deal!

- Since the 1930's, Americans have heard the expression, "*There's no such thing as a free lunch.*" Its meaning is clear; you can't get something for nothing.

Unlike the free-market economist, Milton Friedman, who espoused this saying in his writings, Bishop Terry LaValley decided that the participants at *INSPIRE: Called to Love* would get something for nothing!

The Vocations Summit is entirely **FREE**—there is *no* registration fee and the mid-day meal is also free!

To be sure, several individuals counseled against this move; they maintained that people will be more

likely to attend the Summit if they paid money for it; they argued that people would make a greater commitment to this event if they invested some money in it.

But, after considering the pros and cons, Bishop LaValley, not wanting cost to be an obstacle, especially to families, made his decision. There will be no participant cost for the Vocations Summit. This is a big deal!

Palm 127 reminds us, "Un-

less the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it . . ."

Bishop LaValley and the members of the Diocesan Envisioning Team are aware that it is the Holy Spirit who's promptings and inspiration gave birth to the idea of *INSPIRE: Called to Love*; the members of the Vocations Summit Planning Team are conscious that it is the Holy Spirit who's power and presence is guiding the planning and preparations for the Vocations Summit.

On Sunday, September 25, 2016 at the Olympic Center in Lake Placid, it will be the Lord's gift of the Holy Spirit which will inspire the Diocese of Ogdensburg to recognize we can *'cultivate a culture of vocations.'*

This is a big deal!

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary

66 Court Street, Canton, New York
www.cantoncatholics.com



invites you to participate in
Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday - March 20

5:00 p.m. (Sat) Vigil Mass with Solemn Entrance
8:00 a.m. Mass with Simple Entrance
9:30 a.m. Ecumenical Palm Sunday Procession in Village Park
11:15 a.m. Mass with Solemn Entrance
5:00 p.m. Mass with Simple Entrance

Holy Thursday - March 24

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30 p.m. Time of Quiet Prayer in Chapel (Confessions until 9:30 p.m.)
10:00 p.m. Night Prayer

Good Friday - March 25

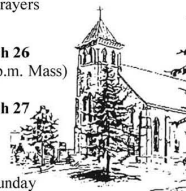
12:10 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy
1:30 p.m. Time of Quiet Prayer in Church (Confessions until 3:00 p.m.)
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet & Novena Prayers
5:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - March 26

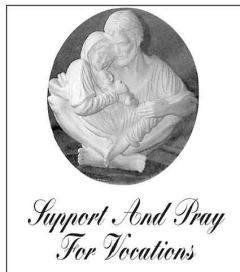
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil (No Confessions or 5 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday - March 27

7:30 a.m. Easter Mass
9:00 a.m. Easter Mass
11:15 a.m. Easter Mass
Please note: There is no 5 p.m. Mass Easter Sunday



May the joy of the Risen Lord fill your heart with peace this Easter



Support And Pray
For Vocations

Funeral held for Fr. Clarence Menard, OMI

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. — A Mass of Christina Burial for Oblate Father Clarence C. Menard, 84, a native of Mooers, was held March 10 at the Oblate Madonna Residence Chapel. He died March 4. Burial followed in the Oblate Cemetery.

Father Menard was born Aug. 12, 1931, in Mooers, the son of Bernard Joseph and Marie Adele (Arcouette) Menard. He attended Oblate College in Bar Harbor, Maine prior to entering novitiate on Aug. 1, 1952, in Colebrook, N.H. He professed vows as a

member of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on Aug. 2, 1953.

Father Menard completed his studies in philosophy and theology at the Oblate Scholasticate in Natick, Mass.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 1958, at St. Jean-Baptiste Church in Lowell, Mass., by Bishop Jeremiah F. Minihan.

Father Menard earned a licentiate and doctorate in Church History in 1967 from the Pontifical Gregorian University, in Rome, Italy.

Father Menard served as a

professor at various institutions of higher learning throughout his ministerial life, to include the Oblate College in Bar Harbor, Maine; the Oblate College in Natick, Massachusetts; the Oblate College in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana; and Oblate College in Washington, DC.

He was also part of the formation team at the national Oblate Novitiate in Godfrey, Illinois. In 2006, Father Menard retired to Oblate

Madonna Residence in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2010, Notre Dame Seminary conferred the Honorary Degree of Letters upon Father Menard.

In addition to his Oblate family, Father Menard is survived by his siblings, Father Gilbert Menard; Leonard Menard and his wife Joyce; Cecile McDonald and her husband Donald; Rita Miner and her husband Wilmer Gerald; Theresa Menard Lavoie; Roland Menard; Dominican Sister Elizabeth Menard, Gloria Menard; Catherine Frederick and her husband Gerald; Regina Stansbury and her husband John; Jeanne Menard; Arthur Menard and his wife Norma; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Father Menard is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Joseph, his sister Bertha, sister-in-law Doris Lavalley Menard, and brother-in-law Raymond Lavoie.



Fr. Clarence Menard, OMI

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RETREAT DAY FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN CHARITABLE APOSTOLATES

THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US



Father Douglas Lucia, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, opened the program noting that "we have so many ministries that show God's mercy in our diocese." In a message to more than 60 participants, he asked, "why do we do what we do? Hopefully because the love of Christ impels us."



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Deacon Mark Bennett, above, spiritual life director of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, and Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin, director of Catholic Charities, were the main speakers at the Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection for those involved in Charitable Apostolates, held March 8 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. At the conclusion of his presentation - which included discussion of a soup kitchen he oversees at St. Peter's - Deacon Bennett shared a song.



Deacon Thomas Proulx of Massena, read the Gospel during the Mass held in Wadhams Hall Chapel.



David Clarke of Plattsburgh signed up for the Catholic Action Network, an initiative of the New York State Catholic Conference to help Catholics make their voices heard among state legislators.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the day's Mass. Above he greets the participants who came from parishes across the diocese.

As Easter Vigil nears, new Catholic reflects on the RCIA process

As the Easter Vigil approaches, when new Catholics will be baptized and welcomed into full communion with the church, Julie Lashomb of Massena, a member of the diocesan catechumenate committee, invited people who had completed the RCIA process at Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence Parish in Massena, to share thoughts about their experience

Melinda and answered seven questions about the RCIA process:

1. Have things changed for you?

Yes most definitely. I always believed there was a God that was responsible for everything. However now I understand about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I have an understanding of the Old Testament and New Testament. If someone asked me about my religion I would be able to explain it to them. I am excited about religion. I have faith and understand why. I have more patience and look at people in a different way now. Which leads into our next question!

2. Do you look at life differently?

Of course. I try to remember that all people are our brothers and sisters. I understand that God loves us all. I understand that God is forgiving, loving, merciful. I try to remember to be an example to others and behave in a way that would please our Father.

3. Do you look at death differently?

Growing up I always worried about dying. I had several close relatives of mine who died at a very early age. I always believed in heaven but was scared. I certainly do not want to die any time soon. However, now I understand what is expected of me here on earth and what will be waiting for me. It re-

ally makes me want to live my life in a way that would please God. Also as a young adult I had a very close catholic friend tell me that I would not go to heaven because I had never been baptized. That was a cause of stress for me for most of my adult life. Now I know that this is not true. I am, however, very happy that I have received the Sacrament of baptism.

4. Do you look forward to receiving the Sacraments?

One of the most joyous days of my life was the day I was baptized, confirmed and received my first communion. I look forward to receiving the Eucharist each week and am proud to say that in the past year I could count on one hand how many times I have missed Sunday Mass. The Eucharist refreshes my soul each week and gives me the strength to walk the path the lord has chosen for me. I would love to have understood the sacraments more fully when I had my children baptized and especially on my wedding day. My husband is Catholic so we did marry in the Catholic Church with a Mass but I did not understand fully the depth and meaning behind this special sacrament at the time.

5. How has your prayer life changed?

I realize now that there is power in prayer. Prayers really work. I feel good when you talk to God. Whether it is in a group or alone: I have many faithful friends and when we said prayers at the start of this process I felt silly. Now, I

enjoy a group prayer. I am still learning and look forward to becoming more familiar with the Saints to be able to pray to them also.

Prayer is a great way to help people. Sometimes you say "I wish there was something I could do for them." Well, you can. You can pray for them.

6. Do you have a sense of church community?

I myself still do not do a lot of church socializing but the feeling of acceptance and love is very abundant. People are so welcoming and happy for you when you enter the church. There is plenty of opportunity for growing in the church community.

7. What ministries are you involved in or want to be involved in?

There always seems to be a need for volunteers within the church community. My ministry right now is directly related to my career. Every day I do my best to tend to the sick just as Jesus might have, with love, patience, and kindness. After 20 years in the profession there are days when I struggle but believing in Jesus reminds me to do my best. My most important ministry is to my children. I grew up with no religious education or exposure and now I am taking the opportunity to teach my children what I know about God and lead by being a good example for them.

To Report Abuse

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

Bishop's Schedule

March 17 - 11 a.m., Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 18 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 19 - 11 a.m., Mass for St. Joseph's Day at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

March 20 - 11a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
2 p.m., Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 22 - 12p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 23 - 12p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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 Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions:
April 7 - 6:30 p.m., St. Alexander's, Morrisonville
April 14 - 6:30 p.m., Church of the Holy Name, AuSable Forks

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg
March 16 - Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994
March 17 - Rev. Michael Froc, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Francis X. Parisian, 1955
March 18 - Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928
March 19 - Rev. A. Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009
March 20 - Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, 1939

Environmental Stewardship

Blessed are the Consumers

"Buy one, get one free." "Pay less and get more!" Does this not sound enticing? Of course, it does. But another question might be: Do I need two?

Jesus seems to have a different message from accumulating more than I need. "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven."

We all need material goods to live but "currently humans are consuming at an unsustainable pace - with damaging consequences for our society and our planet." (Lenten 4.2 Program, published by Liturgical Press)

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis calls us back to Christian simplicity and to our rich tradition as Christians that "less is more."

This practice enables us to appreciate more what we have and to share what we don't need with others who do need.

In the book entitled, *Blessed Are the Consumers: Climate Change and the Practice of Restraint*, Sally McFayes, points to the "blessing" we have as consumers; namely, we have the freedom to make choices about what we purchase.

She says, "Consumerism is a cultural pattern that leads people to find meaning and fulfillment through the consumption of goods and services. Well known comment that consumerism is the newest and most successful "religion" on the planet is not an overstatement. . . religions are being handed a challenge here, a wholesale transformation of dominant cultural patterns."

This is precisely one of the challenges that Pope Francis calls each of us to embrace - a conversion from addiction to consumerism to a Christian lifestyle of simplicity and Gospel justice. The first step to conversion might be to give thanks for the freedom to choose, second step to ask the question "Do I need second one?," and third one to consider its potential effect on others who also have needs for the earth's resources.



Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am pleased to provide this introduction to the *Report of Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015. As this report is presented to you, we complete our accounting of all the funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. The monies highlighted in this report are those set aside for special purposes and investments.



This report reflects your generous support that provides the needed resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Good News and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Particularly during this Jubilee of Mercy, we are keenly aware of our continuing desire to reflect the compassionate Face of our God to others through our continuing works of mercy.

I wish to thank Michael J. Tooley, our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, and his excellent staff for the competent manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and Investment Advisory Committee who meet regularly and offer their expert counsel in service to this local Church.

All the members of our Diocesan family are to be congratulated. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed with so many faith-filled persons whose generous hearts make ours a vibrant Church. I ask the Blessed Mother to bring your cares and that of your loved ones to the bosom of her Son, Jesus. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2015, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests' Retirement, Lay Employees' Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. All of the Special Funds statements for 2014-15 presented herein have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 25, 2015 issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The Report of Special Funds is presented here to provide the reader with the status of each of the special funds as of June 30, 2015, compared to other recent years.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2015, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of \$27,427,008 and a market value of \$29,292,159. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of .2% in 2014-15. In the first six months of the 2015-16 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a rate of return of -5.7%, and its market value is \$27,395,756 as of December 31, 2015. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of \$750,000 during the fiscal year, a rate of return of 2.56% on investments in the Fund.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund had a decrease of \$664,536 in its net assets in 2014-15, to \$5,436,287. The interest rate to depositors is 3%, and the interest rate on loans is 4%. In the first six months of 2015-16 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets decreased by \$892,541. As of June 30, 2015, total deposits in the Fund, including diocesan central office monies, totaled \$26,306,706, and the balance of loan principal due the Fund amounted to \$2,457,884.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Expenses exceeded revenue in the Protected Self Insurance Program by \$885,469 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, as fires at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga and at the former St. Mary's School in Champlain resulted in significant damage. In each case the diocese's share of the loss was \$250,000, its self-insured retention ("deductible"), with excess insurance coverage absorbing the additional expense which approached \$7.5 million. The program remains financially sound, as it has reserves for claims in the amount of \$2,550,041, and net assets of \$1,093,703 as of June 30, 2015. Due to the strength of the program over the long term, as well as the efforts of the program's insurance broker, the increase in the overall premium for excess insurance coverage for 2015-16 was 1.9% (+\$16,900), despite the significant loss incurred in 2014-15.

LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

The Lay Employees' Retirement Fund had a net decrease in net assets of \$1,815,757 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, bringing its total net assets to \$27,405,255. The investment's

portfolio had a rate of return of -2.1% in 2014-15. During the first six months of fiscal year 2015-16 fund investments saw a rate of return of -5.9%, bringing its market value to \$25,812,128. The Fund's July 1, 2015 actuarial valuation determined the Fund remains underfunded, seeing a decline from 92% to 85% in its funded status. The Plan is well funded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees (148% funded).



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had an increase in net assets of \$58,997 for the year ended June 30, 2015, with the increase driven by a decrease in claims paid (-\$36,377 less in 2014-15 as compared to 2013-14). The improvement in the financial condition of the program resulted in the diocese slightly reducing premiums in 2015-16.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had an increase in net assets in the amount of \$5,063 for the year ended June 30, 2015, bringing its net assets as of that date to \$119,266. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate. Moneys are also given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a gain for the year ended June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$10,850. Claims paid in 2014-15 mirrored that of the prior fiscal year (\$133 less). The fund balance of this fund as of June 30, 2015 is \$200,224.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND

The net assets of the Priests Retirement Fund decreased by \$400,661 in the year ended June 30, 2015. The Fund had losses on investments in the amount of \$315,696 in the fiscal year. Support from Christmas collections was \$275,896, as compared to \$373,564 the prior year, as the diocese reduced the contribution of this collection to support the Plan from 100% of the Christmas collection to 75%. An ad hoc pension increase was approved for retired priests in 2014-15, and again in 2015-16.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions that may arise as a result of a review of the Report of Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1210, email at mtooley@rcdony.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.

Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

Diocesan Trust Fund Principal
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2015
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2013	July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2015
Opening Balance	\$0.00	\$24,235,237.55	\$26,600,564.31	\$0.00
Net Deposits	14,925,681.98	230,342.75	(98,143.06)	15,057,881.67
Net Realized Gain on Sales	15,669,393.10	2,145,592.08	2,232,765.75	20,047,750.93
Fees [Custody/Management]	(1,693,704.99)	(93,539.00)	(100,110.96)	(1,887,354.95)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(8,656,727.43)	(601,845.88)	(751,243.27)	(10,009,816.58)
Net Adjustments*	<u>3,990,594.89</u>	<u>684,776.81</u>	<u>(456,825.01)</u>	<u>4,218,546.69</u>
Closing Balance [Book]	<u>\$24,235,237.55</u>	<u>\$26,600,564.31</u>	<u>\$27,427,007.76</u>	<u>\$27,427,007.76</u>
Market Value	<u>\$26,765,724.99</u>	<u>\$30,985,638.56</u>	<u>\$29,292,158.91</u>	<u>\$29,292,158.91</u>

* includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.

** Assets June 30, 2015 at NBT Bank, Dimensional Fund Advisors & The Investment Fund for Foundations.

<u>NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>% Yield (Book)</u>	<u>% Yield (Market)</u>
Bonds & U.S. Government Agencies	\$3,782,879.22	\$3,804,989.16	2.77%	2.83%
Equities & Equity Funds	18,738,153.99	20,233,870.66	1.22%	1.07%
Money Market	<u>715,338.55</u>	<u>715,338.55</u>	<u>0.01%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<u>TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>\$23,236,371.76</u>	<u>\$24,754,198.37</u>	<u>1.50%</u>	<u>1.70%</u>
<u>DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS</u>	<u>\$626,000.00</u>	<u>\$493,849.67</u>		
<u>THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS</u>	<u>\$3,564,636.00</u>	<u>\$4,044,110.87</u>		
<u>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>\$27,427,007.76</u>	<u>\$29,292,158.91</u>		

Deposit & Loan Fund
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,112,911.67	\$1,235,818.37
Interest Receivable	132,557.88	144,892.81
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	2,457,884.24	2,559,039.07
Reserve	(414,091.00)	(466,938.00)
Investments	26,186,128.43	24,333,647.43
Investment - Diocesan Trust Fund	629,438.00	660,127.27
Due From Retirement Plan for Priests	600,000.00	1,000,000.00
Due From Operating Fund	<u>38,164.29</u>	<u>112,857.48</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$31,742,993.51</u>	<u>\$29,579,444.43</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>		
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$26,306,706.43	\$23,478,621.06
Accrued Interest Payable	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>5,436,287.08</u>	<u>6,100,823.37</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>\$31,742,993.51</u>	<u>\$29,579,444.43</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2014 June 30, 2015	July 1, 2013 June 30, 2014
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest on Notes Receivable	\$84,470.25	\$105,821.38
Investment Income	846,835.66	765,706.89
Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	(1,286,921.78)	887,385.97
Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	<u>644,399.12</u>	<u>846,500.33</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$288,783.25</u>	<u>\$2,605,414.57</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Interest on Notes Payable	\$735,731.81	\$729,223.57
Investment Management Fees	132,661.76	111,634.72
Fiscal Office Administration	130,860.00	106,182.00
Office Supplies	6,912.97	302.78
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Increase in Reserves	(52,847.00)	(153,861.00)
Loans Forgiven	0.00	0.00
Contributions	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>\$953,319.54</u>	<u>\$793,482.07</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITUR	<u>(\$664,536.29)</u>	<u>\$1,811,932.50</u>

Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2011 -June 30, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2013	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2015		July 1, 2011 June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 June 30, 2013	July 1, 2013 June 30, 2014	July 1, 2014 June 30, 2015
ASSETS					INCOME				
Investments	\$763,781.40	\$836,563.82	\$960,173.53	\$915,535.13	Earned Premiums	\$1,539,402.53	\$1,607,191.88	\$1,680,823.46	\$1,703,064.51
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,400.04	4,735.28	4,742.56	5,000.00	Contributions	0.00	17,000.00	0.00	0.00
Notes Receivable	\$800,000.00	800,000.00	0.00	0.00	Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	(8,709.82)	88,915.42	159,473.71	(8,638.40)
Accounts Receivable	\$151,105.69	150,105.69	132,476.18	(60,447.62)	Investment Income	51,429.10	39,626.46	30,823.92	23,725.88
Prepaid Insurance	\$14,131.01	0.00	0.00	11,986.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$1,582,122.01	\$1,752,733.76	\$1,871,121.09	\$1,718,121.99
Due From Operating Fund	\$1,524,283.27	1,794,757.02	2,692,989.03	2,396,289.44	EXPENDITURES				
BPIC Member Share	\$155,167.00	171,300.00	207,164.00	243,134.00	Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds	\$740,652.17	\$818,064.57	\$877,727.44	\$914,661.89
Stock in NCRRG	\$132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	Professional Services	19,085.49	52,227.12	10,267.70	6,565.52
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,545,278.20	\$3,889,709.65	\$4,129,793.14	\$3,643,744.79	Gallagher Bassett Service Fee	22,304.00	22,876.00	23,475.00	24,622.00
					Adjustment in Reserves	(163,840.33)	869,260.86	555,331.36	400,320.18
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE					Self Insured Claims	423,908.56	189,468.03	424,351.81	722,221.82
Note Payable - BPIC	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	NYS Compensation Board Assessments	130,574.65	61,588.29	22,574.86	52,135.34
Unearned Insurance Premium	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	0.00	Department Grants	39,802.13	49,108.52	92,824.86	44,215.81
Reserves For Claims	\$740,979.22	1,594,389.94	2,149,721.30	2,550,041.48	Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Fund Balance	\$2,787,298.98	2,295,319.71	1,979,171.84	1,093,703.31	Diocesan Administration	166,003.32	182,119.64	180,665.93	188,847.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$3,545,278.20	\$3,889,709.65	\$4,129,793.14	\$3,643,744.79	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,378,489.99	\$2,244,713.03	\$2,187,268.96	\$2,603,590.52
					EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	\$203,632.02	(\$491,979.27)	(\$316,147.87)	(\$885,468.53)

Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program -Claim Payment and Reserve Experience
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
As of June 30, 2015

YEAR	CLAIMS	RESERVES	TOTAL	Losses In Excess of Specific Retention	Losses In Excess of Aggregate Retention	Net Claims	Maximum Amount Single Claim	Maximum Amount Aggregate Claims
XL - 2014-15	\$1,105,584.11	\$7,467,160.32	\$8,572,744.43	\$7,810,000.00	\$0.00	\$762,744.43	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
XXXIX - 2013-14	300,723.08	223,870.39	524,593.47	0.00	0.00	524,593.47	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVIII - 2012-13	235,189.62	158,414.82	393,604.44	0.00	0.00	393,604.44	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVII - 2011-12	365,359.19	7,861.28	373,220.47	0.00	0.00	373,220.47	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVI - 2010-11	312,544.02	122,070.01	434,614.03	0.00	0.00	434,614.03	250,000.00	0.00
XXXV - 2009-10	146,425.32	8,292.73	154,718.05	0.00	0.00	154,718.05	250,000.00	0.00
XXXIV - 2008-09	605,574.44	0.00	605,574.44	0.00	0.00	605,574.44	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXIII - 2007-08	317,864.64	0.00	317,864.64	0.00	0.00	317,864.64	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXII - 2006-07	151,770.92	11,651.68	163,422.60	0.00	0.00	163,422.60	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXXI - 2005-2006	542,772.58	59,562.27	602,334.85	140,000.00	0.00	191,770.92	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXX - 2004-2005	726,960.73	38,527.07	765,487.80	130,616.80	0.00	634,871.00	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXIX - 2003-2004	678,846.80	173,753.72	852,600.52	276,847.00	0.00	575,753.52	250,000.00	780,000.00
XXVIII - 2002-2003	722,298.94	221,590.01	943,888.95	449,295.37	0.00	494,593.58	250,000.00	750,000.00
XXVII - 2001-2002	275,460.43	0.00	275,460.43	22,192.92	0.00	253,267.51	125,000.00	525,000.00
XXVI - 2000-2001	289,143.47	0.00	289,143.47	0.00	0.00	289,143.47	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXV - 1999-2000	302,681.02	0.00	302,681.02	0.00	0.00	302,681.02	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIV - 1998-1999	329,653.96	0.00	329,653.96	0.00	0.00	329,653.96	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIII - 1997-1998	551,727.55	0.00	551,727.55	105,084.53	0.00	446,643.02	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXII - 1996-1997	478,202.02	0.00	478,202.02	98,570.05	0.00	379,631.97	125,000.00	583,500.00
XXI - 1995-1996	301,341.20	0.00	301,341.20	0.00	0.00	301,341.20	125,000.00	550,000.00
XX - 1994-1995	751,559.44	41,310.11	792,869.55	293,901.70	0.00	498,967.85	125,000.00	475,000.00
XIX - 1993-1994	981,920.02	295,150.88	1,277,070.90	676,697.89	132,693.91	467,679.10	125,000.00	450,000.00
XVIII - 1992-1993	326,652.77	0.00	326,652.77	0.00	0.00	326,652.77	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVII - 1991-1992	234,850.12	12,546.77	247,396.89	0.00	0.00	247,396.89	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVI - 1990-1991	92,322.17	0.00	92,322.17	0.00	0.00	92,322.17	75,000.00	355,000.00
XV - 1989-1990	190,455.56	0.00	190,455.56	0.00	0.00	190,455.56	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIV - 1988-1989	175,616.44	0.00	175,616.44	0.00	0.00	175,616.44	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIII - 1987-1988	217,503.90	0.00	217,503.90	38,761.50	0.00	178,742.40	75,000.00	300,000.00
XII - 1986-1987	189,446.09	0.00	189,446.09	0.00	0.00	189,446.09	75,000.00	300,000.00
XI - 1985-1986	56,964.54	0.00	56,964.54	0.00	0.00	56,964.54	75,000.00	260,000.00
X - 1984-1985	160,033.76	0.00	160,033.76	0.00	0.00	160,033.76	75,000.00	260,000.00
IX - 1983-1984	109,583.65	0.00	109,583.65	0.00	0.00	109,583.65	75,000.00	260,000.00
VIII - 1982-1983	184,851.55	0.00	184,851.55	18,990.00	0.00	165,861.55	75,000.00	260,000.00
VII - 1981-1982	103,135.97	0.00	103,135.97	0.00	0.00	103,135.97	75,000.00	260,000.00
VI - 1980-1981	323,071.44	0.00	323,071.44	112,199.00	0.00	210,872.44	75,000.00	225,000.00
V - 1979-1980	1,012,672.03	452,155.58	1,464,827.61	1,110,967.84	141,859.67	212,000.00	75,000.00	212,000.00
IV - 1978-1979	40,498.05	0.00	40,498.05	0.00	0.00	40,498.05	75,000.00	212,000.00
III - 1977-1978	153,929.85	0.00	153,929.85	36,878.52	0.00	117,051.33	50,000.00	150,000.00
II - 1976-1977	61,216.79	0.00	61,216.79	0.00	0.00	61,216.79	50,000.00	150,000.00
I - 1975-1976	63,402.99	0.00	63,402.99	0.00	0.00	63,402.99	50,000.00	150,000.00
	\$14,219,811.17	\$9,293,917.64	\$23,513,728.81	\$11,321,003.22	\$274,553.58	\$11,918,172.01		

Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Fund
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2011-June 30, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2013	June 30, 2012
ASSETS				
Accrued Income				\$23,392.00
Accounts Receivable	\$14,734.62	\$9,063.96	\$41,501.48	\$6,781.98
Investments	28,222,276.89	29,928,554.01	26,396,266.72	24,490,220.88
TOTAL ASSETS	\$28,273,286.29	\$29,955,383.35	\$26,465,490.09	\$24,570,394.66
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Due for Office Expense	\$400,506.20	\$418,149.30	\$364,646.26	\$98,986.28
Deferred Revenue	467,625.00	316,222.00	413,372.78	375,490.16
Fund Balance	27,405,255.09	29,221,012.05	25,687,471.05	24,095,918.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$28,273,286.29	\$29,955,383.35	\$26,465,490.09	\$24,570,394.66

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014	Sept. 1, 1987 - June 30, 2014	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2015
ADDITIONS				
Employer Contributions	\$965,921.96	\$1,224,807.11	\$21,148,128.32	\$22,114,050.28
Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)	(764,347.87)	4,319,667.68	19,647,964.37	18,883,916.50
Investment Income	628,186.42	543,547.26	16,894,347.52	17,922,533.94
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$829,760.51	\$6,088,022.05	\$57,690,440.21	\$58,520,200.72
DEDUCTIONS				
Benefit Payments	\$2,387,068.83	\$2,285,828.69	\$23,733,339.69	\$26,120,408.52
Administration Expense	258,448.64	268,652.36	4,735,677.85	4,994,126.49
Loss on Security Deposit	0.00	0.00	410.62	410.62
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$2,645,517.47	\$2,554,481.05	\$28,469,428.16	\$31,114,945.63
NET (ADDITIONS MINUS DEDUCTIONS)	(\$815,756.96)	\$3,533,541.00	\$29,221,012.05	\$27,405,255.09
INVESTMENTS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,299,631.33	\$1,299,631.33		
U.S. Government & Agency Obligations	\$2,227,923.06	\$2,238,447.76		
Corporate Obligations	0.00	0.00		
Equities	8,623,978.44	9,696,932.37		
Manning & Napier Advisors Investment Funds	9,459,081.89	9,301,562.70		
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets	1,034,250.00	840,257.54		
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Multi-Asset Fund	3,785,925.00	4,404,322.19		
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund	385,232.00	441,123.00		
TOTALS	\$26,826,021.72	\$28,222,276.89		

Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Fund
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$32,855.00	\$33,344.00
August 31, 1969	\$105,040.00	\$97,828.00
August 31, 1970	\$167,236.00	\$144,704.00
August 31, 1971	\$244,322.00	\$248,784.00
August 31, 1972	\$328,375.00	\$341,430.00
August 31, 1973	\$397,979.00	\$357,121.00
August 31, 1974	\$442,091.00	\$374,519.00
August 31, 1975	\$485,652.00	\$502,393.00
August 31, 1976	\$651,402.00	\$661,536.00
August 31, 1977	\$746,759.00	\$758,276.00
June 30, 1978	\$907,676.00	\$873,290.00
June 30, 1979	\$1,091,077.00	\$1,066,747.00
June 30, 1980	\$1,333,304.00	\$1,240,533.00
June 30, 1981	\$1,637,330.00	\$1,468,851.00
June 30, 1982	\$1,966,375.00	\$1,685,948.00
June 30, 1983	\$2,332,800.00	\$2,766,951.00
June 30, 1984	\$2,866,861.00	\$2,832,430.00
June 30, 1985	\$3,314,597.00	\$3,748,256.00
June 30, 1986	\$4,200,610.00	\$5,189,275.00
June 30, 1987	\$5,686,447.00	\$6,363,937.00
June 30, 1988	\$6,280,104.00	\$6,713,049.00
June 30, 1989	\$6,849,652.00	\$7,569,606.00
June 30, 1990	\$7,716,476.00	\$8,434,613.00
June 30, 1991	\$8,285,622.00	\$8,951,313.00
June 30, 1992	\$9,025,501.00	\$10,401,337.00
June 30, 1993	\$11,107,406.00	\$11,674,275.00
June 30, 1994	\$11,653,168.00	\$12,127,575.00
June 30, 1995	\$12,338,738.00	\$13,734,082.00
June 30, 1996	\$13,031,227.00	\$15,645,877.00
June 30, 1997	\$14,013,278.75	\$18,380,013.00
June 30, 1998	\$15,646,840.00	\$21,676,585.00
June 30, 1999	\$16,243,414.85	\$24,534,082.00
June 30, 2000	\$18,392,037.89	\$27,831,968.70
June 30, 2001	\$21,013,619.31	\$23,928,040.75
June 30, 2002	\$21,362,600.49	\$20,539,548.82
June 30, 2003	\$19,524,487.79	\$20,622,312.68
June 30, 2004	\$22,017,665.13	\$22,691,213.55
June 30, 2005	\$22,914,541.47	\$24,896,701.34
June 30, 2006	\$24,356,734.29	\$27,020,394.56
June 30, 2007	\$25,561,684.80	\$30,676,999.67
June 30, 2008	\$27,564,499.16	\$28,332,067.06
June 30, 2009	\$23,030,415.60	\$20,674,813.27
June 30, 2010	\$21,625,470.32	\$21,322,358.36
June 30, 2011	\$22,640,200.15	\$25,259,932.71
June 30, 2012	\$23,074,757.16	\$24,490,220.68
June 30, 2013	\$23,845,778.35	\$26,396,266.72
June 30, 2014	\$25,462,693.87	\$29,928,554.01
June 30, 2015	\$26,826,021.72	\$28,222,276.89

Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
ASSETS		
Money Market	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investments (DTF)	414,727.84	434,948.56
Due From Operating Fund	(129,686.39)	(208,904.31)
Prepaid Expenses	3,135.00	3,135.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$288,176.45	\$229,179.25
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserve For Claims*	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	288,176.45	229,179.25
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$288,176.45	\$229,179.25

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2014 June 30, 2015	July 1, 2013 June 30, 2014
INCOME		
Unemployment Premiums	\$123,110.60	\$116,279.92
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	(20,220.72)	55,993.90
Investment Income	10,549.78	10,537.34
Transfer from Other Funds	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$113,439.66	\$182,811.16
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$33,607.23	\$69,984.14
Consultant	6,270.00	6,270.00
Diocesan Administration	14,565.23	14,484.74
Transfer to Other Funds	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$54,442.46	\$90,738.88
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE	\$58,997.20	\$92,072.28

Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015

<u>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</u>	<u>July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015</u>	<u>July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014</u>
	\$114,202.46	\$97,444.57
RECEIPTS		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$35,236.39	\$43,589.65
Missionary Coop Collection	0.00	0.00
Parish OPA Donations	0.00	0.00
Interest	3,738.28	2,967.61
Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
General Donations	76.75	368.61
Bequests	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>39,051.42</u>	<u>46,925.87</u>
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$153,253.88	\$144,370.44
EXPENDITURES		
Office Supplies	\$356.84	\$375.88
Advertising	0.00	791.75
Budget Grants and Donations	<u>33,631.32</u>	<u>29,000.35</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>33,988.16</u>	<u>30,167.98</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30-	<u>\$119,265.72</u>	<u>\$114,202.46</u>

Diocesan Health/Disability Benefits Program*

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>June 30, 2015</u>	<u>June 30, 2014</u>
ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable	\$48.00	\$1,272.00
Cash & Money Market Funds	6,055.05	5,405.06
Investment in Deposit & Loan Fund	0.00	152,435.43
Due From Operating Funds	<u>194,121.22</u>	<u>32,513.82</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$200,224.27</u>	<u>\$191,626.31</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Reserve for Claims**	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	0.00	2,252.00
Due To Operating Funds	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>200,224.27</u>	<u>189,374.31</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$200,224.27</u>	<u>\$191,626.31</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

	<u>July 1, 2014 June 30, 2015</u>	<u>July 1, 2013 June 30, 2014</u>
INCOME		
Premiums	\$94,800.00	\$116,544.00
Retiree Drug Subsidy	0.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	0.00	0.00
Investment Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,317.85</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$94,800.00</u>	<u>\$118,861.85</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$41,419.19	\$41,551.57
Administrative Fees	0.00	0.00
Health Insurance - Retired Priests	14,910.56	13,629.29
Fiscal Office Administration	27,620.29	26,742.11
Transfers to Other Programs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$83,950.04</u>	<u>\$81,922.97</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>\$10,849.96</u>	<u>\$36,938.88</u>

*Self insured health insurance program was terminated August 31, 1997

*Priests' Retirement Fund*THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015

<u>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</u>	<u>July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015</u>	<u>July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014</u>
	\$11,069,001.97	\$9,819,997.75
ADDITIONS		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$275,895.79	\$373,564.41
Diocesan Assessment	77,325.00	77,484.00
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	10,721.36	13,356.00
Bequests and Donations	393,051.90	20.04
Investment Income	278,902.91	240,460.92
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	<u>(315,695.52)</u>	<u>1,626,399.18</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>720,201.44</u>	<u>2,331,284.55</u>
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS	\$11,789,203.41	\$12,151,282.30
DEDUCTIONS		
Payments to Retired Priests	\$793,533.58	\$743,144.08
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	202,137.08	193,000.60
Diocesan Administration	<u>125,192.25</u>	<u>146,135.65</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>1,120,862.91</u>	<u>1,082,280.33</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	<u>\$10,668,340.50</u>	<u>\$11,069,001.97</u>

FORTY-SEVEN YEAR SUMMARY

	<u>1968-2015</u>	
ADDITIONS		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$7,550,146.63	
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,279.70	
Diocesan Assessment	305,555.44	
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	383,723.73	
Bequests and Donations	2,798,665.32	
Investment Income	6,541,352.27	
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	10,502,513.00	
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000.00	
Loan Account Interest	119,838.70	
Loan Account Grant	<u>30,000.00</u>	
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$29,809,074.79	
DEDUCTIONS		
Payments to Retired Priests	\$15,257,349.00	
Retired Priests Health Insurance	2,308,995.37	
Diocesan Administration	<u>1,574,389.92</u>	
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>19,140,734.29</u>	
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2015	<u>\$10,668,340.50</u>	

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$368,738.44	\$368,738.44
Accounts Receivable	\$6,128.47	\$6,128.47
Due to Operating Fund	(1,212,122.00)	(1,212,122.00)
Interest Receivable	6,616.93	6,616.93
Stocks	3,516,864.06	4,038,334.92
Bonds and U.S. Government Obligations	1,121,546.46	1,128,854.96
Manning & Napier Funds	4,190,097.47	4,262,155.41
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Multi-Asset Fund	1,417,875.00	1,606,786.33
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Func	150,307.00	172,114.00
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Ec	<u>364,750.00</u>	<u>290,733.04</u>
TOTAL ASSETS - JUNE 30, 2015	<u>\$ 9,930,801.83</u>	<u>\$10,668,340.50</u>

*Priests' Retirement Fund*THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
The Fund Balance has Accumulated as Follows:

1968	\$17,500.80
1969	10,330.23
1970	20,579.08
1971	19,265.60
1972	27,914.97
1972-1973	5,070.97
1973-1974	18,329.14
1974-1975	55,740.80
1975-1976	44,465.90
1976-1977	36,976.48
1977-1978	54,045.99
1978-1979	66,581.55
1979-1980	133,679.84
1980-1981	113,242.58
1981-1982	22,235.30
1982-1983	99,793.90
1983-1984	173,959.28
1984-1985	30,889.45
1985-1986	153,452.78
1986-1987	111,359.14
1987-1988	204,214.85
1988-1989	188,566.80
1989-1990	226,548.99
1990-1991	143,441.06
1991-1992	445,497.41
1992-1993	272,881.17
1993-1994	463,490.02
1994-1995	491,107.10
1995-1996	960,060.25
1996-1997	1,021,061.17
1997-1998	408,417.16
1998-1999	829,004.36
1999-2000	719,110.30
2000-2001	660,809.56
2001-2002	(1,184,839.10)
2002-2003	330,280.74
2003-2004	1,009,257.04
2004-2005	693,492.98
2005-2006	722,134.05
2006-2007	1,178,509.12
2007-2008	(1,037,244.76)
2008-2009	(1,814,310.57)
2009-2010	92,956.71
2010-2011	1,351,134.50
2011-2012	(403,955.22)
2012-2013	632,958.28
2013-2014	1,249,004.22
2014-2015	<u>(400,661.47)</u>

FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2015

\$10,668,340.50

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

USCCB, other faith groups file court brief in immigration case

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and several other Catholic organizations joined in filing friend of the court briefs March 8 urging the Supreme Court to support the Obama administration's actions that would temporarily protect from deportation more than 4 million immigrants in the country illegally and enable some immigrants to legally work in the United States. Immigration guidelines that defer the deportation of millions of people provide "substantial humanitarian benefits" and should be permitted to stand, said the brief filed by the U.S. bishops and 24 other faith-based organizations. Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., or CLINIC, similarly joined an amicus brief with more than 325 immigration groups, civil rights, labor and social service organizations in urging the court to uphold the Obama administration's executive actions. At least three Catholic colleges also joined an amicus brief with more than 75 education and children's advocacy organizations.

Nancy Reagan recalled as 'kind, gracious' during papal encounter

OXNARD, Calif. (CNS) -- Following the death of Nancy Reagan March 6, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony recalled fondly sharing time with the former first lady and Pope John Paul II during the pontiff's 1987 visit to Los Angeles. Reagan sat next to the pope Sept. 16, 1987, as they met with 21 elementary school students from Immaculate Conception School in downtown Los Angeles, next to what was then the archdiocesan chancery office. "We were very privileged to have the pope in Los Angeles for 48 hours," Cardinal Roger Mahony, retired archbishop of Los Angeles, told Catholic News Service. "And we were blessed to have Mrs. Reagan, representing her husband (President Ronald Reagan), for the visit at Immaculate Conception." After the pope talked about the value of Catholic schools and urged students to cooperate with their teachers, he invited Reagan to say a few words. Noted for her "Just Say No" campaign against drugs, she encouraged them to avoid all types of drugs and narcotics.

'Returning home' to God 'brings joy' to his heart, says Bishop Loverde

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Virginia, encouraged Catholics to return home during Lent by trusting in God's mercy and love, and seeking forgiveness in the sacrament of penance. "We rejoice because like the prodigal son, we have a heavenly Father whose joy is to forgive," Bishop Loverde said. "Let us return home because returning home brings joy to his heart. Returning home makes God happy." Bishop Loverde celebrated the closing Mass March 5 for Pope Francis' Lenten initiative "24 Hours for the Lord" at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. At the Vatican, in Rome and in many dioceses around the world, Catholic churches had extended hours for confessions as part of the Year of Mercy initiative during the first weekend of March. At the national shrine in Washington, the observance lasts 48 hours, with continuous exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout that time, including overnight hours. The opening Mass was celebrated March 3 in the shrine's Crypt Church by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. Following the closing Mass, Bishop Loverde led a eucharistic procession around the nave of the shrine's Great Upper Church. Both liturgies were televised by the Eternal Word Television Network, Catholic TV and New Evangelization Television.

Catholic silence on involvement in Middle East called 'massive failure'

By Beth Griffin
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- "The most massive failure of the Catholic community at all levels in the past 20 years has been to address the question of our ongoing involvement in the Middle East," according to San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy.

"What is particularly fascinating and troubling is all three recent popes were clearly opposed to the wars, yet at no level in the Catholic community was there any major opposition or sustained witness," he said. "It's like the dog that didn't bark."

He spoke March 7 at a forum in New York on the topic "Prophecy Without Contempt" and in a subsequent interview with Catholic News Service.

Bishop McElroy said there has been no sustained discussion or opposition in society as a whole, as two wars dragged on to become the

longest in American history. He attributed the lack of discourse to the absence of a military draft and the subsequent distancing of the fighting from the consciousness of the people.

"The suffering is not here," he said. Paraphrasing historian David Kennedy, the bishop said, "America has created a capacity to fight wars endlessly because the cost to U.S. society is small, not wrenching, in terms of casualties and as a portion of the U.S. economy."

All three popes opposed U.S. participation in these wars, he said, but "at all levels, the Catholic community has been virtually silent."

The prophecy on the war issue has occurred in the Middle East, he said, where all parties have articulated that the region has been subjected to great tragedies, the bishop said.

Bishop McElroy said the attack on the Muslim community in the United States is "a great outrage."

"The Muslim question is an alarm bell about authoritarianism in society. That's not just a disagreement. It's an alarm bell that goes to the core of who we are as a nation and absolutely needs to be repudiated in the strongest possible way by everybody," Bishop McElroy said.

The anger dominating the current political climate is a sign of disenfranchisement and the feeling of not being listened to by the elites, Bishop McElroy said.

"When significant sectors of working-class white America feel disenfranchised, that's a problem, and this gets played upon in a troubling way," he said.

"Anger that turns into division should always be challenged," the bishop said. "What we're witnessing now is an anger that's meant to divide, to be purposefully destructive of the social fabric of society. It's not anger that is meant simply to redress grievances."

Consistory set to approve Mother Teresa as saint

By Junno Archo Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will preside over a consistory to approve the canonization of five men and women, including Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, the Vatican announced.

The March 15 consistory will also determine the approval of canonization of Argentine "gaucho priest," Blessed Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero and Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio, a 14-year-old Mexican boy martyred for refusing to re-

nounce his faith during the Cristero War of the 1920s, the Vatican said March 7.

The meeting of cardinals and promoters of the sainthood causes, also known as an "ordinary public consistory," formally ends the process of approving a new saint.

Although the canonization dates are often announced at the consistory, it is widely believed Blessed Teresa's canonization will take place Sept. 4. That date celebrates the Jubilee of Workers and Volunteers of Mercy and comes the day before the 19th anniversary of her

death, Sept. 5, 1997.

On Dec. 17, Pope Francis approved a second miracle attributed to Blessed Teresa's intercession. That miracle involved the healing of a now 42-year-old mechanical engineer in Santos, Brazil, who was in a coma after being diagnosed with a viral brain infection that resulted in multiple brain abscesses.

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Cardinal Dolan, NYS bishops meet with Gov. Cuomo

ALBANY - Bishop Terry R. LaValley was set to join Cardinal Timothy Dolan and the other bishops of New York State to visit the state Capitol in Albany on Tuesday afternoon, March 15.

The religious leaders were scheduled to meet with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and legislative leaders on issues of concern to the Catholic Church.

Among the issues to be discussed:

- The Education Tax Credit, designed to drive more scholarships to low-income children to help them attend Catholic and other religious and independent schools;
- Opposition to assisted suicide legislation;
- An increase in the minimum wage, along with increased state reimbursements for not-for-profit charitable agencies, like Catholic Charities, to cover the added costs;
- An increase in child care subsidies to enable more low-income parents of young children to enter and remain in the workforce.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The most powerful story ever written

The waving of palm branches and the cries of "Hosanna to the King!" usher in the holiest week of the year.

The full drama begins with the crowd's fickle acclaim of Jesus as King for a day. It is a foreshadowing of the blasphemous mockery the soldiers will hurl at our thorn-crowned Saviour a few days later.

And yet, for a few hours we can raise our voices joyfully with the crowd, linking the honor given by the crowd, especially by the children, with His ultimate victory beyond the grave.

We wonder and rejoice as the veil is raised to permit a glimpse of Jesus, the Messiah and liberator.

But then, as the Palm Sun-

day Mass proceeds, he horrors of the Passion are proclaimed, and we are left wondering what I would have done, when I hear, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

How could have events have accelerated at such a dizzying pace between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday?

The forces of darkness were never more vicious in their attempt to destroy the Mission of Jesus on this earth.

That the religious leaders of the day were made instruments of evil is a tragic lesson to all religions, even to the present day.

That these leaders scandalized their own people, making them agents of falsehood, is another warning to those of unwary and

careless piety. How easily the righteous can be persuaded by the lies of their leaders that a certain action is not at all evil, but actually good and admirable.

We wonder how many of those whom Jesus healed in his journeys were among the crowds crying out against Him just a few days later!

The Passion narrative is the most powerful story ever written about the sacrifice of the innocent to evil, and the blind consent of crowds to the will of those in power. In this year's narrative according to St. Luke, the Roman Procurator three times declares the innocence of Jesus, and so does Herod Antipas, the Jewish tetrarch of Galilee. Yet, fear of political expediency prevailed.

Only the "good" thief who defends the truth of Jesus' innocence and honestly ad-

March 20

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY
At the Procession of the Palms:
Luke 19:28-40

At Mass:
Isaiah 50:4-7;
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14-23, 56

mits his own guilt, is rewarded with heaven that day.

In this Year of Mercy, how ironic that no mercy of any kind was shown to Jesus by either the Roman authorities, the Jewish Religious leaders, or the crowds.

The outstanding example of courage and kindness, however, came from Veronica who wipes the face of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa. We wonder how many peo-

ple may have been converted by the powerful image on the cloth which she must have proudly treasured that day.

And did Simon gradually help Jesus willingly with the Cross?

The whole purpose of God the Father and of His divine Son in allowing the brutality and agony the ordeal was to show the greatest mercy to all of us, sons and daughters of Adam. He continues to show endless mercy to us in our fickle and weak response throughout the ages even to the present time.

This Holy Week is another opportunity for us to become fervent messengers of God's love and mercy in a world that still has time.

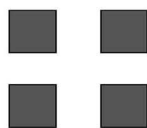
By embracing the Cross of Jesus in patience and gratitude, may we find hope and newness of life.



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AT THE MOVIES

THE YOUNG MESSIAH

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

It's a seemingly glaring omission likely to strike even casual readers of the New Testament as disappointing: With the notable exception of the finding of Jesus in the Temple, the Gospel writers are entirely silent about their subject's childhood.

Apart from this single incident, our only canonical information about the years between the Holy Family's return from exile in Egypt and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry consists of Luke's general observation that, during this time, "Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

While frustrating for scholars -- and a happy hunting ground for those given to wild theories (Jesus in Tibet, anyone?) -- this period can, nonetheless, provide a fertile field for speculation if handled in a careful way.

A case in point: the engaging dramatization "The Young Messiah" (Focus).

Director and co-writer Cyrus Nowrasteh's screen version of Anne Rice's 2005 novel "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" sensitively explores the mystery of the In-

carnation.

By remaining faithful to the underlying message of scripture even as it tackles a topic on which the Bible itself is mute, Nowrasteh's script, written in collaboration with his wife Betsy, avoids the many theological pitfalls that surround the union of Christ's divine and human natures.

The result is an intriguing, devotion-friendly piece of entertainment suitable for viewers of most ages. Families will welcome it as especially appropriate fare for Lent as well as the Easter season.

As the film begins, a combination of both ordinary and supernatural circumstances indicate to Joseph (Vincent Walsh) that the time has come for his family to leave their temporary residence in Alexandria - the only home 7-year-old Jesus (Adam Greaves-Neal) has ever known - and return to Nazareth.

Not for the first time, Joseph and Mary (Sara Lazaro) are being forced to grapple with the concrete implications of their son's unique identity.

Together with Jesus' other close relatives - including his uncle, Cleopas (Christian McKay), and cousin, James (Finn McLeod Ireland) - Joseph and Mary under-

stand, at least partially, that the lad is the promised Messiah and the Son of God.

The fact that he possesses miraculous powers is, moreover, becoming apparent even to people outside the family circle.

Joseph and Mary's dilemma is obvious: How can they properly guide a child who remains, in many ways, a mystery to them?

And how are they to answer the many questions he himself keeps raising? As Joseph pointedly asks, "How do we explain God to his own Son?"

In the midst of their bafflement, Joseph and Mary are confronted with an even more urgent priority: keeping Jesus safe from the dangers that surround him. The notoriety resulting from the boy's superhuman abilities has drawn the attention of corrupt King Herod (Jonathan Bailey) who dispatches a Roman centurion named Severus (Sean Bean) to track and kill him.

Jesus is also being dogged by the figure of Satan (Rory Keenan), though only he can sense the evil adversary's presence.

While "The Young Messiah" can be warmly endorsed for a wide range of audiences, the mature elements listed below, although discreetly handled,



CNS PHOTO/FOCUS
Adam Greaves-Neal stars in a scene from the movie "The Young Messiah."

bar recommendation for all. The film contains combat violence with slight gore, scenes of crucifixion, an attempted rape and at least one cross term. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture

Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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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 who will share the story of his will to fight against a terminal cancer.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

Saranac Lake – The St. Bernard's Church Hand Bell Choir will hold a free St. Patrick's Day Irish Music Concert.
Date: March 20
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Will Rogers Village
Features: Sing-a-long also featured

CLINTON

LOBBY FOR LIFE DAY

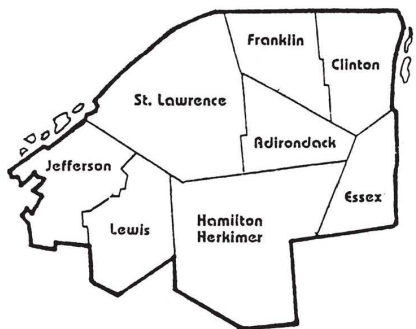
Albany – Champlain Valley Right to Life is sponsoring a bus trip to the Lobby for Life Day at the state Capitol.
Date: April 13
Time: 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Place: Legislative Building
Cost: \$20
Features: Premier Coach from St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
Contact: Applications for the trip can be found at church entrances or call Kitty at 518 563 2943.

PAINT AND SIP

Chazy – Paint and Sip party to be sponsored by the Gals of Sacred Heart.
Date: March 30
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish
Cost: \$30 per person includes all supplies, snacks and "sipping"
Contact: 518-846-7650 or 518-570-7747 or send check to Sacred Heart, PO Box 459, Chazy, NY 12921 by March 23

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh – A Divine Mercy Sunday observance is set
Date: April 3
Schedule: Beginning at St. Peter's Church, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:15 p.m. in the main church; Lecture Series: Three different lectures 12:30, 1:15, 2:00 in the Emmaus Room; Sacrament of Reconciliation: 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 in the chapel; 2:30 p.m.: Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be sung in the main



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.

church followed by a Procession to St. John's Church where closing benediction will take place.

Features: Sponsored by St. Peter's, St. John's and OLV for Year of Mercy.

SPRING BRUNCH

Altona – Holy Angels to have a Spring Brunch.
Date: April 10
Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free
Features: Brunch, bake sale, craft tables
Contact: Call 236-5848 to reserve craft tables.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

AuSable Forks – The Au Sable Forks K of C is holding Palm Sunday Breakfast.
Date: March 20
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30
Place: Holy Name Parish Center Gym
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$6

PRAYER SERVICE

Plattsburgh – Annual Good Friday prayer Service to be held.
Date: March 25
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: In front of Planned Parenthood
Features: Prayer for the sanctity of life. Rain or Shine

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Moers – Monthly prayer group held to pray for all of the sick in our parishes.
Date: Meets every second Friday
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Senior Housing

Features Prayer for all the people added to our list each month. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited within the prayer service. Prayer and snack lasts about an hour.

Contact: Nancy Monette at nmonette@charter.net

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart to have their Annual all you can eat Fish Fry.
Date: March 18
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; Take-outs, \$10

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – 40 Days for life to be held.

Date: Daily through 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. MARY REGISTRATION

Ticonderoga – St. Mary's School Pre-K & Kindergarten registration for 2016-17 school year is set
Date: March 22
Time: 4 p.m. to 6
Features: Children are eligible for Pre-K if they turn 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2016. Children are eligible for Kindergarten if they turn 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2016.

FRANKLIN

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – Cabbage roll sale to be held.
Date: March 17
Time: 6 a.m. until all are gone
Cost: \$4
Features: May be pre-ordered starting on March 16 by calling 518-529-6580

SUGAR ON SNOW BRUNCH

Chasm Falls – St. André Bessette Parish is holding a Sunday brunch to celebrate the beginning of Holy Week and the maple sugaring season.
Date: March 20
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: St. Helen's Parish Hall
Menu: Sliced ham, scalloped potatoes, Fr. Joe's Famous Baked Beans, cabbage salad, sugar on snow, homemade raised donuts, more take out available
Cost: Adults, \$10; seniors, \$8; children (5-10), \$5; under 5, free

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Brushton – St. Mary's will be having a breakfast buffet.
Date: March 20
Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6-12, \$4; 5 and under, free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, \$25
Features: Take-outs available. Call 518-529-6580.

DINNER THEATER

Brushton – The North Franklin Theater Group and St. Mary's Catholic Church presents its annual dinner theater.
Date: April 2
Time: 6 p.m.; arrive no later than 5:30
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: \$30 per person pre-paid. Payment must be received no later than March 23. No refunds after March 25.
Features: "Murder at Rutherford House". Choice of Roast Turkey or Roast Pork
Contact: Mail reservations to Eileen Miller, PO Box 214, Moira, NY 12957. 518-529-7713. Be sure to include the number of Pork or Turkey Meals

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.
Date: April 3
Schedule: 11 a.m., Mass; Following the Mass from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1:00 p.m. and continue up until 2:50 p.m. At 3:00 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung and there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
Place: Notre Dame Church
Features: All are welcome to join in any or all of the above times of prayer and praise as your schedule permits.
Contact: Fr. Joseph Giroux, at the St. André's Parish Office, (518) 483-1300

JEFFERSON

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.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

Journey with us through Lent in the Missions

This year, take a journey for Lent and with the Missions. As prayer and sacrifice characterize the Season of Lent, they also mark the missionary commitment to which all the baptized are called.

The Pontifical Mission Societies website puts "Lent In Focus" by helping you see the Season through a missionary lens. The pages of this website will grow as Lent continues. The web address if you are interested is www.onefamilyinmission.org.

Journey with us this Lent and with the priests, religious and laity in the Missions who are spreading the Catholic faith and caring for God's people in a world of need!

During Lent especially in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis asks us to "celebrate and experience God's mercy" as we give hope for others to experience that mercy firsthand. This Lent, you can answer the call of Pope Francis, and become messengers of God's mercy and hope for our mission family. Your prayers and financial help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will directly help priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists in their loving service among those in greatest need. By your Lenten sacrifice, you can journey with

- priests in Bangladesh who serve workers on tea plantations
- Sisters in Thailand who save girls from trafficking
- catechists in the slums of Kenya who visit the sick as they teach children of mercy and hope.

Our Lenten appeal is currently underway. I ask for your help. God calls all of us to be His voice in our world of need, reminding others that He is with us always. This Lent, would you be one of those loving missionaries with your support of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith?

As we continue our Lenten journey, may you always be consoled in your darkest times by the knowledge that the Lord never abandons us.



OBITUARIES

Ausable Forks – Howard Keith Aubin, 86; Funeral Services March 12, 2016 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Ausable Forks – Thomas Charles Devlin, 58; Funeral Services March 10, 2016 at Holy Name Church; burial in Jay central Cemetery.

Ausable Forks – George J. Gravell, 77; Memorial Services March 12, 2016 at Holy Name Church.

Brasher Falls – Gerald Anthony "Gerry" Henry, 88; Funeral Services March 9, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church.

Clayton – Mary E. "Libby" (Loveland) Natali, 94; Funeral Services March 7, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan – Robert J. "Pickle" Company, 97; Funeral Services March 11, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan – Mary F. (Briot) Knight, 90; Funeral Services March 10, 2016 at Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Jean D. Barcomb, 72; Funeral Services March 7, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart of Marcy Cemetery, Churubusco.

Malone – Marjorie M. (Gokey) Badore, 96; Funeral Services March 10, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Elizabeth K. "Betsy" (MacPherson) Frank, 75; Funeral Services March 12, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood – Jean B. (Harper) Fiacco, 87; Funeral Services March 9, 2016 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Helen M. (LaBombarde) Ashline, 88; Funeral Services March 12, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville

Redford – Robert M. "Bobby" Parker, 63; Funeral Services March 12, 2016 at

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Church of the Assumption; burial in Saranac Independence Cemetery.

Watertown – Therese M. Capone, 72; Funeral March 9, 2016 at Sisters of St. Joseph; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary Dacey Malara, 79; Funeral Services St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Marie S. Thomson; Funeral Services March 12, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Robert "Bob/Papa" Aaron Everleth, 76; Funeral Services May 7, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

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Around

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JEFFERSON

LENTEN ADORATION

Brownville - Immaculate Conception will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday's following Mass and Benediction.
Time: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Schedule: Beginning Good Friday March 25 at 3 p.m., the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chapel in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 3 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chapel of Divine Mercy, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

Contact: For more information on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit thedivinemercy.org

IHC OPEN HOUSES

Watertown - IHC and St. John Bosco Pre-School to have open houses.

Primary School: March 30, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.; call 315-788-7011 to make an appointment for Kindergarten screening
Intermediate: April 12, July 19 and Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m.;

Junior/Senior High School: March 16 at 6:30 p.m., 7th Grade Orientation; March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown - The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.

Date: March 31
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers.

HOOF & FEATHER DINNER

Evans Mills - Hoof and Feather dinner to



be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: March 19
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Watertown - St. Patrick's Church in Watertown sponsors weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays. The Monstrance is placed on the Altar at the end of Noon Mass. Our doors remain open until 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.
Contact: Dc. Mastellon at 315-782-6086

IHC 1976 CLASS REUNION

Watertown - The Immaculate Heart Central High School Class of 1976 Reunion Committee has plans for their 40th reunion.

Schedule: July 8, Meet and greet at Colemans; July 9, dinner at the Savory Café

Features: This will be in conjunction with Watertown High School Class of 1976 although we will have separate rooms on Saturday evening.

Contact: Please reach out to us on FB - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110430185653057/> or contact Aileen Dawley at 19761hcreunion@gmail.com or Steve Fazio at stevenmfazio@gmail.com

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Port Leyden - There will be a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the St. Martin's / St. John's Altar and Rosary Societies.

Date: March 31
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30
Place: Port Leyden Fire Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; under 5, Free
Contact: Take-outs and deliveries are available by calling 348-8945

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville - Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration to be held.
Date: April 3

Schedule: Reconciliation will begin at 2:15 p.m., and the DVD, Divine Mercy 101, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, at Stockbridge, MA., will be shown in the church hall at 2 p.m.. At 3:00 p.m., The Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration will include: Blessing of The Divine Mercy Image and holy cards, presentation of petitions, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament,

The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Speaker: The Rev. Mark A. Pasik, M.A., Pastor of St. Mark's Church in Utica
Features: A cover-dish reception will follow in the church hall.
Contact: 348-6260 for more info

LENTEN EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.
Dates: March 17
Time: 4 p.m. to 5
Place: St. Peter's Church

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: March 20
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. John's Church Hall
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

ST. LAWRENCE

EASTER EGG HUNT

Ogdensburg - St. Joseph's Nursing home to have Easter Egg hunt.

Date: March 20
Time: 1 p.m. Kids 1 to 4; 1:15 Kids 5 to 9; 1:30 Kids 10 to 12
Features: Bring your own basket. Prize for finding the Golden Egg in each age group. Photos with the Easter Bunny Will be offered as Well as cookies, punch, Easter candy.

DINNER THEATER

Brasher Falls - The North Franklin Theater Group presents "Murder at Rutherford House", an interactive dinner theater experience.

Date: April 16
Time: 6 p.m., arrive no later than 5:30
Place: Brasher Falls K of C hall
Cost: \$30 per person pre-paid. Reservations deadline is April 7th.
Contact: Call Terry Grant at 315-389-4116 or Phil Davis at 315-389-4627

ST. MARY'S LENTEN SCHEDULE

Canton - The schedule of special programs for Lent at St. Mary's follows
Schedule: Saturdays: 8:10 a.m., Rosary for Vocations (Chapel); 8:30 a.m., Mass (Chapel); 9 a.m., Conversion Series by Bishop Robert Barron with discussion. (School Library); Sundays, 10 a.m., Symbolon Series: Learn more about our

Catholic Faith. (School Library); Thursdays, 4 p.m., Holy Hour for Vocations (Chapel); Fridays 5:15 p.m., Stations of the Cross (Church); Mon-Fri. 7:15 a.m., Daily Mass (Chapel); Mon-Thurs. 5:15 p.m., Daily Mass (Chapel) March 4th: 5:15 p.m., Stations of the Cross Penance Service; Confessions and Adoration until 10 p.m. (Church)

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. Adoration will be held in the side Chapel here at St. Mary's

MANICOTTI MONDAY

Norfolk - Manicotti Monday is the first Monday of every month.
Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30
Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$9.75; Under 5, Free
Contact: Laurie at 315-384-4242

FISH & SHRIMP

Gouverneur - Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday.

Date: through March 25
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15
Place: St. James School
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free
Features: Take-outs available, phone ahead for faster service and deliveries, 287-0130.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

Ogdensburg - Catholic HeartWorkcamp (CHWC) has announced that it will be returning to Wadhams Hall
Date: June 26 to July 1

Cost: The cost is \$375 per person, which includes meals, lodging, transportation to the work sites, t-shirts and snacks.
Features: 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.
Contact: For information about the Og-

densburg camp or to register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com. For additional information, www.heartworkcamp.com.

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: 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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

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

Date: June 3-5
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Features: A Rachel's Vineyard retreat offers a safe, non-judgmental environment of hope and healing for those suffering after abortions. The chaplains for the spring retreat are Father Mark Reilly and Father Thomas Higan
Note: The fall Rachel's Vineyard retreat will be held over Labor Day weekend Sept. 2-4. Confidential registration forms will be available soon.

Contact: For a list of retreat locations or for more information about Rachel's Vineyard visit www.rcdny.org and for local information www.rcdny.org/pro-life.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse - The eighth annual IGNITE Catholic Men's Conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse, will be held.
Date: March 19
Time: all day

Place: SRC Arena on the campus of Onondaga Community College.
Features: Rudy Ruettinger, Notre Dame Football player, author and motivational speaker, Fr. Joe Freedy, former college quarterback, Diocese of Pittsburgh Vocation Director, and Randy Raus, Founder CEO and President of Life Teen Missions.
Contact: www.ignitecatholicmen.org