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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 41

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 30, 2016

Memorial of God's infinite mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - God's love is limitless and the church's Holy Week services offer Christians a deeper understanding of his infinite mercy, Pope Francis said.

The Easter Triduum is a memorial to a love story "that gives us the certainty that we will never be abandoned in life's trials," he said at his weekly audience in St.

Peter's Square March 23.

Continuing a series of talks dedicated to God's mercy, the pope reflected on each day of the Triduum leading to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

In remembering the washing of the feet and the institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, he said, Christians recall how Christ

shows his disciples that the "Eucharist is love that is done through service" to others.

"In giving himself to us as food, Jesus attests that we must learn to break this nourishment with others so that it may become a true communion of life with those who are in need. He gives himself to us and asks us to remain in him in order

to do the same," he said.

Good Friday, Pope Francis continued, is the "climactic moment" of the love of God who offers salvation to the whole world; a love that "embraces all and excludes no one." The pope added that in remembering Christ's passion and death, Christians "can and must love one another.

TO BE ORDAINED

Todd Edward Thibault



Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain Todd Edward Thibault as a transitional deacon April 2 at St. James Church in Carthage. A native of Colchester, Vermont, he is completing seminary studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Thibault was born July 4, 1965, the son of Maurice and Pauline Thibault. He graduated from Champlain College in Burlington before beginning studies for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts and then the Josephinum. He was been employed by the Diocese of Burlington as a case director for the tribunal and as Bishop's Fund coordinator for the Office of Stewardship and Development. He also worked as assistant manager of guest services for Smugglers Notch ski resort.

'Now and at the Hour of Our Death'

St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake hosted a conference on end-of-life issues March 19.

Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, was the featured speaker.

The morning session focused on the physician assisted suicide legislation currently facing New York State.

Participants heard about the composition of the legislature and the importance of contacting representatives to make opposition known.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

St. Joseph and the Sisters

Bishop reflects on the mercy shown by St. Joseph in his homily for the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FAITH-FILLED FIELD TRIP



SCHOOL PHOTO

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with students from Seton Catholic Central School in Plattsburgh who traveled to Ogdensburg for the March 17 Chrism Mass. In front are Nicole Bullock, Abigail Boule, Kathryn Larson and principal Catherine Russell; back, Cameron Lee, Avery Bell and Dawson Pellerin. Catholic schools across the diocese offer daily opportunities for students to learn about their faith and participate in liturgical experiences. Principals at the ten elementary schools and two high schools are now accepting registrations for the 2016-17 school year. See pages 4, 5 and 7.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: The energy of Easter and of little boys... p. 9

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A celebration of 'mercy in motion'

When Easter comes as early as it did this year, it's easy to lose track of other important March dates on our church calendar.

Traditionally, for example, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25 but this year, of course, March 25 was Good Friday. That means we'll be observing the angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary - announcing that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus - on April 4, the first open day after Easter Sunday.

And, then there's St. Joseph's Day.

The celebration of the feast remained on March 19 but, this year, the vigil for Palm Sunday

came as the sun was barely setting on the day and Holy Week claimed our complete attention.



Mary Lou
Kilian

But now, as we settle into the Easter Season, it's not too late to consider the vital place of St. Joseph in our Catholic family.

As the patron of the only religious order based in our diocese, St. Joseph holds a special place in our particular part of the church family.

Bishop LaValley's message for the Feast of St. Joseph (see page 3) is certainly timely as we look ahead to the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday.

In his homily at the Sisters of

St. Joseph Motherhouse, the bishop said that "Joseph became an instrument through which Divine Mercy Himself would be welcomed, supported, and protected in this world.

"We know that Joseph's own deep faith in and worship of Yahweh must have had a powerful influence on Jesus' growth," Bishop LaValley said. "Leading Mary and the Christ Child on perilous journeys to and from Egypt to escape the dictates of those mired in evil, Joseph shows us what courage, tender concern and accompaniment can achieve."

And, for our diocese, the Feast of St. Joseph offers a moment for us to acknowledge the "courage, tender concern and accompaniment" that we

have experienced from our Sisters of St. Joseph.

Again, in the words of Bishop LaValley: "My friends, this Society of St. Joseph offers a radiant and attractive witness to those who live outside these walls every time you encourage and accompany your sisters who share the same charism and consecrated commitment. We admire and seek to imitate such mercy in motion!"

Mercy in motion. I think this is exactly what Pope Francis was encouraging all of us to embrace during this special Jubilee Year of Mercy,

Happy belated St. Joseph's Day, Sisters of St. Joseph.

The church of the North Country is, indeed, blessed by your presence.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Followers of Christ called to be merciful

This Sunday, as with the Sunday after Easter every year, is designated as Mercy Sunday.

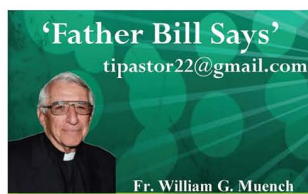
Holy Week - that week before Easter, the final week of Lent - is always a time to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection. During Holy Week, we walked with Jesus though his Last Supper, we joined with Jesus in his Passion and Death and we find new life with Jesus in his Resurrection.

Each of these events demonstrate God's great Mercy.

There are two things that I have learned over and over again each Holy Week. The first is compassion.

During his Passion Jesus demonstrated for us real compassion. As the soldiers were nailing Jesus to the cross, Jesus prayed, "Father forgive them." Then, while hanging on the cross, one of the thieves berates Jesus; the other asks to be remembered. Jesus recognizes his sincerity. He says to him, "This day you will be with me in Paradise."

What a powerful moment. I pray that one day I will hear these words from the Lord - when my time comes.



Fr. William G. Muench

As followers of Jesus all of us are challenged to become more merciful, more compassionate. What does this mean? How do we hope to make it possible?

Being more compassionate means more than just being nice to a person - although that is spiritually a good thing. However, more than that being compassionate means living a total compassionate way of life. Christians should radiate compassion through their way we live our lives.

I realize this is not easy. We live in a world filled with times of violence and divisiveness. People will often respond to me that things happen, that reacting in anger or holding a grudge happens. Jesus demonstrates to us that even in tough situations - even in violent situations - compassion is possible.

I know only too well that many find being too compassionate as an act of weakness. With Jesus I say there is strength in compassion. A compassionate person shows a strength and is unafraid to keep his or her self-control. Staying in control keeps us always prepared to make the right decision and to do the right thing.

We, Catholics, experience the compassion and mercy of Our God in the Sacrament of Penance. In faith, we know and believe that our God is merciful. We have confidence that God will forgive and guide us to peace.

We should not be afraid to meet the Lord in this sacrament. Yet, many do come to confession with fear, anxious because of their failings and sinfulness. They are embarrassed by their weakness. They are upset by their lack of faith. They know that Jesus has promised them yet, they hesitate. The Lord Jesus tells us not to be afraid; he teaches us that God is compassionate. This fear unfortunately often stays with us even as we get

older. Too many of us still struggle with our faith in God's compassion.

The other lesson that we should have learned is gratitude.

Lent - Holy Week - Easter should have led us to Mercy Sunday with a deep, even intense gratitude. Our reaction to God's compassion is obviously gratitude.

When all we do is a response to God's great love with gratitude, we truly discover who we are and how we should live. This gratitude must also be a recognition to the many people who have been part of our lives, who have helped and watched over us.

This gratitude should also give us a recognition of the many events that the Lord has placed in our lives to lead and guide us. Our response must be gratitude. We must make gratitude a way of life. Such a way of life gives us a real meaning to what life is all about. You can't say "thank you" enough. Such a way of life becomes special.

This gratitude always leads to compassion.

FOLLOW ME

St. Joseph: a man of mercy

Bishop LaValley's homily for the St. Joseph's Day Mass at St. Joseph's Motherhouse, Watertown

While the story is so familiar, its impact continues to be ever new and truly earth-shattering.

In a dream, the Lord told Joseph that the Child conceived in Mary's womb "will save God's people from their sins." Simply - Divine Mercy would descend upon the human race - a Savior, Redeemer - and the world would never be the same! Yet, even before it was made known to him what the Holy Spirit had in store for his betrothed, "Joseph, an upright man unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly."

Here we see what lay deep within St. Joseph's heart: such tenderness, thoughtfulness and compassion for the woman he loved. Even before he received the divine message clarifying what was happening, Joseph wanted to avoid possible scandal, protecting Mary from potential harm.

Prior to him having all of the providential facts, he was making plans for a personal act of mercy.

This Jubilee of Mercy is a year of focused tenderness, reverence and compassion, a time to acknowledge God's boundless mercy for me, for you.

This is a graced time to size up the tenderness, reverence and compassion I give to my sisters and brothers, my neighbor.

I think it particularly opportune for this much-loved congregation of consecrated religious that honors and seeks the powerful intercession of St. Joseph, to acknowledge and celebrate God's love as you reflect on the tenderness, reverence and compassion that lay



At the conclusion of the St. Joseph's Day Mass at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown, Bishop Terry R. LaValley greeted the sisters including Sister Yvonne Therese Cusson and Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer.

deep within your hearts as consecrated religious.

So, we each ask the question: Do these qualities that lay deep within the heart of St. Joseph lie deep within my own heart—tenderness, reverence and compassion for others.

In the *Joy of the Gospel* (99), Pope Francis writes: "I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: In John's Gospel we hear Jesus say, 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (Jn 13:35). This was Jesus' heartfelt prayer to the Father: 'That

they may all be one...in us... so that the world may believe' (Jn 17:21).

My friends, this Society of St. Joseph offers a radiant and attractive witness to those who live outside these walls every time you encourage and accompany your sisters who share the same charism and consecrated commitment. We admire and seek to imitate such mercy in motion!

The kind attention and tender care you give to your sisters in failing health, the compassion you express in your parish ministry, in the schools, college, and the reverence you give to those in the special religious education programs all reveal your Spirit-filled heart and devoted faith in Jesus, the Face of Divine Mercy.

Mercy is about caring for

and accompanying one another. The Holy Father reminds us to "Beware of the temptation of jealousy! We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port," he says. So, we ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each, which belong to all."

Like Joseph, even before we know all the details of what the Lord has mapped out for the future for us as individuals, even before we know all the details of what the Lord has in store for this consecrated community's tomorrow—tenderness, compassion and kindness through it all are the best indicators of the extent to which God's mercy has found a home in our hearts. To encourage, care for, and to accompany another means that mercy cannot be

shared from a distance or an abstract idea that we just talk about.

When the Holy Father urges us to encourage and accompany one another, we see such were facets of Joseph's life.

We know that Joseph's own deep faith in and worship of Yahweh must have had a powerful influence on Jesus' growth. Leading Mary and the Christ Child on perilous journeys to and from Egypt to escape the dictates of those mired in evil, Joseph shows us what courage, tender concern and accompaniment can achieve.

Joseph became an instrument through which Divine Mercy Himself would be welcomed, supported, and protected in this world.

In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis recalls that there are times when "we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives" (3).

With the welcoming of this Most Holy of Weeks only hours away, we have an opportunity to accompany the merciful Lord in a personal and communal prayer on his Passion Way.

At this and every Eucharist, we join our lives with that of our victorious and risen Savior in humble adoration of the Father. St. Paul told the Romans that "All depends on faith, everything is a grace. Because we believe, we enter the profound richness of this Mystery, rejoicing in the mercy so freely and lovingly given.

Thank you, Sisters of St. Joseph for your radiant witness of tender love and mercy. The Church of the North Country is so blessed! Blessed and Happy Feast Day to you and to all the Associates! May God be praised...forever may God be praised!



"Catholic schools are defined by what makes them unique, said St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools. "First and foremost they are places to meet Jesus and experience His transforming love and truth." Catholic schools of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have been places to learn about Jesus in recent days as many of their students participated in Passion Plays. At left, eighth grader Talandra Hurlburt, as Mary



and seventh grader Aidan Stacie, as Jesus reenact the Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga on Wednesday of Holy Week. At right, eighth grade students of Holy Family School in Malone led an assemble of students, faculty, staff and guests in a prayer following the footsteps of Jesus on his way to Calvary. Pictured are Michael Medved, Jake VanSteenberg, Ciara LeRoy and Thomas Dishman.

Looking Ahead

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

Sometimes it is a challenge to live in the present moment! Although graduation and the end of the school year are weeks away, the attention of our principals is drawn not only to the end of this school year but also to the more distant future, the beginning of the next school year!

This focus on the next school year is particularly apparent in March when principals have their own form of *March Madness* as they host kindergarten registrations, school visits for potential new students and parent information opportunities.

Yesterday, I received a new book in the mail, *Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children around the World* (Loyola Press). Children have questions and struggles just like adults. In *Dear Pope Francis*, our Holy Father gives children the chance to voice their concerns and ask the questions that rest deep in their hearts. Some of the question are fun; some serious; many are deep with meaning.

Pope Francis answers each question with sensitivity and clarity, teaching the children about Christ and our Catholic faith.

Some of the questions children asked Pope Francis include:

I would like to know more about Jesus Christ. How did he walk on water?

Our deceased relatives, can they see us from heaven?

*What did God do before the world was made?
Where is your favorite place to pray and why?
Will my grandpa, a non-Catholic who is not a person willing to do something evil, go to heaven when he dies? In other words, if someone never makes any penances, how big a sin must he commit for him to go down to Hell?*

This focus on the next school year is particularly apparent in March when principals have their own form of *March Madness* as they host kindergarten registrations, school visits for potential new students and parent information opportunities

*How can God hear us?
My mum is in heaven. Will she grow angel wings?
Why are lots of people so poor and have no food? Can God give the poor people some food like He fed the 5,000 people?*

*Why do we venerate the cross?
Will the world be again as it was in the past?
How can you settle conflicts in the world?*

Our Catholic schools have outstanding academic programs, safe and orderly environments that support learning and competent, dedicated administrators, faculty and staff. However, these are not the defining marks of a Catholic school.

Catholic schools are defined by what makes them unique. First and foremost they are places to meet Jesus and experience His transforming love and truth.

What makes our schools unique is not a program, or an environment or competent administrators and faculty. What makes them unique is a person, Jesus Christ.

In our schools, the deepest questions about the human person, about life and death, sin and eternal life, the transformation of society, relationship with others, personal responsibility – many of which the children asked Pope Francis – are answered with a Catholic world view that is founded on the Gospel and the rich heritage of our faith.

If your children are not in a Catholic school and you live in an area where a Catholic school education is available I encourage you to contact the principal to arrange for a visit to the school. (See information in advertisement on page 5.)

Nothing can replace the personal experience provided by a school visit in which you can speak with the principal, tour the school and experience the atmosphere of the school community. A school visit, as well as talking to parents who send their children to a Catholic school, can be particularly helpful to parents who are preparing to send their first child to school.

If you currently have your children enrolled in one of our schools invite a neighbor or friend whose school aged children are not in a Catholic school to make a visit to the school with you. Imagine how the enrollment in a school would grow if every family currently enrolled convinced one other family that sending their children to the Catholic school would be a priceless investment in their child's future.

Seton Principal to retire at end of school year

PLATTSBURGH - Catherine Russell, principal of the Middle and High School campus of The Seton Schools, has announced her retirement after more than 15 years of combined service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

During her tenure, Ms. Russell focused her contributions in enhancing technology, and expanding college course offerings, the visual and performing arts and the campus ministry programs.

"With increasing enrollment and lots of great things happening, Seton Catholic is in a good place," Russell said. "Personally after six years, I am ready for a change, but it is most important to me that the focus for next year is to continue to enhance the strides that we have made.

"I am so grateful to the faculty and staff here at Seton for our combined team effort as our successes could not have been made possible without their dedication," she said.

Seton Catholic was recently recommended for reaccreditation by the validating team from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Russell said that Seton faculty pride themselves on their dedication to the mission of Catholic education and a personal passion of teaching and learning.

Meeting the academic bar of New York State's new curriculum standards is not viewed by Seton faculty as an

academic challenge as much as it is a personal commitment to success, she said.

A few highlights of positive alternatives to public school education:

- All New York State education standards are exceeded with small class sizes
- Faculty are accredited and certified with low student: teacher ratios
- Emphasis on differentiated and individualized instruction
- Faith-based environment teaches good morals and welcomes all denominations
- 100% college acceptance rate

Mr. Chris Hay, president of

the Education Council of The Seton Schools said, "Ms. Russell's passion and dedication to Catholic education will certainly be missed. Under her leadership we have increased the number of international students, been reaccredited with Middle States (the only local school to have this designation), successfully transitioned the sixth grade from Seton Academy to the middle/high school building and developed a 5-year strategic plan for our Seton Schools.

"We wish Ms. Russell the best as she moves into the next phase of her life," Hay said.



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Catholic Charities accepting CCHD grant applications

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant process for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The criteria to be used for submitting a proposal is:

- Project must be aimed at alleviating the causes of poverty.

- Project must be a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.

- Sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization.

- Project must have the potential to be funded after the CCHD funds have been expended.

- Projects must be consistent with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. (Applicants do not have to be Catholic.)

This year two grants for \$4,000 each are available.

Applications can be requested from Catholic Charities by mail, phone or e-mail Catholic Charities, 6866 State Hgwy. 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669; or (315)393-2255 or e-mail your request and mailing address to: ccdirect@wadhams.edu

Grant applications are due back to Catholic Charities by May 20.

Grants will be awarded by the end of June 2016.

Funeral held March 23 for Filippini Sr. Anita Canale

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Filippini Sister Anita Canale, 83, was held March 23 at St. Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh.

She died March 21, at St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh. Burial was in Ave Maria Cemetery.

Born in Watertown, Sister Anita entered the Religious Teachers Filippini Oct. 23, 1955.

She received the religious habit on Aug. 26, 1956 and made her final religious profession on Aug. 30, 1959.

Sister Anita was awarded a BS degree in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University.

An teacher in the middle school, Sister Anita taught in the Archdioceses Newark NJ; Hartford, CT; Philadelphia; and in the Dioceses of Trenton, NJ, Camden, NJ and Albany, NY.

Sister Anita was Pastoral Minister at Holy Family Parish in Nutley, NJ.

She was also Superior in Scotch Plains, Nutley, and Merchantville, NJ. Sister

Anita was Principal at St. Francis School in Hackensack, NJ.

Sister Anita was Secretary for many years for the late Sister Clare Testa, Provincial Superior.

In 2006 Sister Anita became an Archives Assistant at Villa Walsh and worked there diligently until recently because of her illness and then became a resident of St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, NJ until her death.

Sister Anita Canale is survived by her sisters, Filippini Sister Geraldine Canale, Hammonton, NJ; Martha Schnurr, North Brunswick, NJ, and brother, Rocco Canale. She is predeceased by her parents Nicholas and Josephine (Marzano) Canale, and her brother, Richard Canale of Watertown, and her sister Gloria Annitto.

JOB OPENING

Director of Christian Formation

St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, NY, is seeking a faith-filled, energetic, and versatile Catholic to direct the parish's Christian Formation Program for youth. The Director is responsible for catechetical instruction (grades K-5), sacramental preparation for First Penance/First Holy Communion (grade 2) and Confirmation (grades 6-7), and would collaborate with a team of parish missionaries for small group faith formation (grades 8-12). Current total enrollment in the program is 200 youth. The position includes the recruitment and coordination of volunteer catechists, oversight of curriculum and programming, scheduling, and record keeping, and regularly involves evening and weekend commitments. The parish is keenly interested in implementing the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the next few years. The preferred candidate will be a practicing Catholic in good standing, have experience in the field and a solid Catholic education, possess excellent organizational, communication, and team working skills, and be able to begin on July 1, 2016. Applications (current resumé and cover letter) or inquiries should be sent to frjoe@twcnny.rr.com.

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CHEVROLET

Bishop's Schedule

March 31 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's House in Ogdensburg

April 1 – 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

April 2 – 11 a.m., Deacon Ordination of Mr. Todd Thibault at St. James Minor Church in Carthage

April 3 – 2 p.m., Divine Mercy Holy Hour at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 5-17 - Jubilee of Mercy Pilgrimage to Italy

Rest in Peace

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

March 30 – Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960

March 31 – Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

April 1 – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002

April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005

April 3 – Msgr. Philius Garand, 1942

April 4 – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

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

Environmental Stewardship

"Praise to You, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure."

St. Francis of Assisi

As we celebrate in this Easter Season the gift of water that is a symbol of our baptism into new life in Christ, the world around us celebrated World Water Day on March 22. This Day was initiated in 1992 by the United Nations to bring awareness to global water related issues. One of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the U. N. in September 2016 is "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." We witness the global community and the religious communities joining together to inform, engage and inspire action.

Pope Francis in Laudato Si states "Access to safe drinking water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity." (Para. #30).

Did you know that: 1 in 10 people lack access to safe water? The recent lead-contaminated water in Flint, MI, has heightened our awareness locally.

Take this week to consider the many ways that water touches your life and give praise to God for this precious gift. In gratitude for it be attentive to some ways that you could reduce the quantity you use. Take the Colgate water challenge. Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, decrease the volume of water while washing fruit and veggies. Consider washing dishes in a dish pan, or use the dish washer only when it is full.

To Report Abuse

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



Augustinian Academy of Carthage recently competed in the Adirondack Regional Division B Science Olympiad competition at State University of New York at Potsdam. Team members, who won 16 medals, are shown above, Shannon Margrey (coach), Kyle Palmer, Katherine Richards, Emily Banks, Brigid Duffy, Anna Scott,

Jaden Thesier (front), David Clarkson (back), Isaac Lee, Tanner Richards, Harrison Scott, Gary Clarkson, Audrey Velecky (front), Claudia Case (back), Kiannah Sadler, MaryAnn Margrey (coach), Wesley Mahan and Linda Carney (coach). Missing from picture: are coaches Charles Richards and Kimberly Schexnayder.

Augustinian Academy students bring home gold

CARTHAGE - Augustinian Academy brought home two first place awards among 16 medals in the Adirondack Regional Division B Science Olympiad competition recently held at State University of New York at Potsdam.

This is the second year in a row that the Saints have made an outstanding showing in the regional competi-

tion which features "rigorous, standards-based challenges."

Events are spread across all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines.

The competition offers opportunities to build devices that perform a specific action or series of actions, delve into a study of invasive

species or fossils to become "experts" in recognizing samples and working like a scientist in that field, and experiment with variables to learn how they affect the speed of a windmill blade, the flight of a glider or the quality of ice cream.

The team achieved first place in both the "Reach for the Stars" and "Food Science"

contests. They took second in "Invasive Species" and "Picture This" and won third place medals in "Elastic Launched Glider," "Meteorology," "Mission Possible" (creating a Rube Goldberg device) and "Wind Power."

Fourth place finishes in seven other events gave the students the broad base to make such a strong showing

at regionals and give them the opportunity to go to the state tournament in April.

St. Joseph Sister Annunciata Collins, Augustinian Academy principal, saluted the dedication of the Science Olympiad coaches: Charles Richards, Linda Carney, Shannon Margrey, Kimberly Schexnayder, and MaryAnn Margrey.



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St. Bernard's Parish hosts conference on end-of-life decision making

'Now and at the Hour of Our Death'

By Colleen Miner
Staff writer

SARANAC LAKE— The 50 participants of the March 19 end-of-life conference at St. Bernard's Church heard Kathleen Gallagher of the New York State Catholic Conference say "we must provide aid in living, not aid in dying."

Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the conference, was the keynote speaker at the program titled "Now and At the Hour of Our Death," also the name of the New York State bishops' guide to end-of-life decision making.

The priests of St. Bernard's Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor, and Father Thomas Higman, parochial vicar, opened the program.

Father Higman pointed out that the word "compassion" in Latin, means "co-suffering" and noted the appropriateness of the conference being held on the Feast of St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of a Happy Death.

During the morning session, Gallagher spoke about "the flawed and dangerous" physician assisted suicide legislation currently facing New York State.

The "Patient Self Determination Act" and the "End of Life Options Act" do not require psychiatric counseling for depression, lack safeguards, discriminate against people with disabilities and require that the death certificate list the cause of death as the illness, not suicide, she said. The patient-doctor relationship suffers because the legislation turns doctors into killers who do not uphold the Hippocratic Oath.

In order to provide "aid in living, not aid in dying," Gallagher said, "we must work to remove obstacles to hospice utilization, in which New York ranks 49th in the nation and must increase education in pain management and promote palliative care."

Participants heard about the composition of the legislature and the importance of contacting representatives to make opposition known.

An easy way to stay informed and contact legislators, Gallagher said, is through the Catholic Action Network which is accessed through the New York State Catholic Conference website www.nyscatholic.org.

Gallagher discussed the two life and death personal stories of Brittany Maynard and JJ Hanson who both suf-



Those responsible for planning the March 19 "Now and at the Hour of Our Death" conference on end-of-life issues at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake are shown with Kathleen Gallagher, keynote speaker. From left are Father Patrick A. Ratigan, pastor of St. Bernard's; Father Thomas J. Higman, parochial vicar; Gallagher, who serves as director of pro-life ministry for the New York State Catholic Conference; and Colleen and John Miner, diocesan directors of respect life ministry.

fered from the same aggressive brain cancer. Britany moved to Oregon (one of five states with physician assisted suicide) to kill herself. In contrast, JJ heroically fought the cancer and is now in remission.

"New York State sends first responders if someone is suicidal and spends millions of dollars to prevent suicide, yet this legislation sends the message that some suicides are acceptable," Gallagher said. "It sends the message that some lives are not worth living."

The afternoon session addressed end-of-life decision making and the difference between allowing natural death to occur vs. hastening the moment of death. Ordinary and extraordinary treatments were discussed as well as the fact that each situation is different.

"We must make good, prudential judgements based on whether treatment is beneficial or burdensome, asking whether the treatment is proportionate to the benefits,"

Gallagher said. "All circumstances must be taken into account."

Nutrition and hydration are considered normal, ordinary care in most circumstances, explained Gallagher, noting particular exceptions, and urging participants to reference the U.S. Bishops' "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare" or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* when in doubt.

When making decisions, she recommended that people pray, seek counsel from loved ones, and speak to medical professionals to gather information.

Gallagher said that the bishops of the state recommend Catholics complete a health care proxy to name someone to make medical decisions for them if there comes a time when they cannot.

"When choosing a proxy one should consider someone of good moral character who knows your value and beliefs who operates well

under stress," she said. "It's important to plan ahead and have conversations with your proxy. Living Wills are legal, but not preferable, as they vest power in a piece of paper instead of a human person."

MOLST, Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, tries to combine all forms. MOLST was designed for those who have one year or less to live but can be dangerous if not used properly, Gallagher said.

"Circumstances can change, advances occur in health care, changes in medical situations - this is why our bishops have urged great caution with regard to MOLST," she said.

The day ended with a question and answer period, followed by a Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration.

(Editor's note: Copies of "Now and At the Hour of Our Death," are available from pastors, the Respect Life Office or the New York State Catholic Conference.)



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Participant Leif Rozon speaks with Kathleen Gallagher at the conclusion of the Saranac Lake gathering.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

The energy of Easter and little boys

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing writer

When I think of the word "Easter" the thought that follows is "new life."

When I think of my four- and two-year-old nephews, the thought that follows is "chaos mitigation."

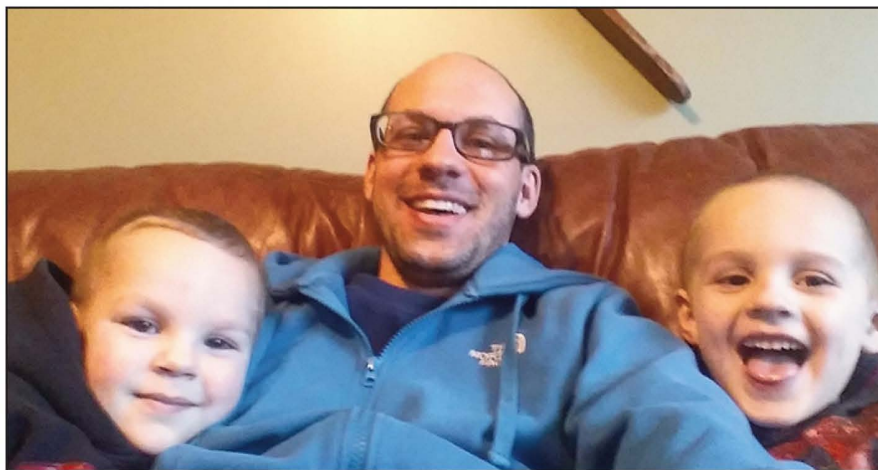
It was in moving their miniature trampoline to a new, safer location that I realized the season of Easter is exemplified by my nephews' current season of boyhood.

As a relatively new uncle, I'm realizing that there is a lot of energy and excitement contained within my brother's two young sons. They are like cannonballs on feet. Adventure, wonder, and excitement seem to boil over inside of them, and I get the feeling that the world just isn't big enough to contain such zeal. These are all good signs of life.

But left undirected, this energy can lead to truly bad habits like selfishness, fighting, and destructiveness to name a few. When left to their own devices, it truly is only a matter of time until someone gets hurt.

Directing the energy that comes out of my nephews sometimes feels like the impossible task of capturing an exploding firecracker. You just can't throw a net over the flying pieces and force them into any particular shape.

Rather, through the rules established by their parents and other responsible adults, the rhythm of life created by the functions they perform every day such as attending school, eating, sleeping, playing, and doing chores, the en-



Andrew Lauria of Wells, is shown with his nephews, two-year old Anthony on his right and four-year-old Vinnie on his left.

ergy and life of these young boys is channeled, formed, and molded in such a way that they slowly come to a better understanding of and conformation with reality.

In other words, they are growing up. We go through the same experience in the development of our adult spiritual lives.

Easter, Baptism, rebirth - this is the season of new life and hope in the Church. Just think about how many Sacraments are administered this time of year, especially the welcoming of new members to our faith through Baptism!

There is no more theologically energetic time in the rest of the liturgical calendar, and this is very exciting.

All of this new life and spiritual energy is directed

and guided by doctrines and beliefs, rules and codes that help form us to be more Christ-like.

All of the theology that we learn, the spiritual books we read, the different works of mercy in which we participate, to name just a few facets of our faith, form and direct our lives to this end.

And what beautiful, full, abundant lives we have by learning and living fully the teachings and traditions that Christ gave us in his Church!

But sometimes in our adult lives we get burned out by stress at work, become more fearful because of traumatic experiences, and can become exhausted, losing our zeal for life.

It is in this Easter season that we receive new life, new energy to respond to

Christ in an exciting way, to be in wonder like a child.

This energy once again becomes our fuel, the sustenance we need to keep us moving on our journey to

improve our relationship with Christ, to be continually formed in his image and likeness.

Easter joy reignites our life in His Church, which provides us with direction and formation necessary to live this dynamic reality.

Easter is the time of year that we can spiritually recharge through an encounter with Christ in his resurrection. Let's take advantage of this Easter zeal and allow it to motivate our relationship with Christ by forming us through our life in his Church.

And when the time comes when we are unsure of what way to go next, we just have to place ourselves at the foot of the cross and look at Christ.

And by allowing Him to be our focus, we will be growing toward Him and, like the little ones, we too will be growing up.

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Pew study finds that women are generally more religious than men

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Women, especially among Christians around the world, generally are more devout than men when standard measures of religious commitment are considered, a Pew Research Center study found.

Christian women are more likely to attend weekly religious services, be involved in daily prayer and consider religion important in their lives at higher rates than men, according to the study's findings, released March 22.

However, among Muslims, religious practice by men was significantly higher than by women when using the same standards, researchers discovered.

The findings correspond to the cultural norm in most Islamic societies that Muslim men are expected to attend communal Friday midday prayer in the mosque. Women can fulfill the Friday prayer requirement individually, either inside or outside the mosque.

The findings were part of a comprehensive look at religious practices by gender among Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and the religiously unaffiliated in 192 countries and territories.

Overall, 83.4 percent of women around the world identify with a faith group while 79.9 percent of men do

so. The study utilized census data, surveys and population registers from recent years in analyzing religious practices.

The comprehensive study includes data on gender and religion not previously analyzed from Middle Eastern, Latin American and some Asian countries, said Conrad Hackett, a demographer with the Pew Research Center who was the primary researcher on "The Gender Gap in Religion Around the World."

In the United States, women of all religions are more likely than men to say they pray daily (64 percent to 47 percent); attend religious services at least once a week (40 percent to 32 percent); and consider religion "very important" in their lives (60 percent to 47 percent).

The study found that while the U.S. was more religious than some of the world's most developed countries - specifically Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and France - the gender gap between women and men in their religious commitment was larger than in those same countries.

Hackett noted that while the study did not address why the U.S. was more religious than other developed countries, he said some sociologists point to countries -- Western European nations in particular - where material needs of the poor, unemployed and elderly are met by government and that peo-

ple in countries whose needs are not fully met may turn to prayer or worship more frequently.

The study cited the work of several sociologists who for decades have worked to explain gender differences in religious commitment. Theories include the "nature" factor, which attributes the differences to physical or physiological causes such as hormones, genetics or biological predisposition.

Other studies point to "nurture," in which factors such as socialization into traditional gender roles, lower rates of female workforce participation and national economic structures are seen as reasons for the higher religious commitment of women.

Worldwide, the study found a mixed attendance pattern at worship services among the 81 countries analyzed. In 30 countries, mostly with Christian majorities or large Christian populations, women attended weekly services at higher levels than men. In 28 countries, most with large Muslim majorities or large Muslim populations, men attended weekly services at a higher rate. In the remaining 23 countries, there was no significant difference in attendance.

The largest average gender gap existed among people who offer daily prayer. In 84 countries from which data were available, the average share of women who reported praying daily is 8 percentage points higher than the average share of men.

Substantially more women than men said they pray daily in 43 of the countries. Only in Israel, where about 22 percent of adults identified as Orthodox Jews, did a higher percentage of men than women report praying daily.



CNS/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis carries palm fronds in procession during Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 20.

For Palm Sunday

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Just as the crowds and government officials tried to dodge responsibility for Jesus' fate after he was arrested, so today too many individuals and countries want someone else to care for refugees fleeing violence and migrants seeking a better life, Pope Francis said.

Preaching about the story of Jesus' passion and death on Palm Sunday, March 20, the pope said that in addition to betrayal and injustice, Jesus experienced indifference as the crowds who had hailed his entry into Jerusalem, Herod, Pilate and even his own disciples washed their hands of him.

"This makes me think of so many people, so many emarginated, so many migrants and refugees for whom many do not want to assume responsibility for their fate," the pope said in his homily.

Greece and other European countries have been overwhelmed by refugees,

particularly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. An agreement between Turkey and the European Union went into effect on Palm Sunday to prevent refugees from attempting dangerous sea crossings from Turkey and to stem the continuing flow of refugees into Europe. Under the agreement, most refugees arriving in Greece will be returned to Turkey. For each refugee returned, one who has not left Turkey should be resettled in the European Union.

Carrying a woven palm branch, known as a "palmurello," Pope Francis led the Palm Sunday Mass with more than 60,000 people gathered on a warm spring morning in St. Peter's Square.

Young people from Poland and around the world assisted at the Mass, carrying long palm branches in the procession and proclaiming the Scripture readings.

With Krakow, Poland, set to host the international gathering of World Youth Day with Pope Francis in July, the day's second reading was in Polish.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Supreme Court hears oral arguments in HHS mandate case

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- During oral arguments March 23 at the Supreme Court, attorneys on both sides of the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive requirement examined how the mandate either violates or strikes a balance with religious freedom. Lawyers representing the seven groups of plaintiffs said the federal government's so-called accommodation for religious employers to arrange for a third party to provide contraceptive coverage in health plans was inconsistent because the government already had been able to provide churches an exemption from the requirement. Paul Clement of the Washington-based Bancroft firm, who was one of two lawyers representing the plaintiffs, argued that religious freedom was at stake in the federal government's accommodation because even though the contraceptive coverage would be supplied by a third party, the religious employers would still be complicit in providing something that goes against their beliefs. "The problem is we have to fill out a form, and the consequence of us filling out that form is we will be treated very differently from those other religious employers" that are exempt, he said. U.S. Solicitor General Donald Beaton Verrilli Jr., in defending the federal government, argued that the government's accommodation struck the necessary balance required by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

Pope condemns 'cruel abominations' of Belgium attacks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Assuring his prayers for the victims and families of the terrorist attack in Brussels, Pope Francis condemned the "cruel abominations" and prayed for the conversion of those who adhere to violent fundamentalism. "To all, I ask that you persevere in prayer and in asking the Lord in this Holy Week to comfort the hearts of the afflicted and to convert the hearts of those people taken in by cruel fundamentalism," the pope said at the end of his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square March 23. Saying he followed the tragic news of the bombings with a "sorrowful heart," the pope expressed his closeness to "the dear people of Belgium, to all the families of the victims and to all the wounded. I renew an appeal to all people of good will to unite in the unanimous condemnation of these cruel abominations that have caused only death, terror and horror," he said. After his appeal, the pope led the people in the square in praying a "Hail Mary" for those affected by the terrorism, followed by a moment of silence for "the dead, the wounded, the families and for all the Belgian people."

Vatican: Pope Benedict is frail, but his mind remains 'perfectly lucid'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Although retired Pope Benedict XVI is growing more frail, there are no particular concerns or worries regarding his health, a Vatican spokesman said. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, issued a statement March 25 following an interview with Archbishop Georg Ganswein, the retired pope's personal secretary, in which the archbishop said Pope Benedict was slowly "fading. In April, Pope Benedict XVI turns 89 years old. He is like a candle that is slowly, serenely fading, as it happens with many of us. He is calm, in peace with God, with himself and the world." Archbishop Ganswein told the Italian magazine *BenEssere*. The retired pope's personal secretary added that Pope Benedict still retains "his refined, subtle sense of humor" and remains fond of cats. "Contessa and Zorro, two cats that live in our gardens, come often to say hello to the pope emeritus," he said. After questions were raised regarding the aging pontiff's health, Father Lombardi said his condition "does not raise any particular concerns."

Pope Francis to refugees: Despite differences, all people are God's children

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - In a moving gesture of brotherhood and peace, Pope Francis washed the feet of several refugees, including Muslims, Hindus and Copts.

Gestures, like Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, "speak louder than words," he said during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper March 24.

Coming together, he added, is another gesture meant to show a desire to live in peace as brothers and sisters despite people's different cultural and religious backgrounds.

Hundreds of refugees were outside hoping to catch a glimpse of the pope as he made his way into the courtyard of the Center for Asylum Seekers at Castelnuovo di Porto, about 15 miles north of Rome.

Prior to his arrival, the pope sent some Easter presents for the center's guests: 200 chocolate Easter eggs, a wooden chess board, and several autographed soccer balls and baseballs.

After getting out of a blue four-door vehicle, the pope was greeted by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the main organizer of the Vatican's Year of Mercy initiatives, as well as the directors of the refugee center.

He was also introduced to three residents who would serve as his interpreters: Ibrahim from Afghanistan, Boro from Mali and Segen from Eritrea.

One of the refugees handed the pope a marker, which the pontiff used to sign a banner depicting the flags of 26 nations, representing the countries of origin of the center's guests.

In his brief, off-the-cuff

homily, the pope said there were two distinct gestures in the day's Gospel: Jesus serving and washing the feet of his disciples and Judas receiving money by Jesus' enemies to betray him.

"Today as well, there are two gestures. All of us here, (coming) together -- Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Copts, Evangelicals -- but (being) brothers, sons of the same God who want to live in peace," he said.

However, recalling the recent terrorist attack in Brussels, the pope said there was a second gesture made by those who want war.

Like Judas, he said, behind those who committed the attacks there are "arms traffickers who want blood, not peace."

"In this moment, when I do Jesus' same gesture - to wash the feet of you 12 - all of us are making this gesture of brotherhood. And all of us can say: We are diverse, we are different, we have different religions and cultures, but we are brothers and we want to live in peace," he said.

Acknowledging the suffering endured by the refugees,

Pope Francis asked them to pray in "their own religious language" so that there may "always be brotherhood and goodness."

After his homily, the pope removed his vestments and put on a large white garment tied over his alb.

He knelt before each of the 12 people, washed each person's foot slowly and dried it.

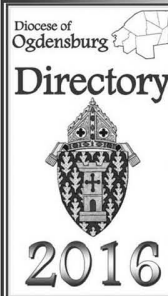
The refugees barely contained their emotions, tears streaming down their faces as the pope bent low and kissed their feet. A young mother wiped her tears as the pope gazed at her and reached out to touch her baby.

The evening Mass was the second of two Holy Thursday liturgies for Pope Francis; the first was a morning chrisem Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Before going around and greeting each of the center's residents individually, Pope Francis asked them to remember the beauty of living together as brothers and sisters despite their different cultures, religions and traditions.

This beauty, he said, "has a name: peace and love."

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The post-Resurrection world: never the same

The world was never the same after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As a consequence, the readings for the Sundays following Easter, all the way to Pentecost, deal with earth-shattering events.

St. Luke wrote, not only his Gospel, but a second volume called the Acts of the Apostles that cover nearly seventy years of history. The first reading today is taken from that book. It describes a scene in the Temple of spectacular healings. No, it's not Jesus who is the central figure, but the power of the Spirit now present in Jesus' apostles.

They are continuing God's mercy and compassion towards the sick and the crippled and the lame. Since Jesus had died on the cross

not just for some, but for all people, His followers show no discrimination in healing both rich and poor, Jews and strangers to Jerusalem.

Today's second reading is from the great "dream book" of John, the Book of Revelation.

We learn that it is God Himself through the Angel who told John to write down these great scenes of future judgment and

the glory that will come to Jesus and to those who are faithful to the Lamb. John writes from his exile along with many other Christians, exiled by the Emperor Domitian, to the Isle of Patmos.

Today we think of countless Christians, driven from Moslem countries at a loss of possessions, employ-

ment, and homeland.

Present day persecution for the faith amounts to genocide. Governments that could help are sadly so indifferent.

Why is this Sunday called Divine Mercy Sunday?

Because Pope John Paul II saw in the visions of a Polish Sister, Saint Faustina Kowalska, a message Jesus Christ wished the world to focus on more - his Divine Mercy.

Jesus' Mercy is powerfully shown in today's Gospel as the newly-risen Savior appears to those who had betrayed Him, those who in weakness had run far away from the soldiers and from their Master in His three-hour agony and death.

As Jesus came through those locked doors where they had huddled in fear of arrest, He did not upbraid or condemn them, but said with loving compassion, "Peace be to You."



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

APRIL 3

Divine Mercy Sunday
(Second Sunday of Easter)

READINGS

Acts 5:12-16

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

He forgave them for their weakness their cowardice, and their sinfulness. He continued to heal them of their doubts and fears.

Secondly, he did not fire them from their ministry, but commissioned them to preach his Name to the ends of the earth. He restored His trust in them, and loved them even more.

He would eventually send His Spirit to strengthen them with Power.

As Jesus showed His Divine mercy to his apostles on this Sunday, the Church urges us today to show our

gratitude and belief in His never-failing forgiveness for our sins and betrayals of His love.

He urges us to pray often for a world that has abandoned His commandments, ignored His words, and shunned His healing,

Worst of all, they have failed to believe in his incredible mercy. We need to make reparation for the indifference of our world by our daily prayer and public witnessing.

Pope Francis wrote a book recently on mercy. Its title is borrowed from Pope Benedict: "The 'Name of God is Mercy'".

Jesus yearns to shower the grace of His mercy on every creature on earth.

His eyes still search us out from the Cross, begging us to not to ignore His sacrifice. God's mercy alone can overcome the wars and divisions in this beautiful world that He created in love.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Christian genocide... it's happening now!

By Tony Magliano
NCC columnist

For many of us who strive to seriously practice faith in Jesus Christ, and to extend that practice out into the marketplace, the political square and society at large, persecution rarely means more than being ridiculed, verbally harassed, and to a certain degree socially and politically marginalized.

But for so many other Christians throughout the world who courageously refuse to deny Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior - with all that that means - persecution means torture, rape, enslavement and death.

In his well-researched book, "The Global War on Christians," Catholic journalist John Allen, cites studies that indicate the number of Christians killed for the

faith every year ranges from 7,300 to 100,000 worldwide.

Even the lower figure of 7,300 people murdered every year because of their faith in Christ is shocking, and sadly alarming.

It is incumbent on those of us who are safe and sound to tirelessly pray, advocate for, and work on behalf of hurting and vulnerable Christians.

While followers of Jesus have a strict obligation to help all people in need to the best of our ability - regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality or religion - we have a special responsibility to reach out to our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

For as St. Paul teaches, "So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of

the faith" (Gal 6:10).

Allen writes, "Christians today indisputably are the most persecuted religious body on the planet, and too often their new martyrs suffer in silence."

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel said, "We must take sides. ... Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

So, what should we do to help end the genocide? Pray!

Every day let's remember in our personal and liturgical prayers those who suffer in any way - especially for their faith in Jesus.

Parishes can sponsor a refugee family. Pope Francis has asked every parish in Europe to do just that. In the spirit of Francis, parishes throughout the world should likewise open their doors to our perse-

cuted brothers and sisters. It's really not that hard.

And many of us can increase our individual contributions to help. An excellent international Catholic organization dedicated to helping persecuted Christians worldwide is Aid to the Church in Need.

Please go to this link to make a donation <http://bit.ly/25dsdoy>.

Bill O'Keefe, vice president for government relations and advocacy for Catholic Relief Services shared with me that it is also essential for every believer to email and call (Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121) their congressional delegation urging them to provide significantly increased humanitarian funding and support for the immediate and long-term needs of refugees in the Middle East, full support for a negotiated peace in

Syria, and a comprehensive plan to rebuild Syria once the fighting ends.

According to U.S. State Department figures, since March of 2011 - when the Syrian conflict started - approximately 1,550 Syrians have been admitted through the U.S. refugee resettlement program. The U.S. can certainly do far better than this, especially since it has just recently declared that the Islamic State is committing genocide against Christians and other minorities (see: <http://bit.ly/1R2lt2A>).

As I write, the solemnness of Good Friday is close at hand. And many of the followers of the crucified Jesus are being crucified with him. Let us do everything we can to remove them from their crosses, and lighten the weight of our Lord's cross who suffers with them.

AT THE MOVIES

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Darkness hovers over the neighboring cities of Gotham and Metropolis, the main settings of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" (Warner Bros.).

It's not just the looming clash of the DC Comics titans promised by the film's title. This follow-up to 2013's Superman reboot, "Man of Steel," directed again by Zack Snyder, is awash in cynicism and angst. Optimism and goofy fun take a back seat as our superheroes grapple with identity crises and personal dramas.

The movie is, nonetheless, at once thoroughly entertaining and thought provoking, even if its operatic scale comes at the cost of endless mayhem and an ear-splitting score. Snyder straps viewers into a roller-coaster ride that is often exhilarating and ultimately exhausting -- and much too intense for the younger set.

The plot picks up where "Man of Steel" left off. With Superman (Henry Cavill) continuing to battle his archenemy, Gen. Zod (Michael Shannon), over the skies of Metropolis, Bruce Wayne/Batman (Ben Affleck) watches in horror as buildings topple and thousands are killed, including employees of his own firm, Wayne Financial.

(Quiet moments of people praying to God - not Superman - for salvation, and blessing themselves, are a welcome sight in a contemporary Hollywood blockbuster.)

Batman comes to regard Superman not as a benign savior but as a conveyor of death and destruction. It's a discussion pursued by many as the world comes to grips with the mighty alien from the planet Krypton -- and wonders what his true intentions are.

Meanwhile, Superman's alter ego, Clark Kent, and his Daily Planet newspaper colleague Lois Lane (Amy Adams), have moved in together and are seen making love in the bathtub. Domestic bliss, at least of the shackled-up variety, seems at hand.

Not so fast, of course, for a dotty young megalomaniac, Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg), is determined to bring down the Man of Steel who threatens his own desire for global domination.

"Devils don't come from hell beneath us," Luthor warns. "They come from the sky."

He discovers Superman's

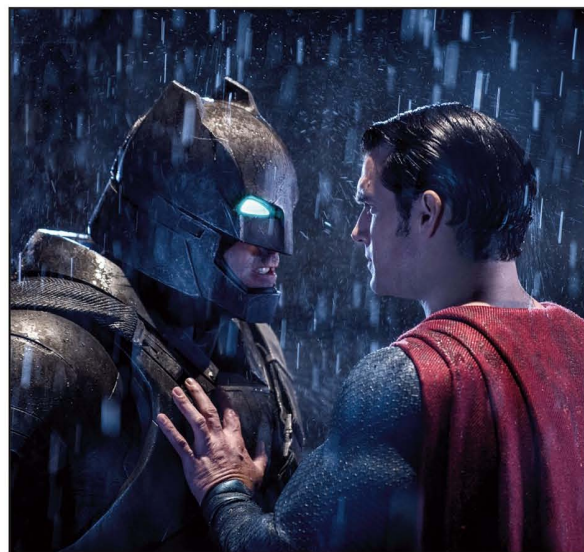
Achilles heel, the mineral kryptonite. Luthor also hatches an elaborate plan to discredit Superman and prey upon Batman's growing resentment of his rival crime fighter.

Before long, hearings are held in Washington by Sen. June Finch (Holly Hunter), holding Superman responsible for the deaths and other collateral damage inflicted by his actions.

So is Superman a champion or a false god? His stepmother, Martha (Diane Lane), offers straight talk: "Be their hero, Clark. Be their angel, be their monument, be anything they need you to be, or be none of it. You don't owe this world a thing. You never did."

As Superman embarks on some serious navel-gazing and Batman broods in his cave, Luthor instigates what he calls "the greatest gladiator match in the history of the world. God versus man. Day versus night! Son of Krypton versus Bat of Gotham!"

Snyder pulls out all the stops in a fight worthy of Pay-Per-View. Besides the main duo, a malevolent



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill star in a scene from the movie "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."

monster called Doomsday is thrown into the mix. So too is Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot). A 5,000-year-old Amazon princess (she doesn't look a day over 25), Wonder Woman has no love for Luthor, and joins the resistance to him.

Double W.'s appearance heralds the introduction of several other new super beings the script code names "metahumans." Their arrival sets the stage for a raft of future movies about a crime-fighting team, the "Justice League," that's clearly intended to rival Marvel's Avengers.

Prepare yourselves -- and

don't forget the earplugs.

The film contains relentless and intense action violence, cohabitation, brief partial nudity as well as occasional profanity and crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.



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CLINTON

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES

Plattsburgh - A program to teach a peaceful, prayerful method of sidewalk advocacy from Sidewalk Advocates for Life to help those entering a abortion center to choose life has been set

Date: April 7

Time: 1 p.m. to 5

Contact: Space is limited. If you would like to register to learn this method and check out our program, please contact the Program Director at 518-593-6024 or nancys_56@hotmail.com More information at www.sidewalkadvocates.org

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.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ellenburg Center - First Saturday devotions to be held.

Date: April 2

Time: 11 a.m. with Rosary (Confessions) and Mass at 11:30

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT BREAKFAST

West Chazy - St. Joseph's Men's Club will host an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast.

Date: April 3

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: the Parish Center.

Prices: \$7.50 per adult, \$3 for children 6-10; and free for ages five and under.

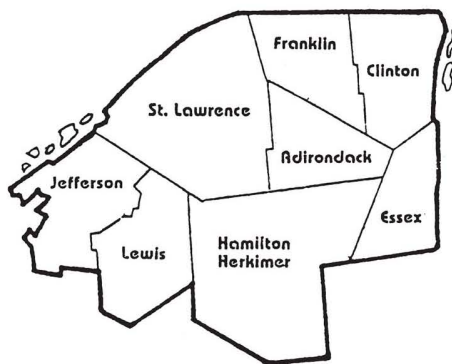
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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 in the main church followed by a Procession to St. John's Church for closing benediction

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



The North County 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.

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.

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Moors - 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

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

FRANKLIN

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.

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

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 Benedic-

tion 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

ENVIRONMENT PRESENTATION

Watertown - A program on "Care for our Common Home: Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si" will be given.

Date: April 24

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11

Place: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Speaker: Dr. Gerry Gacoch, NYS Catholic Climate Ambassador and Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital

Features: This opportunity to learn more about the Encyclical and what we can do to better care for God's Creation is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. Sponsored by the Parish, Diocesan Faith and Ecology Groups, and Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee.

Contact: To reserve a seat, please call: 315-212-6592 or 315-782-1474.

DAY OF ADORATION

Carthage - The team that represented the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the World Meeting of Families is presenting a day of Adoration.

Date: April 8

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: St. James Church

Features: The Day of Adoration begins immediately following the 9:30am Mass. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner from 6p.m. to 7, followed by a Holy Hour with a short presentation from 7 p.m. to 8, and ending with a light reception where you can meet the team members, ask questions and receive resources from the World Meeting of Families. This is a regional event and everyone is invited.

Contact: In order to prepare enough food, those that wish to attend the free spaghetti dinner need to RSVP by calling the St. James Rectory at 315-493-3224 by April 6th

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 Chaplet 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 Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

Contact: 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.;

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Watertown - St. Patrick's Church in Watertown sponsors weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays from the end of Noon Mass to 8 p.m.

Contact: Dc. Mastellon at 315-782-6086

LEWIS

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 Stock-

bridge, 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, Ex-

position of the Most Blessed Sacrament,

The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benedic-

tion.

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

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Lowville - Rosary & Altar Society will have their Spring rummage sale.

Date: April 7 3 p.m. to 6 & April 8 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

Features: April 8 - Coffee/Tea & Donuts

@ 9 a.m.; \$5 covered dish luncheon buf-

fet; & bag sale from Noon to 2 p.m.

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

Why Mission?

From the Director's Desk
 Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
 Diocesan Mission Director

First heard at Baptism, the call to share our faith is truly connected to every moment of every day. The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) offers young Catholics and their families opportunities to make those daily connections

A calling through education

At Baptism, God places into the hearts of all a special missionary calling, asking a generous response. Children have received this calling, as has each religious educator / catechist. In a special way, religious educators / catechists have been called not only to be Disciples of Christ, but also to make disciples for Him.

The task of ministering to children is vital indeed. Through their love, their witness, their prayers and sacrifices, young Catholics open new pathways to and His "Good News." Young people are generous and enthusiastic, eager to use their talents to bring the Good News.

Recently I spent some time with the students in St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake and St. Agnes School in Lake Placid. The children warmly welcomed me into their schools and proudly showed me the things they are working on and learning about. The children have also been working very hard at raising awareness of the Missions and sending prayers and sacrifices their way. We spent the day learning about life in the developing world and how the children there are just like the children here. They just need our prayers. God Bless!



St. Joseph Sister Mary Ellen Brett, diocesan mission director, visited St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake and St. Agnes in Lake Placid during Catholic Schools Week, to talk about the Missionary Childhood Association. The children at St. Agnes introduced her to their Pope Francis.

OBITUARIES

Carthage – Deloras "Dee" (Palmer) Hugins, 87; Funeral Services March 26, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Croghan – James Michael Shea, 79; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at Herr Funeral Home Collinsville, IL; burial in Peter and Paul Cemetery, Collinsville, IL.

Croghan – Zachary D. Zehr, 35; Funeral Services March 24, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Malone – Trudy (Perry) Lyng, 87; Funeral Services March 21, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – William G. "Willie" Bero, 58; Funeral Services March 22, 2016 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Massena – Ethel J. (Rogers) Debien, 91; Funeral Services March 24, 2016 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Barbara T. Dodge, 90; Funeral Services March 23, 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Roland A. McKee, 78; Funeral Services March 23, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Philadelphia – Velda June (LaClair) Reed, 88; Funeral Services March 25, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Antwerp.

Plattsburgh – Margaret M. (Tobin) Abramczyk, 74; Funeral Services March 23, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Plattsburgh – Angella Selina (Thibeault) Duval, 94; Funeral Services March 23, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Plattsburgh – Bonnie G. Grigware, 73; Funeral Services March 24, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Rouses Point – Linda M. Martinsen, 68; Funeral Services March 21, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church.

Rouses Point – Burton S. Merchant, 70; Funeral Services March 25, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – John O. Raymond, 73; Funeral Services March 23, 2016 at St.

Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Waddington – Helen A. (Zagrobely) Badlam, 90; Funeral Services March 23, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Nelson S. "Sam" Leone, 93; Funeral March 22, 2016 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

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WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of our priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.

April
 The Holy Eucharist

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY

APRIL 2016

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

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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

LEWIS

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Lowville – Adoration and Benediction to be held.

Date: April 7 and 21

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, & Benediction. St. Lawrence Deanery

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

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Massena – First Saturday devotion to be held.

Date: April 2

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The First Saturday Rosary will be prayed to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation for blasphemes and offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to pray for World Peace. Confessions will be available at 2:45 p.m. and Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4.

SPRING RETREAT

Morristown – In springtime the gardener plants seeds and cares for them; at this retreat We day will consider ways that we might tend the God-Seed that the Sower has planted in us.

Date: May 7

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Cedarhaven located along the St. Lawrence River

Cost: \$25 for retreat day (lunch included)/Additional \$25 for overnight with dinner and breakfast included.

Contact: Space is limited. To register call 315-212-6592 or email srhbthssj@gmail.com by May 4

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Raymondville – First Saturday devotions to be held.

Date: April 2

Time: 8:30 a.m. with Rosary (Confessions) and Mass at 9

Place: St. Raymond's Church

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Canton – A program on "Care for our Common Home: Inspired by Pope Fran-

cis' Laudato Si" will be given.

Date: April 23

Time: 10 a.m. to 12

Place: SUNY Canton in Nevaldine Engineering Building, Rm 102

Speaker: Dr. Gerry Gacloch, NYS Catholic Climate Ambassador and Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital
Features: This opportunity to learn more about the Encyclical and what we can do to better care for God's Creation is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. Sponsored by the Parish, Diocesan Faith and Ecology Groups, and Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee.

Contact: To reserve a seat, please call: 315-212-6592 or 315-782-1474.

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Convent

DIOCESAN EVENTS

INSPIRE: CALLED TO LOVE

Lake Placid – The diocesan vocation summit With internationally known speakers has been set

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Olympic Center Complex

Features: INSPIRE: Called to Love, is a free all day conference with keynote speaker Bishop Robert Barron, the creator and host of the Catholicism series. Other speakers include George Weigel (biographer to Pope St. John Paul II), Mrs. Jennifer Fulwiler (author and radio host), Bishop Christopher Coyne (Bishop of Burlington, VT and Chairman of the USCCB Communications Committee). Come pray together and be inspired by our speakers and each other so that together we can cultivate a culture of vocations.

Contact: For more information, full schedule and to register for this free event, go to www.inspirecalledtolove.org.

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 Ogdensburg 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: Howard Venette, pastor or 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 Higman

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

Contact: For a list of retreat locations or

for more information about Rachel's Vineyard visit www.rcdony.org and for local information www.rcdony.org/pro-life.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

GOSPEL OF LUKE

Syracuse – Four session course that will outline the historical and theological background for understanding Luke's message.

Date: April 6, 13, 20 & 27

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30:

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Cost: \$45 or whatever you can afford

ENNEAGRAM INSIGHTS

Syracuse – The enneagram is an ancient way of understanding human personality. Learn the usefulness of this understanding in our relationships with ourselves, others and God.

Date: April 26 and May 3

Time: 7 p.m. to 9

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Cost: \$30 or whatever you can afford

Features: Enneagram is believed to originate in the writings of the early Christian desert father Evagrius Ponticus, who wrote of nine "distracting thoughts" that can impede our way to God and peace of heart. The enneagram teaches that there are nine fundamental compulsions that can affect us in negative ways and that in each of us one of these compulsions predominates. Jim Krisher will lead this presentation and help participants learn about the nine types, and identify their own basic compulsion.

SPRING RETREAT

Chestertown – Join us for Sacred Time on Holy Ground in the beauty of God's Cathedral of Nature, recreate in the Light of the Resurrected One, and blossom into New Life.

Date: April 29 in the afternoon until May 1 late in the morning.

Cost: \$150 includes meals and accommodations. Optional Spiritual Direction: \$30/half hour.

Speaker: Marge Milanese

Features: With Music, Scripture, and Interactive Presentations there will be plenty of free time for prayerful pondering, and for optional Spiritual Direction.

Contact: call Marge at 518-235-2960. Deposit of \$25, due by April 17. For reservations, call The Priory, 518-494-3733.

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