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Players | PAGE 16

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 9, 2016

Understanding God's mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God's mercy can be understood only by someone who has an open heart and recognizes his or her sins, Pope Francis said.

Unfaithfulness to God "hardens the heart, it closes the heart," the pope said March 3 during the Mass in

the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae. "It does not allow one to hear the voice of the Lord who, as a loving father, always asks us to open ourselves to his mercy and his love," the pope said.

The Psalm passage, "If today you hear his voice,

harden not your hearts," is a reminder of the fatherly tenderness of God, who calls sinners back to him. However, "when the heart is hard, this is not understood. The mercy of God can only be understood if you are able to open your heart, so that he

may enter," he said.

The day's reading from the Gospel of Luke (11:14-23), in which Jesus rebukes those who criticized him after exorcising a demon, shows how hardened people's hearts can be, even in the face of a miracle.

I WILL LOVE AND HONOR YOU

On Catholic
marriage



This year's Catholic Marriage issue features an interview with Robert and Naomi Barse Berlin, shown above, who reflect on their efforts towards adopting a child. Also featured is an interview with a Malone couple who recently celebrated their first anniversary and the birth of their son. The issue also includes a profile of newly canonized married saints, reflections from the diocesan director of family life and information on pre-cana sessions and natural family planning.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 5-10

On the road to the priesthood

In the coming weeks, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain two men who are studying for the priesthood transitional deacons.

The bishop will also participate in the next Day of Discernment, a regular gathering for young men at St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam.

Seminarian Todd Thibault will be ordained April 2 at St. James in Carthage while Michael Jablonski is set to be ordained May 28 at St. John's in Plattsburgh.

The day for discerning men will take place March 13 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's rectory.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FOR THE LOVE OF JESUS



Father J. Roger McGuinness, pastor in West Chazy, led the annual retreat for the Sisters of St. Joseph held Feb. 15-20 at the Wattertown motherhouse. The theme for the week was: "Self-Emptying Love for the Love of Jesus." On Thursday, Father McGuinness celebrated the votive Mass of the Sick and anointed the sisters, staff and friends present for the Mass. Above, he anoints the hands of Sister Mary Helen Hermann as Sisters Ronald Marie Hax, Jane Frances Cutting, Ellen Rose Coughlin and Gabriel Marie Meyer wait their turn.

Chrism Mass

All the faithful are invited to join
March 17 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's

Cathedral in Ogdensburg
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

'SPOTLIGHT': Vatican newspaper says it's not anti-Catholic... p. 13

NORTH
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The universal call to holiness

It won't be long before the pages of the *North Country Catholic* are filled with details about the upcoming diocesan vocation summit *INSPIRE: Called to Love*.

Set for Sept. 25 at the Olympic Arena in Lake Placid, the summit is one of the two goals of the diocesan priority, *Creating a Culture of Vocations*.

Diocesan leaders hope that thousands of us will take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity. We will pray together, support each other in our faith and listen to such

renowned speakers as Bishop Robert Baron of Los Angeles and noted author George Weigel.



Mary Lou
Kilian

While some may believe that creating a "culture of vocations" means we insure that we have plenty of priests and nuns, that's only part of the story. In fact, the objective of the priority is to promote and support all vocations in our parishes: Christian marriage and family life, the consecrated life,

the single state, the permanent diaconate as well as to the ordained priesthood.

In a letter to the priests last summer, Bishop LaValley said that "the vitality of the local Church of Ogdensburg is directly related to our peoples' understanding and embracing of the Lord's universal call to holiness and the living out of this call in their individual vocations."

"The purpose of the summit is to remind God's people of their universal call to holiness," Bishop LaValley said, "and to provide both formation and encouragement in the living out, or discerning of God's particular call for them."

This week, the *NCC* aims to do its part in this critical work, through our annual issue fo-

cusing on Catholic marriage. After all, more of us live out this vocation than any other.

While "wedding issues" of most newspapers focus on wedding dresses and the honeymoon, we look beyond the wedding day to the *vocation* of married life.

In the words of young marrieds and married saints, we strive to show how husbands and wives form holy lives with each other and for their families.

None of us is likely to be canonized but that doesn't mean we don't strive for saintliness.

To belong to God and to serve him in love is the vocation of us all.

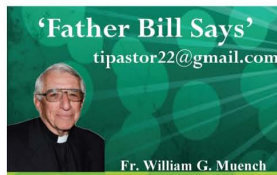
A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Prodigal Son: parable about you and me

One of the images that you will hear a great deal about these final weeks of Lent is the Prodigal Son. On a recent Sunday, you heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son read as the Gospel of the Mass. Many of us priests will bring out into the sanctuary a copy of Rembrandt's wonderful painting of the Prodigal Son. It completely captures the message of Jesus' parable.

So, you know the story – you have heard it often. Remember, please, that this is a parable, a clever story that Jesus carefully formed to teach many lessons. It didn't really happen – okay – it is a story. This is important to remember. Jesus told these parables because he had something he wanted people to understand. Being a great teacher, Jesus used stories. By the way, Jesus' parables are always about us – you and me. So, in this parable, there are days when we are very similar to the Prodigal Son. Then there are days when we are like the older son.

The Prodigal Son deserted his father, went on his own and then everything went wrong. He lost all his money so he decides to go back home. He is ready to admit his failings to



Fr. William G. Muench

his father and hope that his father will allow him to stay as a worker on the place. Can you imagine how nervous he was as he walked down that road heading for his father's house? What is his father going to do – welcome him or reject him?

Jesus' story describes what Jesus imagined happened. The father sees the prodigal coming, sees him a long way off. The father doesn't stay sitting on the porch. He rushes down the road and welcomes his son back home with a big hug. The boy doesn't even have a chance to say anything.

It is important to remember that Jesus' parables are really about us. Whenever we are separated from God and then are ready to return, to become repentant, God welcomes us. God welcomes us just like the father in the parable: with a big hug. God truly welcomes us even before we say a word. God welcomes us with love and

mercy and forgiveness. God loves us, even in our sins.

In Jesus story, the father celebrates the return of the prodigal with a party. God celebrates the return of all sinners.

Let me share this with you. I remember well the first time the Religious Ed teacher suggested that the parish should have a party with the children after the First Confession ceremony. It turned out to be a perfect idea. It certainly fit into the message of the parable. I hope the children discovered the message. Every time we approach God with repentance seeking his mercy and forgiveness there is a celebration – a celebration in heaven. Jesus tells us that.

Now, the older son, he is angry. His father has welcomed the prodigal home with no great demands and then thrown a party. He, the older son, has stayed home and worked the farm. Then, in Jesus' story, the father steps up and goes out to talk with the older son, just as he did with the prodigal.

His message to the older son is important – really, wonderful. He says this, "My son, you are here with me always; every-

thing I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice because your brother was dead and has come to life again, he was lost and has been found."

So, we should remember that Jesus' story is also about us and God the Father. Each sinner who goes through conversion is like a resurrection to new life in the spirit of Christ's Resurrection. God's mercy and love is something we should all celebrate.

We are grateful for God's loving mercy to all sinners, loving them all even in their sins. The older son doesn't realize how wonderful his father's love and mercy is; we must all realize how wonderful our God is to all sinners.

Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son (some people like to call this story the Parable of the Loving Father) is an open ended story. Jesus leaves the ending up to us.

How would you end this story?

I know how I would finish it. I would like to think that the older son listens to his father, recognizes his father's great love and mercy for his sons and calms his anger. So he goes inside and welcomes his brother home.

On the road to priesthood

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at two transitional deacon ordinations in the coming months.

Seminarian Todd Thibault will be ordained April 2 at St. James in Carthage while Michael Jablonski is set to be ordained May 28 at St. John's in Plattsburgh.

Their ordinations to the priesthood are expected in

October for Deacon Thibault and May 2017 for Deacon Jablonski.

For discerning men

Bishop LaValley will also lead the March 13 Discerning Men program at St. Mary's rectory in Potsdam at 3 p.m.

Men of junior/senior high school age and above are in-

ited to join the regular attendees for reflection and discussion on the call to the priesthood. Evening Prayer and dinner follow.

Those who plan to come are asked to inform Father Howard Venette at (hvenette@gmail.com) or Father Bryan Stitt (bstitt@rcdony.org) by March 10 to assist with preparations.

YOUNG ENGINEERS



The eighth grade students from Augustinian Academy in Carthage participated in an Engineering Day at the Watertown New York Air Brake. Teams of students were given challenges to create items based on engineering concepts. The girls team from Augustinian, Hailey Flanagan, Kiannah Sadler and Madeline Nazer, won the competition among the teams from eight schools.

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Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment,
the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the
Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ on

Thursday, March 17th at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

New Catholic looks back on RCIA process

The Easter Vigil, when new Catholics will be baptized and welcomed into full communion with the church, is quickly approaching.

Julie Lashomb of Massena, a member of the diocesan catechumenate committee, invited people who had completed the RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) at Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence Parish in Massena, to share thoughts about their experience.

Here is a reflection from one of the catechumens who was recently baptized:

"I have grown closer to the friends who shared the RCIA process with me," Sarah said. "I am able to better support my children in their Catholic education (which was originally my reason for joining RCIA). "I try to step back more and realize I may not be in control of everything (which is very hard for me).

It is easier for me to see that God may be speaking to me through different venues,' such as my friends, or at church through the homily or song, or even through social media.

"I do feel a bit better about death in that hopefully I won't go to Hell (as I had previously been told since I was not baptized) but I still do not like the thought of dying.

"I struggle with prayer. I have a really hard time quieting my mind for prayer. I try to do the daily prayer books to focus my mind. I do quick "thank you" prayers and request prayers.

"I have a wonderful sense of church community and even before completing the RCIA process I felt welcomed by the church community.

Fundraiser for honor flight

PLATTSBURGH - SUNY Plattsburgh's public relations campaign class has teamed with North Country Honor Flight to honor North Country WWII and Korean War veterans.

The public relations students and North Country Honor Flight will host a fundraising event March 9 from 4 to 9 p.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings.

The event is part of Opera-

tion: Greatest Generation, a public relations campaign that aims to assist North Country Honor Flight's mission to fly World War II and Korean War veterans to Washington, D.C., to see their respective war memorials free of charge.

Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 10 percent of dine-in purchases, alcohol excluded, when patrons mention North Country Honor Flight, during the evening.

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Bishop's Schedule

March 10 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 12 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton

March 13 – 11:15 a.m., Mass at St. James Church in Gouverneur
3 p.m., Vocation Discernment Group at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam

March 15 – New York State Catholic Conference in Albany

Environmental Stewardship

Climate Ambassadors come to the North Country

Recently several Catholic Climate Ambassadors from around the U.S. gathered for a weekend at Paul Smiths College in the Adirondacks to discuss "Climate Change as a Moral Issue" in light of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si.

This summit on Climate Change, funded by the National Science Foundation and supported by the Global Catholic Climate Organization, met to discuss scientific research on climate change in the light of our Catholic faith.

What is a Catholic Climate Ambassador?

The ambassador is a person well-versed in the long history of Catholic social teachings about ecology who brings a wealth of individual experience from his/her professional background to the current world situation that challenges us.

The ambassador heed the words of Pope Francis, to "hear the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth."

One ambassador, Anthony Strawa, Ph.D., who spent 20 years as an Atmospheric Scientist with NASA, and who is currently the Chair of the Diocese of San Jose Climate Change Initiative, sees climate change from a scientific, economic, and ethical perspective as one of the great challenges facing humanity this century.

He strives to motivate people to address more fully climate change through their Catholic faith. Never before in our history has the human family had the power to impact significantly the quality of life on the planet for all God's Creation.

The challenge we face as Catholics today is how to use our incredible powers? In Deuteronomy 30:19 God tells the people: "I set before you, life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life."

To learn more about how our faith can guide us in concrete ways that we may respond to the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth, consider attending a presentation given by our NYS Catholic Climate Ambassador, Dr. Gerry Gacloch, MD, Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital, on April 23 in Canton or on April 24 in Watertown.

Rest in Peace

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

March 10 – Rev. Hector Mauriot, O.M.I., 1895

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

March 14 – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

March 15 – Rev. Charles J. McMorrow, 1898; Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984

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:

March 15 - 6 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, Brownville

April 7 - 6:30 p.m., St. Alexander's, Morrisonville

April 14 - 6:30 p.m., Church of the Holy Name, AuSable Forks

To Report Abuse

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

'I WILL LOVE YOU AND HONOR YOU ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE'

The North Country Catholic presents Catholic Marriage 2016

'Do Whatever He Tells You'... Year One

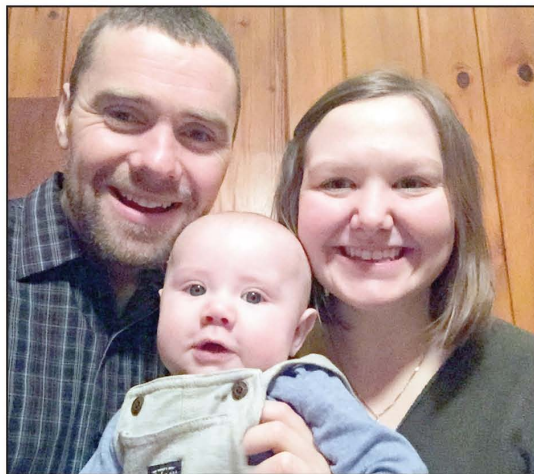
By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

MALONE - "Do whatever he tells you." When Paul and Samantha (Fazioli) Poulin heard those words emphasized in the homily preached at their wedding last year, the message was already quite familiar. They had, after all, chosen the Gospel of the wedding feast at Cana where Mary speaks these words; and both had been actively seeking the will of God. Paul and Samantha had come to the altar as a couple in love - with one another and with God - as they responded to his call to become husband and wife.

When they met on December 30, 2012, Paul had just "discerned out of" the seminary after a year and a half of studies; Samantha was in a serious relationship with someone else. He came away from that meeting thinking, "I may have just met my future wife." She had certainly noticed him, but recalls, "I was confused because I already had a boyfriend whom I had thought of marrying."

Both had recently come to Malone, where they had been offered jobs by pastor Father Joe Giroux—Paul in buildings and grounds, and Samantha as Director of Christian Formation. Though their paths often crossed, it took a homily on the Feast of the Annunciation to make Samantha open to dating Paul.

Explains Samantha: "The message was very clear: Say



Paul, Samantha and John Paul Charles Poulin

yes to God's will." What followed were happy months of getting to know each other, of sharing prayer, of playing sports and climbing mountains, and of discerning God's will for their future.

The couple was married on (First) Friday, January 2, 2015, at Notre Dame Church. Concelebrated by eight priests, the nuptial Mass was offered at 3 p.m., the Hour of Mercy.

"The beautiful ceremony and the homily really affirmed our journey to the altar," says Samantha.

Adds Paul, "Both of us had a deep realization of how we'd been blessed with so much grace. It was good to be reminded that if we do whatever Jesus tells us, we will never be without his

peace."

Indeed, the peace and joy the couple experienced that day has only grown deeper in what Samantha calls "the whirlwind."

As she explains, "We were engaged; less than a year later we were married; less than a year later, we had a baby."

Paul adds, "Before we were married, we talked about openness to life. Initially we were thinking, 'No. Not in the first year.' Then we prayed together, and had great peace with the idea of accepting the gift of a child should God will to bless us that way."

When John Paul Charles arrived at the end of September 2015, a bit early but healthy and beautiful, he had already changed his parents' lives.

For the first five months of pregnancy, Samantha found herself "miserably sick." Paul, too, found this hard. "I did not like to see her suffer. I wanted to be able to fix it. But all I could do was comfort her, pray for her, and do what I could to lighten her load."

Samantha adds that, "Paul was so supportive. He was just wonderful which made me love and appreciate him even more. We kept telling each other that it would all be worth it, and of course it was. The minute that little one is put in your arms, all the pain fades and there is instant, deep joy."

Still, the early months included feeding difficulties, sleep deprivation, and exhaustion.

"A baby turns your world upside down," Samantha points out. "There is a complete emptying of self; it has made me much more patient! There is also the deepest joy, one we never could have imagined. Though it is sometimes lonely, I am so happy to be at home with him. I am so much more willing to give of myself. I am learning not to panic, but to pray and trust God."

Paul echoes, "God wants us to trust. The more we trust, the more peace we can have. God's grace leads us out of ourselves, to become the people he wants us to be. We both want to be saints. I used to admire how many saints got by on very little sleep,

but I knew that I couldn't function without a full seven hours. Now five is great," he says with a laugh. "I didn't think I could be stretched in so many ways. I am able to be more selfless and sacrificial in loving my wife and son."

For Paul and Samantha, parenthood has sharpened their focus on their own relationship.

"We are different people now than we were on our wedding day. Everything we have been through has made us closer, better able to appreciate how blessed we are," says Samantha. "But if we didn't talk together every night, tensions would build and everything would snowball. These conversations help us learn to love each other better."

Paul agrees: "Now we are so much more attentive to each other's needs, and do our best to see that those needs are met. We make it a point to forgive each other every night for the ways we have hurt each other. Prayer and forgiveness are central to a strong marriage."

"We know that God has called us to this life. With the sacrament of Matrimony, a bond that did not exist before came into being and the sacrament gives us the grace we need to grow in love and overcome our difficulties. The graces of Eucharist and Reconciliation are likewise important. The sacraments equip us to do what God want us to do. And his ways are always best."

'An explosion of hope'

Diocesan team brings message of World Meeting of Families to North Country parishes

By Stephen Tartaglia
Diocesan director of family life ministry

Ideally a family is a father and a mother and their children. God created humans as male and female, equal in dignity but with different strengths enabling them to work together to provide the best environment for raising children.

Research bears witness to this fact. States that have the highest proportion of married parents also show the strongest economic success, the least child poverty, and the least violent crime.

Marriage leads to higher participation in the workforce for men. Children, particularly boys, raised in stable families with their biological parents, show less truancy in schools, less behavioral problems in schools, perform better on standardized tests, are more likely to graduate high school, and less likely to commit serious crime.

In addition, children from married households have less probability of being abused or neglected.

It is clearly in society's interest to promote and protect families with a father and a mother. Yet this is not what we experience. Instead we are bombarded with elaborate justifications of immoral behavior in the



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia exchanges the sign of peace with Pope Francis during the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families on Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia Sept. 27, 2015. Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan director of family life ministry, was among the diocesan delegates at the meeting. He said that Archbishop Chaput "prophetically described his expectation for an explosion of hope as a result of the World Meeting of Families."

defense of so called freedoms that have the effect of tearing the family apart and decaying society.

It's nothing new. The industrial revolution separated fathers from their families. The sexual revolution separated mothers from their families. When parents are separated from their families, we see the disintegrating effects in culture, in law and in society.

It's very easy to get discouraged and lose hope.

The redefinition of marriage by the Supreme Court in the Obergefell case in June which allowed same-sex marriage was a serious blow to the family and society. It caused serious tension and anxiety throughout the nation and cast a shadow on the Papal visit and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

However, in early September Archbishop Chaput wrote an article in the Our Sunday Visitor Newspaper,

in which he prophetically described his expectation for an explosion of hope as a result of the World Meeting of Families.

The WMOF conferences were fantastic! Everyone was there to pray for, talk about and celebrate families. Families, religious and clergy from all over the world attended in great numbers.

Famous Catholics, including Father Frank Pavone, the Everts, Dr. Janet Smith, Rose Sweet and Johnette Benkovic, were there. Catholic organizations were there, notably, the Culture Project, www.restoreculture.com/, young adults committed to restoring the culture through living the virtue of chastity.

The list of speakers and topics was extensive. It was a challenge for the team of diocesan representatives to attend all of them.

The World Meeting of Families reminded us that

the purpose of our lives is not worldly success, such as the attainment of wealth, power, and pleasure.

The real purpose of our lives is to grow closer to God and to help others do the same so that we may attain eternal life with God in Heaven.

The Catholic Church teaches that the Domestic Church, the family, is the best environment for this growth in holiness. We meet families where they are and we help them to grow holier. We know that families that are not in ideal situations experience a great deal of suffering, but we also believe that suffering, when given to God, very effectively helps people rise to heroic levels of holiness.

We don't have to look far for illustrations of this. Saint Pope John Paul II's life is a very clear example.

One good way for families to grow in holiness is the

Family Consecration as a Way of Life, from the Apostolate for Family Consecration.

This consecration, which was distributed at the World Meeting of Families and is available through the Diocesan Family Life Office, is a way for families to be transformed, to grow stronger in their faith, and to grow closer to God.

There are six principles presented in the consecration: Prayer, Participation in Sacraments, Living out the Virtues, Learning the Faith, Sharing the Faith, and Serving Others.

Family missions in diocese

Archbishop Chaput was correct. Hope was renewed in us and we bring this message of hope to the Diocese through a series of Family Missions.

The team will be traveling to a parish in each deanery for a day of prayer and catechesis on marriage and family life.

Each Family Mission will have Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and a Holy Hour.

We will have resources to distribute and there will be an opportunity to meet and talk with members of the team. A different member of the team will speak at each meeting and present a different topic and each of the presentations will be recorded and put onto the Diocesan Family Life Webpage.

The remaining Missions we've scheduled include:

April 8, Augustinian Academy in Carthage

May 6, St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake

June 3, Holy Family in Malone

July 8, St. Bartholomew's in Old Forge

August 5, St. Peter's in Lowville

September or October, St. John's in Plattsburgh (TBD)

Editor's Note

Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan director of family life, was part of a diocesan delegation of ten who took part in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia this past September. In this article he shares his reflections about this experience as well as the follow-up sessions - days of prayer and catechesis on marriage and family life - currently being held in each deanery of the diocese

Planning for a wedding... planning for a family

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Diocesan NFP director

Perhaps you are newly married, or perhaps you are still busy getting ready for the big day. Issues and adjustments of all kinds demand your attention, and it is easy to let some things just slide. Even so, starting a new life together is the perfect time for the two of you to have a heart to heart talk about family planning.

Really? Wasn't that all settled at the doctor's office? Well, that is the first thing to consider: being a healthy fertile woman is not a disease that needs medical treatment. In fact, any woman can learn to understand her own fertility through easily observable physiologic signs. This knowledge gives her an entirely safe, highly effective (98-99%), healthy and readily reversible way to plan a family, simply by abstaining

during the fertile time. Furthermore, since a woman is fertile only a few days in each cycle and a man is continuously fertile, it hardly makes sense that she should bear the burden of risky contraceptives.

NFP: option of choice for couples concerned with respecting nature, one another, and the loving plan of the Creator

So, yes: learn all you can, even if you may need a magnifying glass to read the fine print in the package inserts. This information will alert you to some of the immediate medical hazards faced by women using the Pill and other chemical contraceptives, including Norplant, patches, rings, IUD's, Yaz, and Plan B.

In addition to raising the risk of blood clots, heart attacks, stroke, gallbladder

disease, and depression, these chemicals substantially increase the lifetime risk of breast cancer. (See www.bcpinstitute.org for more on the Pill/breast cancer link. Google <http://thepillkills.org> to learn more about the hundreds of side effects associated with chemical contraceptives.) After all, knowing facts is essential to good decision making.

And there are other things to consider as well - like the effect contraception can have on your relationship, especially in the long term. When you stand before God at the altar on your wedding day, you promise yourselves to one another in a love that is free, permanent, faithful, and fruitful.

This is the kind of love with which God loves us, and it is the unconditional love for which we all long. It is the love that God intends should be embodied in every act of sexual inter-

course, an act that by its nature says: "I love you. I give all of myself to you forever, and I accept all of you."

Contracepted intercourse says something different: "I love you, but I withhold my fertility/I will not accept your fertility." In this way, married love can become conditional and divisive rather than uniting the couple in complete and joyful acceptance of one another.

Little wonder then, that the Church calls our attention to nature, to the way God made us, to that awesome design that allows us to live in harmony with our fertility. Natural Family Planning educates couples to recognize, record, and interpret the physical changes that reveal the fertile window in each cycle. The couple then uses this knowledge to postpone or to achieve pregnancy according to their family planning intention in a way that is safe, healthy, and effec-

tive. NFP is a lifestyle that has the potential to enrich couple communication, deepen their love, and strengthen their faith and families.

Modern methods of Natural Family Planning have been developed through more than half a century of careful scientific and statistical research. A variety of methodologies offer real choices for couples wanting to learn and live Natural Family Planning. From in-person to online classes, from CyclePro charting software to new apps, NFP is more accessible than ever before. But in any form, NFP remains the option of choice for couples concerned with respecting nature, one another, and the loving plan of the Creator.

(To learn more about NFP, go to www.rcdony.org/nfp or contact the Diocesan NFP Office: apietropaoli@rcdony.org or (518)483-0459.)



Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office

Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.

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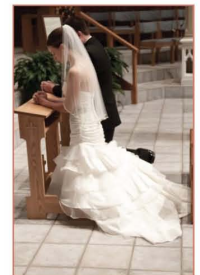


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Special note for anyone who is preparing for marriage or is married please check out the USCCB's web site. The materials and helpful articles are designed for helping build strong marriages. Every marriage matters, because marriage comes from the hand of God.

For more information on these events, please contact the Family Life Office 315-393-2920 or visit our website at www.rcdony.org/familylife



Couple reflects on journey towards adoption

By Colleen Miner
Staff writer

Robert and Naomi Berlin met through his mother. Naomi was working as a counselor at the hospital where Robert's mother was a nurse and she thought Naomi was a nice girl. Naomi said with a chuckle, "He said 'yes 'to a date with me to get her off his back.'"

Naomi (Barse from Morristown) never thought she wanted children until she met Robert. While growing up, she didn't have typical girl dreams about a wedding and a husband because she wanted to serve the Lord as a religious sister.

"I left the novitiate to look for another congregation that I thought I would fit in with better, and that's when I met Robert," she said. "He always wanted to be a father, and seeing how passionate he was, and what a great dad he'd make, I fell in love with the idea."

The Berlins have been married for almost five years and have a wonderful marriage filled with laughs, outings and quiet times together. But, the one thing they have not been blessed with is a biolog-



Morristown native Naomi Barse Berlin and her husband Robert are shown with their foster son (face is blurred because photos of minors are not allowed to be shared) in their Knoxville, Tennessee home. The Berlins have welcomed foster children as they undertake the process of adopting children of their own.

ical child.

After trying to conceive (naturally) for about two years, the couple realized

their two options. They could either invest more money into fertility treatments or invest in adoption.

Since there are so many children who need loving homes, they decided to adopt (According to Pro-Life Across America, there are two million couples waiting

to adopt children.)

It has been one full year since Naomi and Robert Berlin officially began their adoption journey. They started inquiring in 2014 about the steps to foster and adopt, but it was February of 2015 when they started the required classes that would allow them to welcome children into their home.

"To say this year has been filled with a roller-coaster of emotions would be an understatement," Naomi said. "One thing we know for certain, is we long to make our family more permanently complete."

Mr and Mrs. Berlin, who live in Knoxville, Tennessee became foster parents in August 2015, welcoming two brothers into their home.

Naomi said, "We are so thrilled to have them in our home, for however long that may be. Their smiles show us the reason for this adventure!"

"No matter how long they remain in our home, they will definitely have a place in our hearts," she said.

Since photos of the minors are not allowed to be shared, the Berlins update friends about their progress and the joys of raising brothers, by placing a heart over the face of each boy when they share pictures.

For the purposes of protection, the children are referred to as "Older" who is 13

Berlins' adoption blog

Robert and Naomi Berlin share information about their experience in their blog, "Berlins' Adoption Journey," at www.youcaring.com/adoption-fundraiser/berlins-adoption-journey/293723/update/432560

and "Little" who is 3.

"Having a child in our home makes it feel like more of a family," she said. "We have a wonderful marriage, and we think we are a pretty great couple, but three or more makes it feel like a family, and that's what we've wanted since we said 'I do.'"

When asked to share advice for other parents hoping to adopt, the Berlins agreed that you should "expect to be overwhelmed."

They went through trainings, home studies, counseling and meetings and were told every situation is different and that there was no way to be 100% prepared.

"That's true!" said Naomi. "Embrace the unexpected" and "know that God has a plan, you just need to be open to it."

The Berlins still hope to adopt someday but decided to foster while waiting. The process to adopt can take years and cost as much as \$40,000

"We are doing our best to save, but while we continue to do so, we knew we wanted to offer our home to foster children," Naomi said. "It is definitely not something you enter into lightly - financially, emotionally, physically, or spiritually."



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Married saints?

The holy spouses Louis Martin and Marie-Azelie Guerin practiced Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters, among whom was St. Therese of the Child Jesus
(Pope Francis, canonization homily)

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
 Staff writer

On October 18, 2015, Louis and Zelig Guerin Martin were canonized in St. Peter's Square. They were the first married couple to be canonized together in the Church's long history.

Their canonization occurred in conjunction with the Synod on the Family; the date coincided with the 2008 anniversary of the couple's beatification, and with the 1997 proclamation of their daughter, St. Therese, as a Doctor of the Church.

This historic canonization reminds us that, as Bishop Robert Barron has said, "The whole purpose of the Church is to make saints... sainthood is not the special preserve of spiritual superheroes, but the ordinary goal of Christian life."

Certainly that is how Louis (1823-1894) and Zelig (1831-1877) understood their calling. Each had originally sought to enter religious life; he was turned away for lack of Latin, she for reasons of health. A providential meeting led them to embrace a different vocation. Even then, they agreed to live as brother and sister - until a wise priest encouraged them to live their married love in all its fullness.

In a 19-year union, Louis and Zelig welcomed nine

children. "When we had our children," Zelig wrote, "our ideas changed somewhat. They made all our happiness. I wished to have many of them, in order to bring them up for heaven."

Though the desire for heaven guided their thoughts and actions, the Martins' life was firmly rooted on earth.

They of course had to provide for their growing family. Louis was a skilled watchmaker; despite custom, he refused to open his shop on Sunday.

Zelig was an accomplished maker of the very fine and famous Alencon lace—an enterprise so successful that Louis eventually sold his own business to manage the sale of her lace.

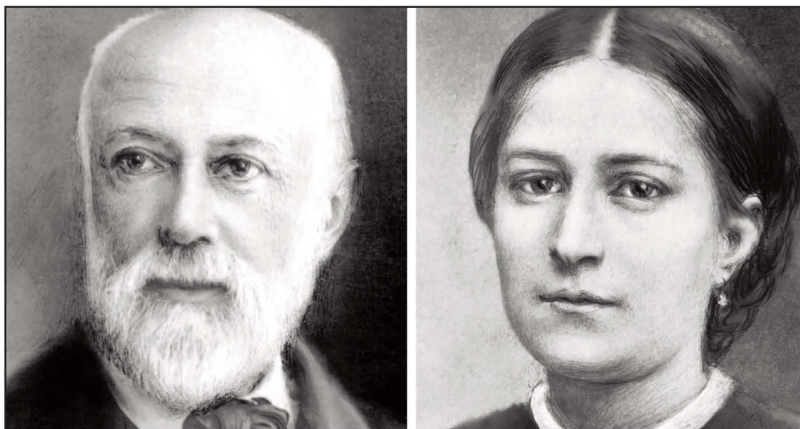
This required considerable travel on Louis' part, but Zelig conducted her lacemaking entirely from home, finishing the lace pieces worked in their homes by her employees.

The couple took great care to pay their workers promptly and fairly, and Zelig made it a point to visit them when there was sickness in their families. In fact, concern for the sick and for those less fortunate was central to the Martins' life.

But the heart of that life was their love for one another and for their children, as evidenced by their correspondence.

"I long to be with you, Louis dear," Zelig wrote. "I love you with all my heart and I feel my affection doubled by being deprived of your company. I could not live apart from you!"

This warmth was reciprocated by her husband: "Dearest, I cannot arrive at Alencon before Monday. The time passes slowly, for I long to be with you. I kiss



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF SANCTUARY OF LISIEUX
 Blesseds Louis and Marie Zelig Guerin Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, are pictured in a combination photo created from images provided by the Sanctuary of Lisieux in France. The couple were canonized at the Vatican Oct. 18, 2015, during the Synod of Bishops on the family.

2016 PRE-CANA SCHEDULE				
DEANERY	DATES	TIMES	LOCATIONS	INSTRUCTOR(S)
Adirondack	March 5*	9:00 am-6:00 pm	St. Bernard's Grade School 63 River Street Saranac Lake, NY 12983	Chip and Kathy Samperi
Clinton	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Franklin	March 12* or May 21*	9:00 am-5:00 pm 9:00 am-5:00 pm	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 12966	Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli
Lewis	March 1 and 15** or April 24*	6:00 pm-9:00 pm 10:00 am-5:00 pm	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville, NY 13367	Ron and Michele Gingerich
Jefferson	March 5*- (Closed) (limit 7 couples) or September 10* (limit 7 couples) April 20 and April 24**	10:00 am-5:00 pm 10:00 am-5:00 pm 6:30 pm-9:30 pm 10:00 am-5:00 pm	St. James Minor Church 327 West Street Carthage, NY 13619 St. Mary's Church 521 James Street Clayton, NY 13624	Nick and Lori Hanno Deacon Henry & Dayna Leader
St. Lawrence	March 30 and April 3** May 10 and May 15**	6:30 pm-9:30 pm 9:00 am-5:00 pm 6:30 pm-9:30 pm 9:00 am-5:00 pm	St. James School 20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur, NY 13642 Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond 3 Morris Street Norfolk, NY 13667	Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader

Please note: * Attendance for the entire session is required. Lunch is provided.
 ** Attendance for multiple sessions is required.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Married saints

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

you and the children lovingly, whilst awaiting the pleasure of being with you again."

From this deep parental love were born two sons and seven daughters, each awaited with joy and cherished with gratitude.

But even so strong a love could not shield the couple from the childhood deaths so common at that time. Between 1867 and 1870, Louis and Zelie suffered the loss of three infant children, including their only sons. Later in 1870, their five year old daughter Helene - a

happy, healthy, "enchanting" child - suddenly sickened and died.

Reeling from these repeated blows, they were sustained only by the depth of their faith.

Zelie spoke for her husband as well as herself when responding to a relative who had expressed concern for the stricken couple: "When I closed the eyes of my dear children and buried them, I felt sorrow through and through. But thanks to God's grace, I have always been resigned to God's will. I do not regret the pains and sacrifices I underwent for

them...They are enjoying heaven now. I have not lost them forever. Life is short, and we shall find our little ones again in heaven."

Meanwhile, the faithful couple continued to cherish their four living daughters, who were joined on January 2, 1873, by their last child—Marie-Francoise-Therese.

Therese and her sisters grew and thrived in an atmosphere warmed by their parent's love and enlightened by their deep and unswerving faith.

Louis and Zelie attended 6:30 Mass each morning, and gathered their children

each day for family prayers and readings from the lives of the saints.

The Church calendar governed their lives, and God reigned in their home.

The daughters were consistently taught to offer their small difficulties as sacrifices for the love of Jesus; they were taught to ask for grace in their daily prayers.

In the opening pages of her autobiographical *The Story of a Soul*, St. Therese would number among the wholly undeserved favors bestowed on her by Our Lord that "He allowed her to

grow up in holy soil."

Her sister Pauline echoes this: "My parents always seemed to me to be saints. We were filled with respect and admiration for them."

This is all the more remarkable in light of the fact that the parents' lives were marked by such loss and overshadowed by the cancer that took Zelie's life when she was only 46 years old; little Therese was barely four. Louis lived on for another 17 years, many of them marked by paralysis and dementia.

All five of the Martins' daughters became contemplative nuns. Therese, their youngest was canonized in 1925 and named "the greatest saint of modern times."

One in death as in life, Louis and Zelie Martin are now buried at the Lisioux basilica which honors their Therese. Her words are engraved over their tombs: "God gave me a mother and father more worthy of heaven than of earth."

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Court hears arguments in challenge to Texas abortion restrictions

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in its first abortion case in nine years March 2 in a challenge by Texas abortion clinics to a 2013 state law that requires them to comply with standards of ambulatory surgical centers and their doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals. The almost 90 minutes of oral arguments March 2 was before a court left with eight members following the Feb. 13 death of Justice Antonin Scalia, who regularly voted to uphold abortion limitations and was expected to have provided the fifth vote in this case to uphold the requirements. If the justices vote 4-4 in a decision on this case, they will uphold a lower court's decision approving the Texas law, but the case would not set a national precedent. Stephanie Toti, a lawyer for the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York City, presented the oral arguments on behalf of the clinics and doctors, and U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. was given 10 minutes to argue for the federal government's support of the clinics. Scott Keller, solicitor general of Texas, delivered the arguments defending the state law on abortion clinic restrictions. During the March 2 arguments, justices chided each side for failing to produce better evidence to support their arguments. Some justices challenged the plaintiffs' claims that the law would put abortion out of reach and also wondered if the state law was the reason so many clinics had closed; others questioned the state's motivation for imposing such requirements on abortion clinics and their doctors.

Four Missionaries of Charity reported killed in Yemen

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Four Missionaries of Charity and 10 to 12 other people were killed March 4 after gunmen entered a home the sisters operate for the elderly and disabled in Aden, Yemen. Several news outlets reported 16 people were killed, including patients. The superior of the Missionaries of Charity at the home survived by hiding, according to the Vatican's Fides news agency. Father Tom Uzhunnalil, an Indian Salesian priest who had been living at the home since Holy Family parish in Aden was sacked and burned in September, was missing after the attack. Yemen has been experiencing a political crisis since 2011 and is often described as being in a state of civil war with members of the Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities vying for power; in the midst of the tensions, terrorist groups have been operating in the country, including groups believed to be associated with the so-called Islamic State and al-Qaida. Although most Christians have fled the country, a handful of Salesian priests and about 20 Missionaries of Charity chose to stay and continue their ministry.

Pope: When it comes to our sins, God has a 'bad memory'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Although God is all-powerful, when it comes to sins, he has one weakness: a bad memory, Pope Francis said. "Once he forgives you, he forgets. This is great," the pope told a group of seminarians, new priests and priests who hear confessions in the major basilicas of Rome. "Every faithful penitent, after receiving absolution from the priest, has the certainty through faith that their sins no longer exist, they have been canceled by divine mercy," he told the group March 4. The forgiveness of sins offered in the sacrament of reconciliation is open to all and is "the greatest of the 'holy doors' that remain wide open to those wounded by sin and who wish to experience God's love and mercy," the pope said. Departing from his prepared remarks, the pope highlighted the importance of celebrating God's forgiveness in the sacrament.

Massgoers urged to be open to Lord's mercy and be 'instruments of his mercy'

By Julie Asher
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The "annual retreat" of Lent is the "opportune moment to re-establish the Lord" as the center of one's life and quiet time spent in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a chance to really listen to what God is saying, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio said in a homily March 3.

"We must be attentive," he said, even "when the Gospel seems demanding, out of touch, or opposed to our desires, apparent gain or whatever."

The archbishop, who heads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, was the main celebrant at an early evening Mass in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington to open the shrine's observance of "24 Hours for Lord," a worldwide Year of Mercy project initiated by Pope Francis.

At the Vatican, in Rome and in many dioceses around the world, Catholic churches were to have extended hours for confessions as part of the project.

In Washington, a 48-hour period for the observance was scheduled at the national shrine, with continuous exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout that time, including overnight hours. An early evening closing Mass March 5 was to be celebrated by Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Virginia, followed by a eucharistic procession.

Archbishop Broglio told the more than 200 people attending the opening Mass they were gathered at a most appropriate place to mark "this special day of mercy" proclaimed by the pope, because the national shrine is

"a place of constant healing where priests are available to administer divine pardon to those who seek it."

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio opens the national shrine's observance of '24 Hours for Lord,' a worldwide Year of Mercy project initiated by Pope Francis.

He opened his homily by sharing an allegory often used by best-selling author Matthew Kelly to illustrate the importance of the Eucharist.

The story is of a mysterious fatal infection spreading around the world, devastating populations, forcing physicians and scientists to work "night and day to find an antidote," Archbishop Broglio said. One day they find a young boy who has a natural immunity that could produce a vaccine. His parents are told their son could save the world, but that he must make the ultimate sacrifice -- his life.

"The parents are beside themselves, but they see there is no choice," the archbishop said. "The vaccine is successful and the human race is saved."

When the boy's parents want to commemorate the first anniversary of the sacrifice of their son, "the response is tepid," he said. Most have somewhere else they need to be - a sports event, "a sale not to be missed," chores - and had no time to give thanks.

"We gather this evening to give thanks," Archbishop Broglio said. "First we must listen and then respond with decisiveness. The whole process is prayer."

Being able to listen "is no mean feat in contemporary society," he continued.

"Everyone buries his or her head into an electronic device. Family conversation can be ruined. Human interaction is faulty."

In the day's first reading, the prophet Jeremiah "is clear," he said. "Essential to conversion is hearing the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts," Archbishop Broglio said.

The day's Gospel passage from the prophet Joel warns against closing one's heart and mind to the Lord and his message, he said.

"We place our trust in the Lord and listen to his voice," Archbishop Broglio said. "Otherwise all our works are in vain."

Returning to the story he began his homily with, the archbishop said that just as the parents of the child who was sacrificed to give life "invited others to commemorate his loving gesture, the Lord allows us to participate, to be present and to share in his one sacrifice that gives eternal life."

He urged Massgoers "to be open to the Lord's mercy and to be instruments of it."

At the start of Mass, Msgr. Walter R. Rossi, rector of the national shrine, welcomed the congregation to the Crypt Church and noted that Pope Francis had described the special observance taking over the next two days as a "moment of intense prayer" that "will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy."

"May these days of eucharistic adoration, these '48 Hours for the Lord,' bring God's mercy, abundant blessings upon all who come before the Lord in Mary's shrine as well as for those who unite themselves with us in spiritual communion at home."

The Eternal Word Television Network was broadcasting the opening and closing Masses live.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Staying mindful of God's constant mercy

As we begin Passiontide, we should give our full attention to these last two weeks of our preparation for Easter.

The readings this Sunday are all about God's mercy to sinners. It all fits in with this Year of Mercy.

In the first reading God says through the prophet Isaiah to a people still in exile in Babylon, "Tell the people I'm about to release them. I've actually cancelled all their debt! Tell them not to dwell



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

on the past. I'm the God that makes desert places fertile and lovely. All my anger is over. Tell them to be more faithful now that they are about to return home.. And let them remember that their main duty is to give me praise and glory!"

The people must have erupted in joy at this news of God's mercy and His renewal of the Covenant. It's a brand new beginning for the young especially.

In much the same way,

Jesus in our Sunday Gospel gives a fresh start to the woman caught in adultery.

By Jewish law, both her and the man should be stoned to death. Of course, the scribes and Pharisees were trying to trap Him. Jesus cleverly solves the dilemma. Just as the elders are about to pick up their stones, Jesus starts writing in the sand. He looks up and says, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone at her."

And they all dropped their stones and left, beginning with the oldest among them! Just thinking about their

MARCH 13

Fifth Sunday of Lent
 READINGS
 Isaiah 43:16-21
 Philippians 3:8-14
 John 8:1-11

own sinfulness made them ashamed. Maybe many of them were relieved as well as the woman!

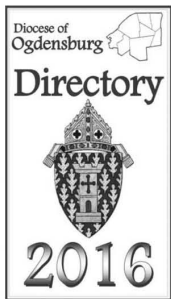
Certainly most people in the crowd approved of Christ's mercy. When all had left, Jesus says to the woman, "Woman, has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, do not sin any more."

Jesus says the same to us this Sunday. We need to seek out His mercy to us in a good confession. It is there that He gives us a new beginning, a fresh start to lift our spirits. It is a forgiving and merciful God who accepts our Lenten prayer, our fasting, and our almsgiving.

In this Year of Mercy, may we be mindful of God's constant mercy in our lives, and extend the same mercy to our family members, our friends, and all in our daily lives.

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OUR READERS WRITE

A beautiful tribute

What a beautiful tribute to Ron and Esther Hynes (*North Country Catholic*, March 3, page 4.) I had the privilege to work with them for four years. As a student at the Watertown School of Commerce in 1962, I was offered a position "between Star Lake and Tupper Lake".

Little did I know that I would be working 45 minutes from my home at the age of 18!!!!

The Newton Falls Paper Mill was such a wonderful place to work - I made so many friends and to this day still keep in touch with a few of them.

Unfortunately, most of the employees

I worked with in the Office (I was the Switchboard Operator) have since passed away.

In later years when I married Victor Provo from Tupper Lake, I became aware that most of the Provost's in Newton Falls were related to me - We used to travel down there often to visit with them. Even though the name is spelled differently - (Vic's was the "French version" which was his father's idea) - he said we were still related!!!!

Thank you so much for this article. I am keeping it in my favorites to read often....

LINDA K PROVO
 TUPPER LAKE

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AT THE MOVIES

ZOOTOPIA

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Anthropomorphism runs amok in the 3-D animated comedy-adventure "Zootopia" (Disney).

As with Disney's "Cars" franchise, which presented a world of automobiles with human traits, "Zootopia" personifies all creatures great and small. They jabber away among themselves as each earns a living in the bustling city of the title.

Inside jokes and clever puns abound. City dwellers shop at Targoat, sip lattes from Snarlbucks, call up a ride from Zuber -- and make deposits at the Lemming Brothers Bank.

The newest arrival in this urban setting, where predators and prey live in apparent harmony, is Judy Hopps (voice of Ginnifer Goodwin).

A bright-eyed and bushy-tailed rabbit from the suburbs, Judy is eager to fulfill her lifelong dream by becoming the first bunny officer of the Zootopia Police Department.

Through grit and perseverance, she succeeds, only to face resentment and prejudice from her peers as well as her boss, the imposing buffalo Chief Bogo (voice of Idris Elba). He assigns Judy to parking duty, while much larger cops (including an elephant and a rhino) take on important criminal cases.

Determined to make the best of it, Judy hops into action. As she racks up the tickets, she encounters wily fox Nick Wilde (voiced by Jason Bateman), a small-time con artist.

It turns out that Nick is a key witness in a missing "person" case that Judy

wants to solve to win the respect of her co-workers. As natural enemies become collaborators and, ultimately, friends, "Zootopia" morphs into a buddy movie.

Directors Byron Howard ("Tangled") and Rich Moore ("Wreck-It Ralph"), together with co-director Jared Bush, keep the action moving at a fast pace. Unfortunately, the film takes a dark turn as the investigation proceeds, exposing the seedier side of Zootopia. Scenes of animal conflict and cruelty could frighten and confuse the younger set.

And that's not to mention the somewhat paradoxical naturist club where animals shed their clothes.

Parents will smile at references to classic films that will fly over their children's heads. Particularly amusing is Mr. Big (voice of Maurice



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

A bunny cop and a fugitive fox star in a scene from the animated movie "Zootopia."

LaMarche), a tiny arctic shrew who's a dead ringer for Don Corleone in "The Godfather." As the mobster threatens our furry duo, the wedding reception scene plays out in the background, and soon Mr. Big is dancing with the bride.

Overall, despite its mixed tone, "Zootopia" offers good lessons in tolerance, hard

work and optimism.

The film contains occasional mild action violence, some rude gags and momentary religious but not irreverent humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

Vatican newspaper: 'Spotlight' not anti-Catholic

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Vatican newspaper said the Oscar-winning film, "Spotlight," is not anti-Catholic.

"It is not an anti-Catholic movie, as has been written, because the film succeeds in giving voice to the alarm and deep pain" experienced by the Catholic faithful when a team of investigative newspaper reporters in Boston revealed the scandal of clerical abuse, said the article published Feb. 29 in L'Osservatore Romano.

The paper said it was also a "positive sign" when Michael Sugar, the movie's producer, said he hoped the film would "resonate all the way to the Vatican."

In his acceptance speech at the 88th annual Academy Awards Feb. 28, Sugar said the movie "gave a voice to survivors, and this Oscar amplifies this voice." He then

expressed hopes this voice would "become a choir that will resonate all the way to the Vatican."

"Pope Francis, it's time to protect the children and restore the faith," he said.

The fact there was such an appeal, the Vatican newspaper said, was "a positive sign" because it shows "there is still trust in the institution (of the church), there is trust in a pope who is continuing the cleanup begun by his predecessor."

"There is still trust in a faith that has at its heart the defense of victims, the protection of the innocent," said the article, written by Lucetta Scaraffia, a professor of contemporary history and a frequent contributor to the Vatican newspaper.

"Spotlight" won two awards: one for best picture and one for best original screenplay. The film documents the Boston Globe's investigation into the scandal and cover-up of the sexual

abuse of minors by clergy in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Vatican newspaper said the film does not touch on the "long and tenacious fight" by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in launching action against abusers in the church.

"But a film can't say everything, and the difficulties that Ratzinger encountered only confirm the premise of the film, that is, that too often the church institution did not know how to respond with the necessary determination before these crimes," the article said.

While children are vulnerable to abuse in many other places, like in the family, school or sports teams, it said, "it is now clear that too many in the church were more worried about the image of the institution than the seriousness of the act."

"All of this cannot justify the very grave crime of one,

who as a representative of God, uses this prestige and authority to take advantage of the innocent," the article said.

The film, in fact, shows the kind of devastation wrought on victims when "they don't even have a God to plead with anymore, to ask for help," it said.

Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, told Vatican Radio many bishops had urged others to see the film and "take seriously its central message, which is that the Catholic Church can and must be transparent, just and committed to fighting abuse, and it must ensure it never happens again."

Catholic leaders cannot think clerical sexual abuse will go away if they don't talk about it, Father Zollner said. "I think this is one of the central messages of the film."

Director Tom McCarthy had said that while he's ex-



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

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

AuSable Forks - The Au Sable Forks K of C invites you to their Annual 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

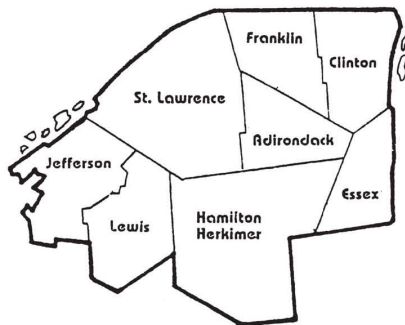
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY

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



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.

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

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

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

Date: March 12

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 4-12, \$5

Features: Corned Beef or Ham dinner.

Irish Dancers, Traditional Irish music

Guinness and Baileys for the adults,

50/50 raffle and take out available.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh - 40 Days for life to be held.

Date: 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.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Elizabethtown - The Annual St. Patrick's dinner. ham or corned beef, sponsored by St. Elizabeth's parish to be held.

Date: March 13

Time: 2 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall

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

FRANKLIN

CABBAGE ROLL

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. with continuous seating

Place: St. Helen's Parish Hall

Menu: Sliced ham, scalloped potatoes, Fr. Joe's Famous Baked Beans, cabbage salad, devilled eggs, homemade pickles, homemade rolls, sugar on snow, homemade raised donuts, coffee, tea, & milk; 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 for both choir and congregation.

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

JEFFERSON

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

Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy

picture to be specially blessed.

Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday

call Judy at 315-783-7349

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.

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 pm. All are welcome.

Contact: Dc. Mastellon at 315-782-6086

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.

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

Prayer and Penny Week

For the Missionary

Childhood Association

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) teaches our children the importance of prayer and sacrifice. This year, the Missionary Childhood Association celebrates National Prayer and Penny Week from March 6-13, 2016. This program serves as MCA's Lenten prayer and sacrifice program for Grades K-8. National Prayer and Penny Week Program continues to honor the legacy of Venerable Pauline Jaricot, the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

We have asked the Catholic Schools of the Diocese to participate this year in National Prayer and Penny Week.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, asks this of the Youth in our world, to continue to care for the poor and be sensitive to the needs of the Mission Lands. National Prayer and Penny Week is a wonderful way to teach the concept of prayer and sacrifice together.

During National Prayer Week, MCA invited students to remember children in the missions, especially those who are waiting to hear the "Good News" proclaimed as we pray together as a mission family here at home:

God our Father, Help us to be your witness and disciples and share

The Good News of the Gospel with our lives.

Jesus, our Lord, You teach us that all life is sacred.

Strengthen us to witness every day to your love with our words, actions and sacrifices.

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, as missionary disciples you invite us to share the Good News,

Cooperating with you and one another.

To Walk with our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, loneliness and despair.

In a special way we ask YOU to bless all the missionaries sharing your love.

We send this prayer across the world in Jesus's Name.

AMEN

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

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



Pauline Marie Jaricot, founder of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith

OBITUARIES

Margaret Shaw

TICONDEROGA – A Mass of Christian Burial for Margaret "Peg" (DeVaney) Shaw, 74, wife of Deacon Elliott A. Shaw, was held March 5 at St. Mary's Church. She died Feb. 28; spring burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Born in Ticonderoga, April 6, 1941, she was the daughter of the late John and Margaret (Hughes) DeVaney. She married Elliott Shaw Jan. 10, 1959.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons, Elliott Shaw Jr. (Penny) of Delmar and Michael Shaw (Robin) of Ticonderoga; three daughters, Wendy Shaw of Ticonderoga, Mary Coleman (Jim) of Latham, and Michelle Eggleston (Darin) of Dresden; 12 grandchildren, Ryan, Gregson, Chris, Jordan, Ted, Amber, Meegan, Zoe, Liam, Archer, Ariya and Aurora; four great-grandchildren, Eoin, Emmi, Riley and Gavin; two brothers, Jack DeVaney (Brenda) of Texas and Pat DeVaney (Judy) of Colonie; a sister, Kathy Coleman (Jim) of California, brothers and sisters-in-law, Donna VanWirt, Frederick Shaw, Patricia Hansen, Kathleen (Kit) Corliss, Norma Jane Thatcher and Ronnie Shaw; and several nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by her son, Jeffrey Shaw in 1987.

After her children were grown, Mrs. Shaw worked at Fort Ticonderoga for more than 20 years.

An active parishioner of St. Mary's, she was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and the church folk group for many years. She especially enjoyed hosting clergy for meals at her house.

Donations in Mrs. Shaw's memory may be made to St. Mary's School Adopt-a-Student Program, 64 Amherst Avenue, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.

Adams – Gerald M. Chamberlin, 82; Funeral Services March 5, 2016 at St. Cecilia's Church.

Brushton – Ronald J. "Ronnie" Deon, 74; Funeral Services March 16, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

Brushton – Augustine E. Robideau, 85; Funeral Services March 3, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Elmer D. Ives, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Plattsburgh.

Chateaugay – Ruth Anna (Toland) Burgoyne, 84; Funeral Services March 4, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Philip E. Hall, 62; Funeral Feb. 26, 2016 at Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Evans Mills – Benjamin A. Jones, infant; Funeral Services March 3, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage – Sharon (Murphy) Marti, 71; Funeral Services March 5, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in Swinburne Cemetery, Deer River.

Heuvelton – H. Raymond "Tuffy" Carroll, 79; Funeral Services March 4, 2016 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Keeseville – Marilyn A. Zeh, 73; Funeral May 6, 2016 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Lowville – Margaret C. "Peg" "Granny" (Duppert) Petrovitz, 84; Funeral Services March 7, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

North Bangor – James R. Hurteau, 70; Funeral Services March 4, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

North Bangor – Harry F. Martin, 56; Funeral Services March 1, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church.

Ogdensburg – Benjamin R. Bresett; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2016 at Notre

Dame Church.

Ogdensburg – George A. Pratt II, 48; Funeral Services March 2, 2016 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Sunnyside Cemetery, Morristown.

Peru – Kavian Alex LaGrave, infant; Funeral Services March 4, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Richard Toner, 68; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Port Henry – Nolan A. Ingleston, 2 Months; Funeral March 1, 2016 at St. Patrick's; burial in Ironville Cemetery.

Potsdam – Barbara Adair Bryant Hollinger, 83; Funeral Services March 4, 2016 at Seymour Funeral Home; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Potsdam – Mary (Reavey) Sullivan, 92; Funeral Services March 5, 2016 at Seymour Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Elizabeth "Betty" (Hamood) Facteau, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Anna M. Barbalich, 45; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2016 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Sanford Corners.

Watertown – Edward P. "Skip" Devine Sr., 75; Funeral Services March 5, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Matthew F. Kehoe, 25; Services March 4, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

GO GREEN!

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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

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.

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.

LEWIS

LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Dates: March 10, 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

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

 #Pontifex

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

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

ST. LAWRENCE

COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS

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

Date: March 12

Time: 12 p.m. to 3:30 followed by Mass at 5

Place: St. Mary's School

Theme: "Mercy: The Primary Divine Attribute?" and will prove to enrich your Lenten journey of faith.

Features: A light luncheon will be provided. There is no charge for the event, but donation are accepted.

Contact: Register before March 8 by contacting Jeannie Grizzuto at (315) 393-2920, Ext. 1413 or by email at: jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

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

MOVIE NIGHT

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

Date: March 12

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Brzana Hall

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

Contact: Amy at 315-393-3930

FISH & 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

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS

LENT 2016: "Oh, The Places We'll Go Tour"

Date	Place	Time
March 11	St. Stephen's Church Phoenix, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 13	St. Anthony's Church Watertown	7:00 p.m.
March 17	St. Peter's Church Rome, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 18	St. Matthew's Church Voorheesville, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 19	Immaculate Conception Church Fayetteville, NY	7:30 p.m.
March 25	St. Patrick's Church Watertown	7:30 p.m.

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

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: March 13; April 3 & 17

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Features: Reflection and vespers.

Contact: Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Howard Venette, pastor @stmaryspatrick.net, 315-265-9680; Father Douglas Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com or Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director bstitt@rcdony.org

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

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

Date: June 3-5

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: A Rachel's Vineyard retreat offers a safe, non-judgmental environment of hope and healing for those suffering after abortions. The chaplains for the spring retreat are Father Mark Reilly 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.rcdony.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 Ruettiger, 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/

LOOBY 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.

HOLY WEEK RETREAT

Chestertown, N.Y. – Catholics from the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join a Holy Week Retreat

Date: March 20, 7 p.m. to Easter Sunday March 27 (After Breakfast)

Place: The Priory Retreat House in the Diocese of Albany

Cost: Donation: Private: \$60-70/night; Directed: \$65-75/night

Features: Silent private or directed retreat. Holy Week rituals in the Northern Points cluster churches in Chestertown and North Creek. Participants are invited to join for as many days as they are able.

Contact: Call 518-494-3733, email pro-life@yaho.com

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