

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Faces of Faith:  
springtime in the  
diocese | PAGE 5

Pope's message  
on Easter  
Sunday | PAGE 8

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 42

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 6, 2016

## God is greater than our sins

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The power of God's forgiveness "is greater than our sins," Pope Francis said. Christians have "the certainty that he will never abandon us," the pope said at his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square March 30.

"If you fall into sin, stand up! When a child falls, what

does he do? He raises his hand to his mother or father to help him up," the pope said. "Raise your hand and God will help you; this is the dignity of God's forgiveness."

With tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope reflected on Psalm 51, King David's hymn

of repentance after committing adultery with Bathsheba and murdering her husband, Uriah the Hittite.

The psalm often is called the "Miserere" from the Latin opening of David's plea, "Have mercy on me, O God." Those who pray the psalm, Pope Francis said, are called

to be like David who, despite the gravity of his sins, was genuinely repentant and confident in God's mercy. "In this prayer, humankind's true need is manifested: The only thing we really need in our lives is to be forgiven, freed from evil and its deadly consequences," he said.

## REST IN PEACE

### Mother Angelica dies on Easter



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY EWTN  
Mother Angelica, founder of Eternal Word Television Network, died at age 92 March 27 at the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration monastery in Hanceville, Ala. She is pictured in an undated photo. Among the concelebrants at her April 1 funeral Mass at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville was Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, vice chairman of the EWTN board and its longest-serving current member. Other bishops present included Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the Vatican nuncio to the United States; Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham and his predecessor, retired Bishop David E. Foley; and Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

### In support of INSPIRE: Called to Love



A second collection will be taken up in all parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for INSPIRE: Called to Love on the weekend of April 16-17. A special envelope for the collection will be attached to the Sunday bulletins of all the parishes on the weekend of April 9-10.

## Bishop ordains Deacon Thibault

Bishop LaValley shares his homily from the April 2 ordination of Todd Thibault as a transitional deacon

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## CREATIVE KIDS



### SCHOOL PHOTO

Holy Family School in Malone recently started an extended-day enrichment program for its students with a donation from a graduate of the school. The program aims to enhance creativity through a wide variety of crafts, puzzles, games and outdoor activities. The goal is to create a desire to learn and build on what the children are learning during the school day. The most popular projects include Lego Club, K-NEX Club, Girl Talk, sewing, basketball skills, game time, gardening, floor hockey and dance. Here, a group of the older students display the pajama bottoms they created. In front are Lauren Petrelli, Ciara LeRoy, Nolan Wood and Lukas Kompan; back Cordelia Adams, Sidney LeRoy and Erica Ritchings. Spring projects will include speech and debate, intramural softball, robotics and coding. Faculty, staff, and parents monitor the programs.

**SR. RITA FRANCES BRADY:** Remembering a great friend of the Missions... p. 11

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## It's all in God's hands

Before this paper arrives in mailboxes across the diocese, the editor, her bishop and 54 fellow pilgrims will be heading over to Italy to begin our Year of Mercy pilgrimage.

Throughout our journey, especially at our daily Masses, we will be remembering all of you in our prayer.

We ask for your prayers as well; the terrifying news from Brussels has caused more than a few jitters among some pilgrims and their families.

But, as my fellow pilgrim, Father Doug Lucia reminded me

(as he informed me of yet another glitch in our well laid plans) "it's all in God's hands."

And so we travel with gratitude as we prepare to walk in the footsteps of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Francis as well as some rather noteworthy lay people like say, Michaelangelo.

You can be certain that Bishop LaValley will lead us in prayer for more vocations in our diocese at every stop. This prayer will be filled with gratitude as we begin our journey just three days after the ordination of a transitional

deacon for our North Country Church.

April 2 was a great day for the Diocese of Ogdensburg as Bishop LaValley ordained Deacon Todd Thibault at St. James Church in Carthage.

After six months of pastoral ministry, Deacon Thibault is expected to become Father Thibault on Oct. 8 and begin much needed priestly service among us.

The good news doesn't end there.

The diocesan vocation office has also shared the following welcome message:

*With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God the Church of Ogdensburg joyfully an-*

*nounces the Ordination to the Order of Deacon of Michael Joseph Jablonski through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley Bishop of Ogdensburg May 28 at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh.*

But, of course, we can't relax in our vocational prayer yet.

As we thank God for the promise of two new priests, the harvest of need in our diocese is plentiful and the laborers are still too few.

We'll be praying from churches in Assisi, Padua and Rome and then move forward in faith, knowing it really is all in God's hands.

Mary Lou  
Kilian

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Recognition in the breaking of bread

My favorite Easter story is the Emmaus story from the Gospel of St. Luke. I suspect you remember it.

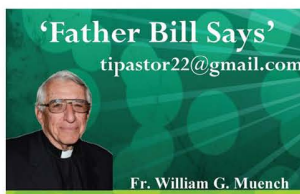
This year, this Gospel reading is not read as the Gospel at any of the Sundays of the Easter season. Rather, it is the gospel for the Wednesday Mass during Easter week.

Today I would like to take this opportunity to look over this story with you.

Two of Jesus' disciples are walking home from Jerusalem to their home town of Emmaus, a short distance from Jerusalem. The story is set a few days after the crucifixion of Jesus.

As they were walking along, Jesus - the resurrected Jesus - approached them. The story tells us that they did not recognize Jesus but Jesus recognizes their sadness. They make it clear that they are disciples of Jesus and tell him of their great hopes for Jesus. For them he was a great prophet, a prophet powerful in the eyes of God. Now they were broken hearted because of his condemnation and crucifixion.

The Gospel story tells us that Jesus offered his compassion



and began to teach these two disciples. He begins by pointing out to them that the coming Messiah would have to suffer, even die. Then he opens the Scriptures for them. We are told in the story that he then takes them back to Moses and interprets for them every passage in the Hebrew Scriptures that refer to him.

When they come to Emmaus, the two disciples invite Jesus to stay awhile with them. Then we are told that they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

I want you to recognize in this story a pattern, a pattern exactly like the liturgy of our Mass.

Our Mass begins with the Liturgy of the Word, the Scriptures are read to us and then we listen to a homily as the priest helps us to understand

the message of the Scriptures.

I truly enjoy the image of Jesus teaching Scripture to the two disciples in the story on the road to Emmaus. Can you imagine that moment?

I have had several opportunities to be taught by several outstanding Scriptures scholars and I continue to be intrigued by that inspiring moment that Jesus taught those disciples "every passage that applied to him." However, I am certain that when we read the Scriptures, especially at Mass, that Jesus is truly with us and helping us understand.

I believe with a deep faith that Jesus comes to us and enters our lives yet, we do not recognize him, just as those two disciples did not recognize him. Often, we do not realize that Jesus was present to us until later. We come to realize that Jesus had truly touched our lives.

The two disciples recognize Jesus "in the breaking of the bread." We immediately think of the Blessed Eucharist. Each time we participate in the Eucharist, each time we receive Holy Communion, with God's grace, we should recognize the

presence of the Lord. In the story, when the two disciples recognize Jesus, they found the new dedication and excitement in their faith in the Lord. The faith overflowed. They rushed back to Jerusalem immediately to tell the apostles that they had seen and talked with the Lord. When the Eucharist is the center of our spirituality, when we walk close with the Lord through our life, we will find new joy and happiness with the Lord.

I want to add one more interesting surprise for me. Years ago, I was involved in a program that interestingly was called Emmaus. I was asked to go with another priest to Ireland to explain the program to some priests of a diocese. We visited the Diocese of Longford where the Cathedral Church was dedicated to St. Mel.

Over one of the side altars is a painting of the Emmaus story. The Lord is sitting at a table with the two disciples - and the two disciples are a man and a woman, probably a married couple.

This is such a wonderful story - with so many lessons - so many more lessons.

## FOLLOW ME

# A day of great joy for the diocese

Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the April 2 ordination of Todd E. Thibault as a transitional deacon.

Mary Magdalene told Jesus' apostles that she had seen Jesus and that He was alive. They did not believe her. Two discouraged disciples, leaving town, on their way to Emmaus, told them a similar story - that they had conversed and shared a meal with, and then recognized Jesus. Jesus' companions did not believe those two disciples either.

Later, while they were at table, the risen Jesus Himself appeared to the Eleven, rebuking them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they didn't believe those who actually saw Him after He had been raised from the dead. Jesus then urged them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

Jesus' closest friends wouldn't believe the messengers of such good news. So, maybe it's not so difficult to understand that many today, two thousand years later, similarly seem to lack faith in the message of Mary Magdalene and the other witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.

After all, the folks who actually spent time with Jesus - ate with Him, witnessed His healings and teachings, and called Him, "friend," didn't believe. Not initially anyway.

Then, given the gift of God's Holy Spirit, look at what some fishermen could accomplish. Listen again to what we just heard from the Acts of the Apostles:

"Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, the leaders, elders, and scribes were amazed." Peter and John insisted: "It is impossi-

ble for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

Todd, that sentiment of amazement and eager determination must lay deep within your heart today and everyday as you respond to Jesus' call, "Follow Me."

Such passion must energize your service of all God's people as you give fervent witness to the Gospel you preach. Soon, through the laying on of hands, you will be empowered by God's Spirit, as a sacred minister, to proclaim such Good News!

In his announcement of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis said: "How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!" (MV, 5) The goodness, the tenderness of the risen Lord is the message you must preach, you must live.

Pope Francis hopes this Jubilee might be a time for all of us to "rediscover the joy of God's tenderness" (MV, 24). This is the message you are to proclaim so that others may believe that Christ is Risen and that His Mystical Body, the Church, welcomes them into the family of faith.

Todd, through your service at the Table of the Lord, through your acts of tender compassion for God's people, you will give flesh to Jesus' unconditional love and concern for all.

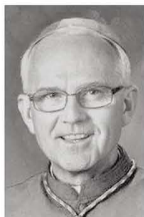
Blessed Paul VI, in *Evangelization in the Modern World*, wrote: "We must be possessed by the same eagerness of spirit that inspired John the Baptist, Peter and Paul, the other apostles and multitudes down through the ages" (EN, 80).

There is much to do today and there is no room, no time for sighs, moans or groans from those who minister in today's Church. No, ours is a Gospel of Joy that must be proclaimed, must be lived. As were Peter and John, may God's holy people, recognize you, Todd, as a companion of Jesus, not a mere acquaintance, but as one who walks with, who accompanies, one who is truly an intimate friend of Christ.

Never allow yourself to be turned away from the hope offered by the Gospel. As a deacon of the Church, you are not only a hearer of this Gospel but also its minister. Express by your actions the Word of God which your lips proclaim, so that the Christian people, brought to life by the Spirit, may find hope in the promises of our Risen God.

There are so many angry, frustrated people in our world who need inspiring, hope-filled leaders. The struggles are real. In the challenges ahead, empowered by God's Spirit, radiate confident hope and joy!

As a Minister of the Word, the faithful must be convinced that you believe yourself what you are saying to them. Todd, ask yourself: "Is my life in accord with my beliefs? Is my preaching in accord with my



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley



Support And Pray  
For Vocations

life? Do my words inspire and challenge in such a way that they are always respectful of the dignity of the hearer?"

**Todd, in whatever pastoral setting you find yourself ministering, may those whose lives you touch exclaim, 'We have seen and we believe!'**

Such reflects an ever-increasing love for God's holy people. Your understanding of, love for and then proclamation of the Word demands, even more than study, closeness to Christ and prayer. Before becoming one who hands on the Word, you must be, in imitation of Mary, a hearer, bearer of the Word.

Pope Benedict, in *Sacramentum Caritatis*, reminds deacons, indeed all who carry out a Eucharistic ministry, that they "should always be able to find in this service, exercised with care and constant preparation, the strength and inspiration needed for their personal and communal path of sanctification" (SC, 94).

Todd, your sacred min-

istry, lived in fidelity to God, is your path to holiness.

Maurice and Pauline, Reginald and Edward, we thank you for the gift of your son and brother. This is a day of great joy for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

As you were raising your family, when you looked west and over the pond that we know and love as beautiful Lake Champlain, you probably didn't dream that the Lord would have planned this day of blessing for your family, here in beautiful Carthage, NY.

You worked hard by the sweat of your brow, tending the land and providing sustenance for your neighbors in the Green Mountain State.

In you faithfulness to God and His Church, you have nurtured the soil for this vocation to take root.

Now, your son, through the grace of God, will provide spiritual nourishment and sustenance for our neighbors in this local Church. We are blessed. We are grateful.

Todd, in whatever pastoral setting you find yourself ministering, may those whose lives you touch exclaim, "We have seen and we believe!"

## JOB OPENING

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the full-time position of

### Data Processing Supervisor.

The Data Processing Supervisor is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Data Processing Center. The Data Processing Supervisor is an active operator, who also assists in planning for the overall functioning of the Data Processing Center. Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office Professional including Word, Excel and Publisher is required. Also required is experience with Windows 10, dictation, printing, mailing and web software. The Data Processing Supervisor should possess strong communication, organizational and leadership skills as well as an excellence in typing with special regard to accuracy and precision.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

**Deadline for application is April 26, 2016.**

# Catholic Climate ambassador, scientist to speak

By Sister Bethany Fitzgerald

Member, Diocesan Faith and Ecology group

What does religion have to say to science?

Pope Francis tells us that religion has much to say to the scientist as well as acknowledging that the scientist has much to teach us about the marvels of Creation.

In *Laudato Si* (#4) he quotes Pope Paul VI who stressed "the urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity," as "the most extraordinary scientific advances, the most amazing technical abilities, the most astonishing economic growth, unless they are accompanied by authentic social and moral progress, will definitely turn against man."

Dr. Curt Stager, Paul

Smith's College professor of natural resource management and ecology and author of *Deep Future*, agrees.

## About Catholic teachings on care for the environment

In an article on printed on March 10 in the *Lake Placid News*, Dr. Stager said "As a climate scientist, I am very excited to see the world faith community start to rally around addressing climate change...They have the language, traditions, and authority to talk about climate change as a moral issue in addition to being a scientific issue."

Last April he invited Catholic Climate Ambassador, Dr. Gerry Gacloch to speak at Paul Smith's College annual Science, Art and

Music Festival. Since then, they have given presentations together in the Rochester area.

Dr. Gacloch, chief of cardiology at Rochester General Hospital Heart Institute, is no stranger to the North Country, since he and his family are avid hikers and visit the Adirondacks every summer.

Even before *Laudato Si* was issued he gave presentations at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh and at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown on challenge of our Christian faith to care for creation.

You may be wondering "What are Catholic Climate Ambassadors and what is their mission?"

They were established in 2006 by the Catholic Climate Covenant, five years after the U.S. Catholic Bishops had

written the letter "Global Climate Change, A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good."

Their mission is to deliver Catholic teachings on the environment. They are people well-versed in the long history of Catholic social teachings about ecology. In addition, they bring to this role a wealth of individual experiences from their professional backgrounds.

When Dr. Gacloch, who has been an ambassador for nearly ten years was asked about his experiences, he responded, "Most of the first years have been debating with climate change skeptics. Folks come away (many times for the first time) knowing that the Catholic Church has been HUGE on stewardship of Creation forever!

"Since June, 2015, most people are interested in what Pope said in *Laudato Si*," he said. "The audiences have doubled in size, and questions are much more focused on what can we do than attacking the topic as a liberal hoax. Over the last year there has been lots of interest in the topic at colleges and universities."

Dr. Gacloch and Dr. Stager will be speaking to the challenge of caring for "our common home" in light of *Laudato Si* in Canton April 23 at noon at Neveldine North Hall, Room 102, SUNY Canton. On April 24, Dr. Gacloch will be speaking on this same topic at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gym, 320 West Lynde St., Watertown, from 9:15 a.m. to 11. For more information, see the Around the Diocese pages 10 and 12.

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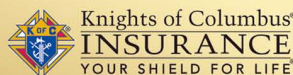
Retirement income you can count on. Guaranteed. (Some products offered to age 85)

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# FACES OF FAITH

Springtime in the Diocese of Ogdensburg



St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council in Peru conducted a 40 Cans For Lent Program at St. Augustine's Parish during Lent to assist the Peru JCEO Food Shelf. Parishioners were asked to bring in two or three food canned items each week during the 40 days of Lent to attain a 1,000-pound Lenten goal. On Palm Sunday, the parishioners surpassed their goal by 10 pounds. Peru JCEO Manager Pat Holmes said, "These donations came at a great time of year. We get many donations around the holidays, but food is also needed at this time of year. We appreciate these donations very much! Everyone in Peru is great to the Food Shelf!" Above, St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Grand Knight Bill Allan, left, is being congratulated by Holmes.



One of the practices proposed by those working on the Diocesan Priorities and Goals for promoting vocations is to invite families to take a sacred or sacramental item to their home for a week. It is to be placed in a prominent place in the home and the family is encouraged to pray each day for vocations, whether it be to the clergy or religious life, to marriage or the single life. The following week, the sacred object is brought back to church where it is received by another family of the parish. In the Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond & Rossie a crucifix taken from the former Our Lady of Grace Church in Brier Hill has been making the rounds throughout the Season of Lent. The Phalen family, Mark and Molly and their sons Drake and Ross, are shown taking their turn.



St. Joseph Sister Sharon Anne Dalton celebrated her feast day, St. Joseph's Day, by giving sundaes to all of the students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. Since the feast day fell on a Saturday this year, Sister Sharon gave out the sweet treats on St. Patrick's Day. Above, physical education teacher Ellie Berube helped scoop up the ice cream for eighth grader, Talandra Hurlburt.



"Our retired priests are such a blessing," said Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh. On Palm Sunday Msgr. Joseph Aubin, 87, blessed the palms with some of the children of St. Peter's who then joined in the Procession of the Palms. Also pictured are Deacon Mark Bennett, next to Msgr. Aubin, and seminarian Leagon Carlin with his back to the camera.

## Grants for projects to assist disabled people available

The Diocese of Ogdensburg annually offers two grants of \$5,000 each to assist the parishes and institutions of the diocese in providing assistance for the handicapped.

These funds are made available from the annual contribution of the New York State Knights of Columbus to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. They will be distributed by the diocese on the recom-

mendations of Catholic Charities and the Department of Education.

The criteria for acceptability of the request cover several factors. Improvement in already existing programs or facilities will be considered. Some ideas for funding include: adapting facilities, special equipment, training for personnel, and program development.

Programs which have re-

ceived funding previously may not apply for the grant for the following three years. Programs/projects must show proof of additional sources of revenue to support the programs/projects.

Applications must be submitted by May 21. Monies will be allocated after June 1.

Further information is available from [vlalonde@rcdony.org](mailto:vlalonde@rcdony.org) or by calling (315) 393-2920 ext. 1411.

## Rites held for Filippini Sister

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 is survived by her sisters, Filippini Sister Geraldine Canale, Hammon-ton, N.J.; Gloria Annitto Hummelstown, Penn.; Martha Schnurr, North Brunswick, N.J. and brother, Ray Canale, Watertown;

She was predeceased by her parents Nicholas and Josephine (Marzano) Canale, and her brothers, Richard Canale and Rocco Canale.

(This a corrected version of the obituary printed in the March 30 issue of the NCC.)

### Bishop's Schedule

April 5-17 - Jubilee of Mercy Pilgrimage to Italy

### 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](http://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, Morristown

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

### Rest in Peace

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

April 6 – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 8 – Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901

April 10 – Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

April 11 – Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947

April 13 – Rev. Callistus Scheid, O.F.M. Conv., 1854; Rev. Emil Krancewicz, O.F.M. Conv., 1974

### Environmental Stewardship

#### Spring rains

As the spring rains cover the fields, let us praise God with the Psalmist who prays: "You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; You provide the people with grain. (Ps. 65:9) Water is the natural resource most frequently referred to in the Bible – more than 500 times. Our Creation story in Genesis 1:9-10 says "Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let the dry land appear... God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of water 'seas,' and God saw that it was good." As we view the earth from outer space, we notice that there is only one body of water and that is all connected. We as humans have given names to different areas of water. This tend to give us the illusion that it is not all one body, and that what we do to the water in one place doesn't affect the rest of it.

Did you know that 97% of water on the earth is salt water, 3% is fresh. Of the 3% fresh water 2% of it is frozen/unavailable and only 1% is available. National Geographic has created an online water footprint calculator that measures your embedded water footprint, made up from your home, yard, the energy you use, food you eat and products you buy. Our average American lifestyle is kept afloat by 2,000 gallons of water per day. That is TWICE the global average.

Think about water as it comes into your kitchen or bathroom. Where did the water come from? When water was a guest in your home, how did you treat it? What went into the water? Where does water ultimately go when it goes down the drain? Where did water go to be purified? How do you think our use of water affects others?

### To Report Abuse

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

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope to release document on the family April 8

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican has set April 8 for the release of "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis' reflection on the family and family life. The document, subtitled "On Love in the Family," will be released at a Vatican news conference with Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna and Giuseppina and Francesco Miano, a married couple who participated in both the 2014 and 2015 synods of bishops on the family. "Amoris Laetitia" is what is known as a "postsynodal apostolic exhortation," a document addressed to the whole church reflecting on themes of church life and faith that have been discussed at a gathering of the Synod of Bishops. According to a variety of reports, the document will be long -- perhaps as many as 200 pages. Speaking to reporters flying with him from Mexico to Rome in late February, Pope Francis said the document "will summarize all that the synod said," including about broken families, the importance of serious marriage preparation programs, raising and educating children, and "integrating" divorced and civilly remarried Catholics into active parish life even if they cannot receive Communion.

## Abortion-related measures signed into law in Indiana, Utah

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) -- A new Indiana law that protects unborn children by banning abortions based on potential disabilities, gender and race "reflects the love that God has for everyone by affirming that every human life is sacred," Indianapolis Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin said. "This is a decisive step in promoting life, not death, for unborn human life. No baby should lose its life because of a potential disability or its gender or race. Every human life matters," he said. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed the measure into law March 24. Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, praised Pence as "a strong defender of the most vulnerable among us -- the unborn. He, and the Indiana Legislature, have honored justice and served the public by establishing these protections," the priest said. In Utah March 28, Gov. Gary Herbert signed a bill into law that requires anesthesia for the fetus in a narrow range of abortions.

## 'Creed,' 'The Martian' among newest Christopher Award winners

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The well-received feature films "Creed," "The Martian" and "Room" are among 21 winners of Christopher Awards announced March 30 in New York. They are joined by an ABC News documentary on the Islamic State, comedian Jim Gaffigan's cable sitcom and Dolly Parton's made-for-TV movie "Coat of Many Colors." The awards will be presented May 19 in New York. They were inaugurated in 1949 to celebrate writers, producers, directors, authors and illustrators whose work "affirms the highest values of the human spirit," according to a statement by the organization. The Christophers organization was founded by Maryknoll Father James Keller in 1945, in the Judeo-Christian tradition of service to God and humanity, and has long held as its guiding principle the ancient Chinese proverb "It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness." Parton, in a statement, likes that slogan. "I personally believe that with all my heart. I think the movie, 'Coat of Many Colors,' a true story from my childhood, does throw a light on a lot of things like family, hope, love, kindness, understanding and acceptance. It really spoke to the issue of bullying. I am very proud at how God works through me to shine a light, and to help heal a lot of hurt in a lot of people, and I am very proud of this award."

# Mother Angelica, 92, founder of EWTN, dies on Easter Sunday

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. (CNS) - Mother Angelica, who founded the Eternal Word Television Network and turned it into one of the world's largest religious media operations, died March 27 at age 92.

Feisty and outspoken, she was a major figure in the U.S. church in the closing decades of the 20th century. The international scope of EWTN's media operations gave her a ready calling card at the Vatican.

She built the venture into a network that transmits programs 24 hours a day to more than 230 million homes in 144 countries via cable and other technologies. It broadcasts in English and several other languages.

Mother Angelica had been ill for years. She was operated on Dec. 24, 2001, in a Birmingham hospital to remove a blood clot in her brain after she suffered her second major stroke. It left her with partial paralysis and a speech impediment.

Last November, she was placed on a feeding tube as she continued to battle lingering effects of the strokes. In February, members of her religious order, the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, said she was in delicate condition and asked for prayers for her.

Mother Angelica died at her order's Our Lady of Angels Monastery in Hanceville, where she "was surrounded by the prayers and love of her spiritual daughters, sons and dear friends," said a statement from the Poor Clares.

On March 29, Mother Angelica's body was received in a ceremony at the piazza of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the monastery. The chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed in the shrine's upper church.

A morning funeral Mass was celebrated April 1 in the upper church by bishops and clergy from around the world. Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, a Franciscan Missionary of the Eternal Word, was the homilist. Following her funeral, Mother Angelica's body was interred in the shrine's Crypt Chapel.

**Mother Angelica was equally at home giving a scale model of her satellite dish to St. John Paul II or ruffling the feathers of high-ranking church officials with whom she disagreed.**

In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross to Mother Angelica and Deacon Bill Steltemier, then-chairman of EWTN's board of governors, for distinguished service to the church. The cross, whose name is Latin for "for the church and the pope," is the highest papal honor that can be conferred on laypeople and clergy.

Because of ill health, Mother Angelica received the award in her private quarters. But in the public ceremony, Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham said "Mother Angelica's effort has been at the vanguard of the new evangelization and has had a great impact on our world."

Mother Angelica was equally at home giving a scale model of her satellite dish to St. John Paul II or ruffling the feathers of high-ranking church officials with whom she disagreed.

In 1997, she got into a public squabble with Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, then archbishop of Los Angeles, when,

on her TV show "Mother Angelica Live," she criticized his pastoral letter on the Eucharist, saying it was confusing about the real presence of Christ.

"I'm afraid my obedience in that diocese would be absolutely zero. And I hope everyone else's in that diocese is zero," she said.

In 1990, EWTN canceled an exclusive contract to air programs produced by the U.S. bishops after disagreements over EWTN's coverage of bishops' conference meetings.

In 1993, she termed "blasphemous" a church-sponsored World Youth Day event during St. John Paul II's visit to Denver because a mime troupe used a woman to portray Jesus in a dramatized Way of the Cross. She said the event showed the "destructive force" of the "liberal church in America."

The criticism sparked Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, then head of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, to call her attack "vitriolic."

"It was one of the most disgraceful, un-Christian, offensive and divisive diatribes I have ever heard," he said. "She invited everyone who disagreed with her to leave the church."

Mother Angelica often said she accompanied her faith with a "theology of risk" that gave her the resolve to undertake large projects without any clear indication she would succeed.

"Faith is having one foot on the ground and the other up in the air, waiting for the Lord to put the ground under it," she once said of her hands-on approach to doing things.

"We have lost the theology of risk and replaced it with a theology of assurance" that says "you have to know

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Infant church marked by exciting events

The weeks following Easter narrate events that are as exciting for us who read them now several thousand years later as they must have been to contemporary witnesses then.

Peter figures prominently in today's Scriptures. He has gone back to his original occupation of fishing. Six others, including John, have accompanied him.

As they sit in the dark through the long night, nothing much is happening.

Then, as the dawn breaks,

they hear a voice across the waters calling to them: "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"

As they reply "No", the voice suggests to them that they try the right side. As the nets strain from the huge haul, John is the first to recognize the Lord's voice.

As usual, impulsive Peter immediately jumps into the water and swims to shore. There he finds a charcoal fire with bread freshly prepared.

As they gather in amazement and joy, they broil

some fish and eat breakfast with Jesus. The Master breaks the silence with a quiet question, "Peter do you love me more than these?"

Eager to be reinstated in Jesus' good graces, "Peter instantly affirms that he does. As Jesus asks him twice more, and Peter humbly reaffirms his love, the others hear Jesus thrice stated command to Peter, "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep."

Thus has the Lord forgiven Peter his denials, but has also singled him out to head the infant Church.

The primacy of authority that Jesus bestows on Peter at the seashore is amply demonstrated by Peter's



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## APRIL 10

## Third Sunday of Easter

## READINGS

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

amazing eloquence in preaching and his firm leadership of the early community following the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Our first reading today shows the outrage and swift reaction of the Jewish Sanhedrin to the spread of Christianity. So many people this Easter have lost

hope in the future of our violent world of war and division.

In this year's Easter Vigil Mass in Rome, Pope Francis said, "Let us not stay imprisoned within ourselves, but let us break open our sealed tombs to the Lord that He may enter and give us life..."

This is the first stone to be moved aside this night: the lack of hope which imprisons us within ourselves. May the Lord free us from this trap from being Christians without hope." Like Peter, we too have received the power of the Holy Spirit through our Confirmation. May it energize us to live joyfully and boldly as befits Easter Christians.

## Pope's message on Easter Sunday

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Easter is a feast of hope, a celebration of God's mercy and a call to pray for and assist all who suffer, Pope Francis said before giving his solemn blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

The risen Jesus "makes us sharers of his immortal life and enables us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence," the pope said March 27 after celebrating Easter morning Mass.

Easter in Rome dawned bright and sunny; in St. Peter's Square, the steps leading up to the basilica were turned into an abundant garden with thousands of tulips, daffodils and flowering bushes.

On Easter morning, the pope does not give a homily. Instead, with hands clasped in prayer and head bowed, he led the tens of thousands of people in the square in silent reflection.

After Mass, before giving his solemn blessing, Pope Francis said Easter should give people the courage to "blaze trails of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters."

Speaking about Christ's power over death and sin, the pope prayed that the Lord would touch places in the globe scarred by war, terrorism, poverty and environmental destruction.

"The risen Christ points out paths of hope to beloved Syria, a country torn by a lengthy conflict, with its sad wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law and the breakdown of civil concord," the pope said. "To the power of the risen Lord we entrust the talks now in course."

He prayed that the power of the Resurrection would "overcome hardened hearts and promote a fruitful encounter of peoples and cultures," particularly in Iraq, Yemen, Libya and the Holy Land.

## Mother Angelica

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

what's going to happen before you embark on something new," she said on another occasion.

Before starting EWTN, Mother Angelica wrote what she called "mini-books" on moral and inspirational themes. The popularity of the mini-books attracted media attention, and Mother Angelica began appearing on television talk shows. She said these appearances made her aware of the tremendous influence television has in spreading messages.

Prior to starting EWTN, Mother Angelica was renting studio space from a Birmingham television station to produce videotapes of her talks on religious issues for airing on the Christian Broadcasting Network. She broke the relationship with the network after it aired a movie she considered blasphemous.

With the support of her religious community, Mother Angelica began consulting with media experts about starting her own TV station, hatching the idea of EWTN. She was granted a license by the Federal Communications

Commission, and EWTN went on the air in August 1981.

She began with \$200 and little knowledge about TV production. The operation started in a building meant to be a garage on the grounds of the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery she headed in the Irondale suburb of Birmingham. Originally its daily programming of several hours was carried by three cable systems.

In 1992, Mother Angelica launched the short-wave EWTN Global Catholic Radio which broadcasts in English and Spanish. In 1996, EWTN started a satellite-delivered AM/FM radio network with programming also available for rebroadcast by local stations.

In 1998, Mother Angelica stepped down as the head of EWTN and Deacon Steltemeier was appointed chairman and CEO. He died in 2013.

Mother Angelica was born April 20, 1923, as Rita Rizzo in an Italian neighborhood in Canton, Ohio. She described her childhood as rough. Her father abandoned the family

when she was young and her parents eventually divorced. She lived with her mother and said their existence was marked by poverty.

"We lived in rat-infested apartments -- our life was so hard. I was interested in survival so I didn't do well in school. It's hard when you're hungry and cold to study," she recalled in 1987.

In 1944, she joined her religious order and professed her solemn vows in Canton in 1953 as Sister Mary Angelica of the Annunciation.

In 1962, she founded Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, a move she said was to fulfill a promise to Christ if she emerged from an operation able to walk. The operation was necessary after she slipped while using an electric scrubbing machine and was thrown against the wall, injuring her spine. After the operation, she used a leg brace.

Editor's Note: EWTN has set up a memorial page about Mother Angelica on its website at [www.ewtn.com/motherangelica](http://www.ewtn.com/motherangelica).



AT THE MOVIES

# GOD'S NOT DEAD 2

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

The very real threats to religious freedom in contemporary society could serve as the theme for a valuable documentary or a thought-provoking drama.

What we get with "God's Not Dead 2" (Pure Flix), however, is a flawed message movie undermined from the start by a fictional premise that feels thoroughly implausible.

In following up on his 2014 original, director Harold Cronk, along with returning screenwriters Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon, shifts the scene from the groves of secularist academe to the halls of an Anywhere, USA, public high school.

There, history teacher, and committed evangelical believer, Grace Wesley (Melissa Joan Hart) is asked a question regarding the Christian antecedents of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s strategy of nonviolence during the civil rights movement. (She has already covered the influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Rev. King.)

Grace responds by citing Jesus' famous admonition, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." Whereupon all hell breaks loose.

Never mind that Grace has done nothing that could possibly be seen as proselytizing in the classroom; that she has invoked no specifically religious belief such as the divinity of Christ or his role as mankind's savior; that her answer is strictly factual and thoroughly within the appropriate confines of the discussion. Faster than you can say Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the administration is down on her like a pack of wolves -- closely followed by the school board and the American Civil Liberties Union.

If only Grace would apologize for her lapse in judgment, all would be forgiven. But she remains steadfast. So it's off to court, where she'll be represented by untied but good-hearted lawyer Tom Endler (Jesse Metcalfe).

Cheering Grace on from the sidelines -- and providing her with emotional and spiritual support -- is her kindly grandfather, Walter (Pat Boone). Leading the charge against her is the American Civil Liberty Union's serpentine lead attorney, Peter Kane (Ray Wise).

Kane oozes sweet reasonableness, yet he rests his case on the thoroughly irrational notion that Jesus

never existed. The debate that follows showcases the interesting work of J. Warner Wallace, a veteran Los Angeles County cold-case detective who applied police investigative techniques to examining the evidence about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. But the fact that Kane is a straw man pursuing an unrealistic strategy compromises the impact of Wallace's rebuttal.

Audiences may also be slightly unsettled by the fact that Kane's backup counsel, who hovers around with little to say, looks like a thin Seth Rogen playing a young Henry Kissinger. His persona implicitly evokes a stereotype far better left alone.

Taken as a whole, this reaffirmation of belief, though appropriate for most moviegoers, suffers from an off-key tone, a pervasive sense of victimhood and sometimes painful sen-



CNS PHOTO/PURE FLIX  
Hayley Orrantia stars in a scene from the movie "God's Not Dead 2."

timentality. The film contains mature themes and an instance of harsh parental violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guid-

ance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



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**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Lake Placid** – St. Agnes School will be having a rummage sale.  
**Date:** April 9  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Features:** Donations can be dropped off at school during school hours.  
**Contact:** 518-523-2771

**CLINTON**

**JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT**

**Peru** – Christian Music Pioneer and TV Host, John Michael Talbot, is coming to Peru.  
**Date:** May 5 & 6  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Augustine's Church  
**Cost:** \$15 donation  
**Features:** John Michael Talbot is a Christian music legend, best-selling author and host of The Church Channel's popular TV show "All Things Are Possible". A love offering will be received each evening to support the ministries of John Michael Talbot & the Brothers and Sisters of Charity.  
**Contact:** Jackie Torterilli 518-643-2435

**SIDEWALK ADVOCATES**

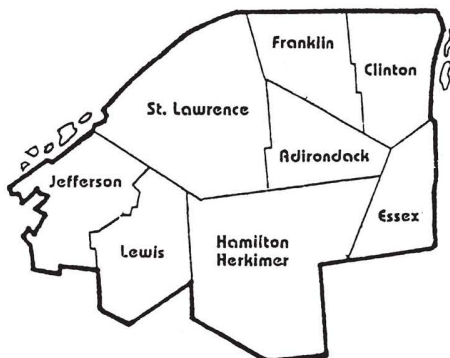
**Plattsburgh** – A program to teach a peaceful, prayerful method of sidewalk advocacy from Sidewalk Advocates for Life to help those entering a abortion center to choose life has been set  
**Date:** April 7  
**Time:** 1 p.m. to 5  
**Contact:** Space is limited. If you would like to register to learn 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.

**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;



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under 5, Free  
**Features:** Brunch, bake sale, craft tables  
**Contact:** Call 236-5848 to reserve craft tables.

**MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP**

**Mooers** – 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

**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

**JEFFERSON**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

**Watertown** – The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.  
**Date:** April 28  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** St. Anthony's Church, 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.

**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 Gacich, 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

**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.;

**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**

**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 buffet; & bag sale from Noon to 2 p.m.

**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:** One hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, & Benediction. St. Lawrence Deanery

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**SPRING RETREAT**

**Morristown** – Spring Retreat Day... "Nurturing the God-Seed Within" has been set.  
**Date:** May 7  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** Cedarhaven located along the St. Lawrence River  
**Features:** 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.  
**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 srbethssj@gmail.com by May 4

**DISCUSSION SERIES "LAUDATO SI"**

**Waddington** – There will be a series of six discussions on "Laudato Si".  
**Date:** March 31 for 6 Thursdays  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 7:30  
**Place:** St. Mary's parish hall  
**Features:** High-school students and adults are welcome.  
**Contact:** you want to participate, please call John Tenbusch at 388-4510.

**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

**ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Canton** – A program on "Care for our Common Home: Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si'" will be given.  
**Date:** April 23  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12  
**Place:** SUNY Canton in Nevaldine Engineering Building, Rm 102  
**Speakers:** Dr. Gerry Gacich, NYS Catholic Climate Ambassador and Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital and Curt Stager, ecologist, paleoclimatologist, author, and biology professor at Paul Smith's College  
**Features:** Discussion of the role of religion and science in response to the challenge to "care for our common home. 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



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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mbrett@rcdony.org

# Remembering Sr. Rita Frances

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

As many of you already are aware, on February 20th, the world lost a great friend of the Missions as Sister Rita Frances Brady passed away. After her death, I wrote to her order in Pennsylvania to send them my heartfelt regrets. Last fall, Sister Rita Francis and other Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Sister Joan McElwain and Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake left the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Their community served us all so well with much love.

Over the years, I enjoyed interacting with Sister Rita at activities and occasions throughout the Diocese. Sister Rita Francis was a strong believer in educating her students about life in developing countries. She gave them a love of students their age in those countries.

This love was shown in how generous they were to the Holy Childhood Association which is now known as the Missionary Childhood Association. The teachers in Holy Family School, Malone are hoping to continue her missionary spirit with the students.

My assistant Molly McKee Ryan, is a former student of Sister Rita's from her years at Ogdensburg Catholic Central School. Sister Rita was not only her teacher at one time, but her Principal as well. She was instrumental in Molly's strong beliefs and faith.

Molly remembers Sr. Rita Frances as always being kind, wearing a smile and simply loving the children and their developing minds. Upon this news, she and her former classmates shared many good memories from OCCS back in the 1970's and early 1980's through social media.

Everyone had a wonderful, unique memory of how Sister Rita Frances had made someone feel special or feel blessed and loved. She will be missed by many. She touched the lives of even more.

We pray for her and will endeavor to carry on her Missionary spirit with the children of our Diocese. She was a glowing example of how to be a good Missionary. We were fortunate to have her in our lives and impacting students for so, so long. God Bless.

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

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

## OBITUARIES

### Catherine (Mimo) Sponable

**LAKE PLACID** – A Mass of Christian Burial for Catherine M. (Mimo) Sponable, 89, was held April 1 at St. Agnes Church. She died March 29 in her home. Burial is in the parish cemetery.

Ms. Sponable was born in New York City Nov. 5, 1926, the daughter of Earl I. Sponable and Marie B. (Whalen) Sponable. Her father was Director of Research for 20th Century Fox

She was a graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1946 and received her Masters of Science degree from New York University in 1948.

Ms. Sponable was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice* Cross by Pope Francis Oct. 16, 2013, the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the laity by the Pope for distinguished service to the church.

The text accompanying the papal award follows:

*Catherine Sponable is a devout parishioner of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, Miss Sponable was born in New York City and she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Science degree from New York University.*

*Catherine gave up a career as a scientist to care for her parents. Catherine was devoted to her parents and looked after them in illness and old age.*

*Since moving from New York City to Lake Placid in 1971, Catherine has been extremely supportive in every way to St. Agnes Parish and St. Agnes School in Lake Placid.*

*Catherine has also been very generous to the Diocese through the Bishop's Fund Appeal, charitable annuities, and Bishop's Heritage Circle. Catherine exercises her stewardship in a very quiet and humble way.*

*Catherine also has been generous with her time in support of her parish. Since 1971, Catherine has served as sacristan at the parish, setting up for liturgical celebrations and cleaning up afterward.*

*From 1990 through 2010, Catherine served as wedding coordinator for the parish, making a positive impact on young couples preparing for marriage. She also proved to be a great help to her pastors in assisting couples with the practical details of marriage preparation. In addition, Catherine generously helped out in the parish office, performing filing, typing, and other clerical tasks to help the parish.*

*Catherine is a very devout and active Catholic and has always served the Church in a humble and unassuming way.*

Father John Yonkovig, current pastor of St. Agnes, expanded on the effect Ms. Sponable has had on the parish and community

"Ms. Sponable became very active in parish ministry in the early 1990's during the pastorate of Father Michael Gaffney. She coordinated all wedding planning and became greatly loved by couples from around the world who married at St. Agnes. In addition, Mimo, as she is known by most people, served as a volunteer parish associate helping in all aspects of parish life and ministry.

"Mimo is a highly recognizable figure in the village of Lake Placid and at St. Agnes," Father Yonkovig said. "Behind the scenes her outreach to the needy is extraordinary. She very quietly assists people with their material needs and with her wise advice.

She is exceptionally affirming of people finding the presence of God in everyone she meets," he said.

"Catherine Sponable has

been a prime mover in keeping St. Agnes School alive. She is the first to sponsor needy students with tuition assistance."

Online condolences may be made at [www.mbclarkfuneralhome.com](http://www.mbclarkfuneralhome.com).

**Champlain** – Joseph L. Patrie, 52; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

**Chateaugay** – Michael LaBare, 57; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Lake Placid** – Doug Bissonette, 73; Funeral Services March 29, 2016 at St. Agnes Church

**Lowville** – Phyllis M. (Larbee) Pelo, 80; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Massena** – Fernand A. Paquin, 76; Funeral Services March 31, 2016 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Morrisville** – Mitchel W. Garrand, 93; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens

**Ogdensburg** – Charles E. Mallette, 89; Funeral Services March 29, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Elsie (Compo) Rebideau, 72; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

**Waddington** – Catherine A. Reagan, 95; Funeral Services March 28, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** – Robert G. Clement, 79; Funeral March 30, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Rita A. (Pontillo) Phillips, 93; Funeral Services March 30, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Agatha's Cemetery, Canastota.

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## PORTRAYING THE PASSION



Every Friday during Lent, different grade levels from the CCD program at St. Alphonsus Holy Name of Jesus Church in Tupper Lake acted out The Stations of The Cross. Each level told this powerful story in a different way, and each group attracted a large crowd to join in this Catholic tradition. The children in grades kindergarten through fourth treated more than 200 parishioners to a multimedia presentation of The Stations of The Cross, using singing, sign language, and readings appropriate to their daily lives. Some of the students are shown at left. Front, from left are Grant Bencze, Philip Beaudette, Griffin Shaheen and Gabe Collins; in back are



Margaux Angel Flagg, Rebecca Becker and Rylee LaBarge. The students in grades five through eight chose to portray the story by utilizing lighting techniques, silhouettes, sound effects, music, and narrations. Students shared readings of The Passion Story that helped all participants and viewers reflect how each of us, in our day to day lives, play a part in wounding Christ, yet all find Mercy in Christ's passion and love. Shadow images from left are Pilate played by Colby Boudreau, Jesus played by Brandon Boudreau and a guard played by Nolan Savage.

# Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

## ST. LAWRENCE

### 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 sum-

mit 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](http://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 Og-

densburg camp or to register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at [chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com](mailto:chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com). For additional information, [www.heartworkcamp.com](http://www.heartworkcamp.com).

### DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

**Dates:** April 17

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory

**Features:** Reflection and vespers.

**Contact:** Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Howard Venette, pastor [stmarystpatrick.net](mailto:stmarystpatrick.net), 315-265-9680; Father Douglas Lucia, [frdoug@twcny.rr.com](mailto:frdoug@twcny.rr.com) or Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director [bstitt@rcdony.org](mailto: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 Hgman

**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](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life).

### 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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