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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 12

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 20, 2016

# Pope: pray for those who scorn

WATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pray for those responsible for extreme poverty, for the rich who feast unaware of people in need at their door, and for priests who ignore those who are hurting, Pope Francis told people living a precarious existence.

Say a prayer for these peo-

ple, wish them well and "ask Jesus that they convert, and I assure you that if you do this, there will be great joy in the church, in your hearts and also in your beloved France," the pope told his audience.

The pope met with about 200 people from the French

province of Lyon, who are homeless, living in poverty or coping with an illness or disability.

The group was on pilgrimage to Rome with Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of Lyon and the All Together With Dignity Fourth World movement founded by Father

Joseph Wresinski, who ministered to deprived families in urban and rural parishes.

Meeting with the group July 6 in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall, the pope told them he had a favor to ask them, or rather, he said, he was giving them a mission to carry out.

# IN PRAYER FOR PEACE

As world sees angry, violent behavior



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A.SHEMITZ Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., prays during a candlelight vigil July 11 at Grand Army Plaza in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn. The interfaith service was organized by the Diocese of Brooklyn to mourn the victims of fatal shootings by police in Louisiana and Minnesota earlier this month and the five police officers subsequently killed by a sniper in Dallas, Bishop Terry R.LaValley addresses the violence erupting across the country in his Follow Me column this week. "During this Jubilee of Mercy, we are especially aware of how much our world needs each one of us to be an instrument of peace and reconditation," Bishop LaValley said.

**FULL STORY, PAGE 3** 

### NFP Week to be held July 24-30



2016 National NFP Awareness Week will be celebrated on July 24-30. This year's slogan is: Natural Family Planning, Love, Mercy, Life, opening the heart of marriage. NFP Week is a national education campaign to celebrate God's vision for marriage and promote the methods of NFP.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

# NCC summer schedule

The bi-weekly publication of the North Country Catholic continues; the next issue of the diocesan paper will be dated Aug. 3

### ON THE PATH TO PRIESTHOOD



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Six men currently preparing for the priesthood in the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan director of vocations, for a seminarian gathering July 11-13 at the Guggenheim Lodge in Saranac Lake. From left are Deacon Todd Thibault, St. Mary's in Canton, who is anticipating priestly ordination Oct. 8; Leagon Carlin, third year of college seminary; Matthew Conger, first theology; Father Stitt, Douglas Schirmer, first college; Nicholas Olley, first college; and Deacon Michael Jablonski, fourth theology. The men are all students at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

HOLY FRIENDSHIP: On the importance of Christ-centered relationships...p.16

### NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Box 326 Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669 USPS 0039-3400 **RISHOP TERRY** R.LAVALLEY

President **REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN** Vice President JAMES D. CROWLEY Secretary-Treasurer MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/ General Manager



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**EDITOR'S NOTE** 

# Leadership for healing

Public Policy committee, I was asked to be part of a discussion on two agenda items during our July meeting which we hadn't considered at any of our previous gatherings.

After the opening prayer, Sister Donna Franklin, chair of the committee, called on us to consider the recent violence in the United States with the question "what type of leadership for healing can we

Next we were asked to "look at issues of racism with discus-

provide for the diocese?'

Mary Lou

Kilian

As a member of the diocesan sion and a plan for action." Wow.

> For most of us in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, our first responsibility is to make ourselves aware of the racism and threats of violence that actually exist in our relatively quiet part of the country.

It's easy to believe we are immune from the kind of deadly violence seen in Baton Rouge, Orlando, Minneapolis and Dallas. I'm sure

people in those communities believed the same thing. None of us can afford to wait for the worst to happen to make

changes that will bring healing. Fortunately, for our committee - which batted around ideas without coming up with a plan - we are not alone in seeing the need for a response to these violent times.

For this week's North Country Catholic, both Bishop LaValley and Father Muench offered their own "leadership for healing" as the killings continue.

Bishop LaValley included a list of the forces that have brought us to this place: "We have seen: increasing erosion of respect for authority; disregard for the dignity of every human person, beginning in the womb, regardless of the color of one's skin; growing

economic injustice; increasing religious intolerance and the denial of religious freedom; widespread vitriolic language being lashed out towards others; and the breakdown of marriage and family values."

The answers?

Both Bishop LaValley and Father Muench ask to look inside ourselves first.

How do we - you and me live our lives without anger or violence in the way we treat every person with whom we come in contact.

It's certainly not easy but with commitment, prayer and more prayer, we can and must have hope that we can make a difference.



## Violence, anger and hatred: unacceptable

I would like to go back to the Good Samaritan Parable with you again. As you remember, this parable was the Gospel reading a few Sundays ago. This parable like all of Jesus' parables is a story, cleverly crafted by Jesus to teach us all a lesson.

They are so well done, these stories; Jesus was such a masterful story teller. His stories are so clever that some people think they really happened. They didn't. They are simple and wonderful stories.

This Good Samaritan is an image of what a Catholic Christian should and must be. Such a Catholic cares and is concerned for those in need, standing in readiness to help as much as they can.

In addition, a Good Samaritan does not reject anyone because he or she is different - a different race or a different culture or of some different religious belief. We want to say a good Christian cares for anyone who is in need. A good Christian is indeed a Good Samaritan. This is recognized in many Catholic organizations especially, I would say, Catholic Charities which demonstrates this spirit of a Good Samaritan.

Each day, on a personal



basis, each Christian has the opportunity of being a Good Samaritan. Many opportunities come up to help those in need. Sometimes these opportunities are rather simple: helping a neighbor or friend do some chore or other, possibly reaching out to cheer up someone who is going through a difficult time. This is part of the task of being a Good Samaritan.

Then again many Good Samaritans are challenged to do something rather serious or even important, just like the Good Samaritan in Jesus' Para-

Today, I would like to bring up to you a concern of how we can demonstrate our concern for those in need in our day and age. Our country has been suffering in these recent weeks from all sorts of dreadful, very upsetting incidents. There has been too much violence, too much killing, too much anger

and hate. Many people ask "what I can do about all of this? I am just one person and far from all of this violence.

I would like to believe that we can do something.

I think it is time for us Catholic Christians to set a tone, a tone that will make a difference in this world of ours. We all must be ready to declare that we know how to live well in the Spirit of Our Savior. Our Good Samaritan response must be a readiness to remove all that is of violence, that is of anger, that is of hatred from our lives. In this way, we can set a tone - a tone that may help to remove violence from our communities, from our families. In this way we declare to all that we know how to live as good Christians free from all violence.

Eliminating violence and anger may not be an easy task. Of course, we need the Lord's constant help but Our Savior will never fail us. It is something for prayer, something that we all can bring to the Lord as we celebrate Eucharist. We must reach out to the Lord for the grace to be someone who can live free from anger and hatred. I believe that with the Lord it can and should hap-

pen. The history of our country has many examples of leaders. Our Church has many examples of leaders who have led us in the spirit of rejecting violence and anger. We all know the examples of important leaders who have suffered violence and yet continued to reject a response of anger and violence.

Violence is unacceptable anger is unacceptable - hatred is unacceptable. This can be our way of being Good Samaritans today: by saying to our world that we know how to live, we know how to bring help to this world by rejecting hatred and anger. We show that we can and should live in the Spirit of Our Savior in resisting anything of violence. Jesus showed us the way in his passion and death. We must

So, we say to the people of our country that we of the Catholic Christian Community will always be a people who know how to live - living a life free from anger and hatred because we believe that this is the only way to make our country more peaceful. We believe that this is the way that this country may discover how to live sanely.

### **FOLLOW ME**

# To be instruments of God's peace

What leads a person/s to slaughter innocent people? Sheer madness, mental ill-

ness and unbridled anger can be counted among the causes of such horror.

So many people today are angry. For instance, you've seen some of the examples of pathetic road rage. Increasingly, angry people have targeted the innocent with deadly force.

Loved ones, including those who risk their lives for our safety, are gunned down on our streets by those packing military assault rifles and other weaponry that are too easily available.

**Bishop** 

Terry R.

LaValley

Ferguson, Missouri; San Bernardino, St. Paul/Minneapolis, Orlando, Baton Rouge, Dallas - we didn't reach overnight this tragic state of affairs of anger gone amok.

We have seen: increasing

erosion of respect for authority; disregard for the dignity of every human person, beginning in the womb, regardless of the color of one's skin; growing economic injustice; increasing religious intolerance and the denial of religious freedom; widespread vitriolic language being lashed out towards others; and

the breakdown of marriage and family values.

All have been contributing factors to much of the angry, violent behavior that has erupted in our communities

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, urges us, in the midst of such darkness, not to allow ourselves to be

robbed of hope. "We are called to be living sources of water from which others can drink." (#86)

Perhaps we've placed too much trust in our politicians and not enough in our own ability to make a difference with the grace of God. I can be a living source of water from which others can drink by my own management of the anger that wells up within me.

How do I speak to my spouse, my children, my parishioners, my co-workers, the guy who cuts me off in traffic, when I am angry, righteous or not?

How can we be instruments of peace in a society where everyone seems to be constantly hollering at everyone else?

Peaceful public demonstrations can contribute to a sense of solidarity for those who are aggrieved. They capture the public's attention.

But, reasoned, honest and respectful dialogue must be the means for constructive change to occur.

We must not underestimate the power of our personal and communal prayer for justice, healing and peace for all people

The hurling of verbal missiles and 'in your face' accusatory shouts stir the flames of violence and lead to deafness, not reconciliation and peace.

This Jubilee of Mercy, we are especially aware of how much our world needs each one of us to be an instrument of peace and reconciliation. Clearly, the Church, nor certainly your bishop, have solutions for every particular burning issue of the day, but we must join with others in supporting

those policies and programs which best respond to the dignity of each person and the common good.

We must not underestimate the power of our personal and communal prayer for justice, healing and peace for all people.

All three of our Diocesan Priorities provide ways for us to contribute to the good of all. I'm confident that as we continue to address these priorities, we will provide the environment, both personally and as a community, where peace can be within reach, building our parishes into vibrant communities of worship and service.

We rely on the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance to give us strength and the grace to persevere.

We continue to pray for healing for the victims of the uncontrolled anger of others.

LORD HAVE MERCY.

# Fidelis Care grants awarded to diocesan groups

OGDENSBURG-- Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic Health Plan, announces the distribution of \$269,500 from its Community Grant Fund to non-profit organizations in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

### Catholic Charities, St. Joseph's Nursing Home receive \$269,500

The grants support a variety of programs and services that reach local residents with the care and services they need.

Grant recipients within the Diocese of Ogdensburg are:

• Catholic Charities is the recipient of a \$200,500 grant. The funding will support Healthy Families/ Healthy Communities, a counseling/casework program for individuals and families targeted to people

lacking access to other resources.

The program helps them build bridges to healthier lives.

• St. Joseph's Home received a grant of \$69,000 to help develop techniques and purchase equipment that will support dementia patients, their families, and community members who assist them

"These organizations provide vital assistance to members of the community," said Father Patrick J. Frawley, Fidelis Care President and CEO. "We are grateful for their commitment, dedication, and investment in improving the lives of those most in need."

This is the 12th consecutive year that Fidelis Care has awarded grants to non-profit organizations that share similar missions and values of service to care for the poor-

est and most vulnerable populations.

The grants are made in coordination with the bishops in New York State's eight Roman Catholic Dioceses.

The local grants are part of the \$4 million being awarded Statewide by Fidelis Care through the Fund this year.

### About Fidelis Care:

As the New York State Catholic Health Plan, Fidelis Care offers quality, affordable coverage for children and adults of all ages and at all stages of life.

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# Funeral held July 11 for Sr. Sheila Jane Moran, SSJ

WATERTOWN - A Mass of Christian Burial for St. Joseph Sister Sheila Jane Moran, 70, was held July 11 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. She died July 8 at Samaritan Medical Center.

Born Jan. 24, 1946, in Potsdam, the daughter of William and Dorothy Stacey Moran, she attended St. Patrick's School, Brasher Falls and graduated from Holy Family High School, Massena in 1964. She earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in Secondary English Education from SUNY Potsdam.

Sister Sheila Jane entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 4, 1970. Sister Sheila attended Fordham University, Manhattan, taking courses in the Non-Public School Administrator Pro-

Sister Sheila Jane taught in the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg at Holy Family School, Watertown; Bishop Smith School, Malone; St. Joseph's School, Dannemora; St. Augustine's School, Peru; Sacred Heart School, Watertown; and Holy Name School, AuSable Forks.

She was principal at Bishop Smith's School and facilitated the consolidation process of Bishop Smith School and Notre Dame School in Malone which became Holy Family School and became the first principal of the new consolidated school.

Sister Sheila was also principal at for one year at Sacred Heart School in Watertown.

Sister Sheila served as parish administrator for St.

The Miraculous Prayer

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

Helen's Church, Chasm Falls: St. Mary's Church, Lake Titus; and St. Joseph's Church, Owls Head and was pastoral delegate at St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor.

Sister Sheila established and chaired the pastoral finance council at St. Helen's Church, Chasm Falls and St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor. She was a member of the parish councils in the parishes she served.

Sister Sheila was involved in Communities That Care (CTC) in Malone and was vice-president of the Holy Family School Education Council, Malone.

Sister Sheila was a member of the steering committee for reconfiguration of the Malone parishes.

She served as the First Councilor of the Sisters of St. Joseph Council and was a member of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Planning Committee to plan for parish life coordinators in the parishes of the Diocese of Ogdens-

Due to health issues, Sister Sheila retired to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 2010.

Surviving are a sister, Virginia Jones, Cortland, NY; her nieces Sheila (Jeffrey) Guido, and their children Joseph, Michael, Madelynmae and Laura (Russell) Townsend, and their children, Nate and

Donations may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.



### A GIFT FOR HOSPICE



Altar Rosary Society Officers from St John the Baptist parish in Plattsburgh, presented Natalie Whitehurst with a donation of \$695 collected at their end of year fundraiser for Hospice of the North Country. Pictured from left to right, Ms. Whitehurst, Director of Operations at Hospice of the North Country, Leslie Marvel; Treasurer, Carol Rennell; Secretary, and Deb Sherman; President.

### ALTAR SERVERS HONORED



St. Peter's Church in Lowville recognized Olivia Brooker and Dillan Domagala for 22 years of combined service as altar servers June 5. Special recognition is given those young people who serve through their senior year of high school. Both Dillan and Olivia are 2016 graduates from Lowville Academy and have been altar serving since second grade, more than half their lives. In addition to receiving a silver crucifix necklace and a monetary gift of \$150 from the parish, each received spiritual and monetary gifts from the Altar and Rosary Society and the St. Therese' Women's Guild. Shown, from left, are Janet Reape, president of the St. Therese' Guild; Deacon Ronald Pominville, Olivia Brooker, Dillan Domogala, Jannet Seelman, president of the Altar and Rosary; and Father Christopher Carrara, pastor.





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# Rites held for Fr. Paul F. Lederman

NAPA, CALIE – A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Paul Francis Lederman, 81, a priest incardinated in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, was held July 12 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Ĥe died July 5 in La Quinta, California.

Father Lederman was born in Utica, N.Y., June 30, 1935, the son of Francis Ledermann and Hazel Breslin. He undertook his preparatory studies at Sacred Heart Seminary in Girard, Pennsylvania and also at Divine Word Seminary in Conesus, New York and St. Mary's Seminary in Technys, Illinois. His theological studies were completed at Christ the King Seminary in St. Bonaventure, New York.

He was ordained for the Diocese of Ogdensburg by Bishop James J. Navagh on

March 30, 1963.

Following ordination, Father Lederman was assigned as assistant at Notre Dame in Malone followed by assignments as assistant at Sacred Heart in Massena, St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake in 1964, St. Patrick's in Rouses Point, 1966; and Holy Family in Watertown, 1969.

Father Lederman was granted a leave of absence in 1970 when he moved to California. He served in the Diocese of Santa Rosa at two parishes from 1981 until 1989.

From 1989 until his retirement in 2009 he was chaplain of the Veterans Home of California in Yountville which is also located in the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

Following his retirement, Father Ledermann relocated to La Quinta, California.

### Bishop's Schedule

**July 22** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

July 23 — 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 24 – 12:15 p.m., Knights of Columbus Mass and Pilgrimage at St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte, Vermont

**July 26** - 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

**July 28** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

**July 29** - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**July 31** - 8 a.m., Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy

10 a.m., Installation Mass of Reverend Theodore Crosby as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Chazy and St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy at St. Joseph's Church

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### Rest in Peace

the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg July 20 — Rev. Francis Leo Desrosiers, 1956; Rev. J. Carlton Dewey, 1963

This week marks the anniversary of

July 21 — Msgr. John H. O'Neill, 1938 July 23 — Rev. Francis J. Casey, O.S.A.,

July 24 – Rev. George Burque, 1897; Rev. James Joseph Gainor, 1946; Rev. Bartholemew Aloysius O'Connell, 1963; Rev. Henry Wilcott, 1965; Rev. Francis Edic, O.F.M.Conv., 1975

July 25 — Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C.,

**July 26** — Rev. J. Owen Barry, O.S.A., 1978

July 27 — Rev. John B. Chappel, M.S.C, 1884; Rev. Matthew J. Sweeney, 1935; Rev. Daniel A. Harron, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Harold J. P. McCabe, 1976; Rev. Daniel F. Lyddy, 2002

July 30 — Rev. Francis Smyth, 1902; Rev. Patrick Majock, O.S.A., 1922; Rev. Jeremiah P. Murphy, 1925; Rev. Moses Minnie. 1935

**July 31** — Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980

Aug. 1 – Rev. J. Everett Denesha, 2013

Aug. 2 — Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

### To Report Abuse

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

### **Environmental Stewardship**

## What is in your glass of Water?

"From Science we learn that before the Universe was three minutes old, the nuclei of hydrogen were created, and that hydrogen nuclei were never again created. Hydrogen was the first element, and it makes up 90% of all the atoms in the Universe. Each atom of water in your glass has two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen.

Take a glass and fill it with water. Look at the water that you have just poured into your glass. Sip some water. Note its transparency, smell, color and weight.

Thought for reflection: the water you just sipped contains hydrogen nuclei that were created 13.7 billion years ago! Through them you are connected to the sacred moment of Creation. Imagine hydrogen nuclei in the water though out your body, in water everywhere, in the air and throughout the Universe. You are in communion with all the water, in the people, the rivers, seas and lakes, and with those who thirst for water."

By Toni Nash, Srs. of St. Joseph, Los Angeles , Calif.

Celebrate the many manifestations of water —waterfalls, brooks, lakes —in the natural world. Reflect on time that you have spent in, near, on or under water. Prayer one of the Psalms that celebrate water; Ps. 1, 63, 65,72, 104 and 107. Create your own prayer of gratitude and wonder on the ways that water has blessed your life.

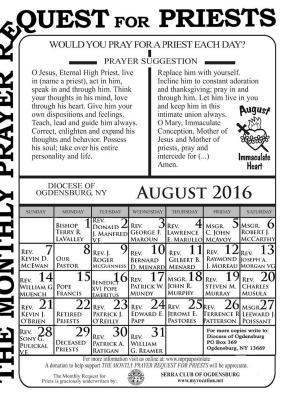
Be attentive today in the ways that water touches your life. Are there ways that you could reduce the amount of water used in the kitchen, in the bathroom, in the yard?

For instance, turn down the volume of water while cleaning veggies, washing dishes, brushing teeth, taking showers.

Or, when caring for the yard, water only in early morning or evening so less water evaporates.

### NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

**The next issue** of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Aug. 3



### NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:

"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

To sign up to receive the  $\mathcal{MC}$  in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

# A new home for 'Our Lady'

By Colleen Miner Staff writer

SARANAC LAKE - "Our Lady of Whiteface" found a new home June 21.

The solid white marble Mary statue - a gift from the Holy Name Society in 1952 - was moved from behind St. Paul's Rectory in Blooming-dale to front of St. Bernard's School.

Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor of St. Bernard's said "She is being moved to a more visible location, to the most well-traveled road in the Adirondack Park."

St. Paul's Catholic Church recently became an oratory and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Burman purchased the rectory next to the church.

Our Lady of Whiteface was in their backyard.

Mr. Burman was present while the statue was moved carefully from his backyard to the new stone grotto built by stone mason, John Sullivan beside the St. Bernard's School sign.

The base was donated by Allie Pelleteri.

The old plaque from 1952 was removed from the former location and placed at the new location, along with a new plaque which reads: Moved from St. Paul's Church Bloomingdale, NY MMXVI.

The moving crew consisted of Father Thomas Higman, during his last week as parochial vicar of St. Bernard's Church (now Administrator in Lyon Mountain

and Ellenburg), Mark Mc-Carty, Bernie Cushman, John Miner and Claude Cabral.

Father Ratigan supervised the move and concluded by asking all present to join with him in praying three Hail Mary's in thanksgiving for the successful relocation efforts.

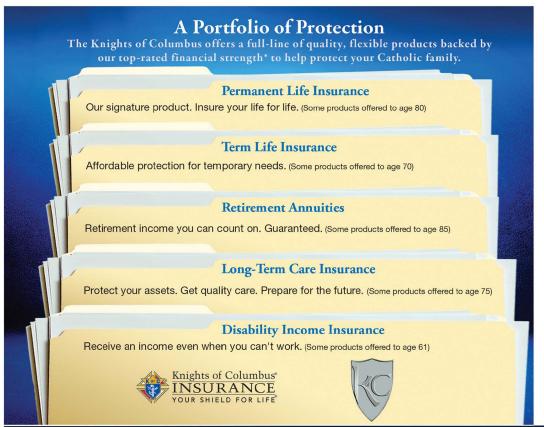
Father Higman said "Within moments of the statue's arrival, Our Lady gained the attention of the mayor and other community members, along with other acts of devotion such as flowers and passersby simply glancing up and offering a prayer.

"It's our hope, that she will be a welcome face in Saranac Lake for years to come," Father Higman said.



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

John Miner and Father Thomas Higman carefully place the Our Lady of Whiteface statue in its new home in front of St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake.





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RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

# NFP Awareness Week: July 24-30

# Marriage + Family = Good News!

### By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Our focused attention to our families continues this Jubilee Year of Mercy. God's tender mercy and marital love are always signs of hope for tomorrow. Today we see many dark, ominous clouds on the horizon. Yet, Pope Francis insists: "The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church...the Christian proclamation on the family is good news indeed."

The Pope sees that "the desire to marry and form a family remains vibrant, especially among young people, and this is an inspiration to the

Church." (The Joy of Love, #1)

Marriage + Family = Good News! Married couples today face many challenges to building a strong family. However, the Pope warns us that, in the face of such challenges, "We should not be trapped into wasting our energy in doleful laments" (#57). Instead, we need to offer a word of truth and hope, even if that means calling spouses to heroic action.

That word of truth and hope is offered every year at this time as the Church observes National NFP Awareness Week. This week we highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is about giving oneself freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully to another person in marriage. To many, such a commitment seems nearly impossible today. To make oneself totally vulnerable, to sacrifice for the love of another is the heroism of the marital vocation. Such a self-less witness for life is a tangible sign of hope.

This simple, natural and effective means of understanding a couple's fertility goes beyond the decision to avoid or achieve pregnancy. Married couples who utilize Natural Family Planning have found a new depth of intimacy and understanding. Their communication as a couple grows, building a deeper level of trust, commitment, and fidelity.

In their pastoral letter, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, the U.S. Bishops write that "God's plan for marriage is a firm foundation, a truthful guide, a trustworthy light for the way." So, we continue to preach the truth about marriage and responsible parenthood, even if today, it seems to many that Christ's teaching on marriage is outdated. Still, it remains a trustworthy light for our world, darkened by sin and self-gratification, by fostering faithful and life-giving spousal love.

I invite you to visit our NFP office at our diocesan website: www.rcdony.org to learn more about this important element of the Church's teaching on marriage.

We are blessed to have Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli serve as our diocesan directors of Natural Family Planning.

Please contact them at the NFP office at 518-483-0459 or via email at apietropaoli@rcdony.org for more information or assistance in this important ministry that makes for stronger marriages and happier families.

# The what and why of Natural Family Planning

**By Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli** Diocesan NFP directors

What is Natural Family Planning, and why does it matter?

The U. S. Bishops answer both questions in their document, "Married Love and the Gift of Life."

"Natural Family Planning," they write, "is a general name for the methods of family planning that are based on a woman's cycle. A man is fertile throughout his life, while a woman is fertile for only a few days each cycle during the child-bearing years.

"A woman experiences clear, observable signs indicating when she is fertile and when she is infertile. Learning to observe and understand these signs is at the heart of education in natural family planning.

"When a couple decides to postpone pregnancy, NFP

can be very effective. NFP can also be very helpful for couples who desire to have a child, because it identifies the time of ovulation.

"Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it."

### Cooperating With God's design

This cooperation with God's design makes NFP unique among family planning methods.

As the Bishops make clear, "When couples use contraception, either physical or chemical, they suppress their fertility, asserting that they alone have ultimate control over this power to create a new human life. With NFP, spouses respect God's design for life and love. They may choose to refrain from sexual union during the woman's fertile time, doing

nothing to destroy the lovegiving or life-giving union that is present.

"NFP does not change the human body in any way, or upset its balance with potentially harmful drugs or devices." Instead, it empowers couples to live in harmony with their bodies, and with their fertility.

The Bishops also note that NFP "leads couples to show greater attentiveness to and respect for each other."

"By using contraceptives," the Bishops conclude, "couples may think that they are avoiding problems, that they are exerting control over their lives. But the gift of being able to help create a new human being involves profound relationships.

"It affects our relationship with God, who created us complete with this powerful gift. It involves whether spouses will truly love and accept each other as they are, including their gift of fertility.

"Finally it involves the way spouses will spontaneously accept their child as a gift from God and as the fruit of their own marital love. Like all important relationships, it is not subject solely to our individual control. In the end, this gift is far richer and more rewarding than that."

### NFP Awareness Week

Every year, the Unites States Conference of Catholic Bishops designates the third week of July as National NFP Awareness Week. Each year all Catholics are invited to discover more about the beauty of God's design for life and love, and to learn more about the positive effects of embracing his plan.

Every year, Bishop LaValley provides an insightful pastoral letter on this vital subject; each year our Diocesan NFP Office supplies posters and educational materials to all parishes.

This year, we are pleased to call attention also to a new feature on our website (www.rcdony.org/nfp).

In the video, "One Couple's Story," Leif and Allison Rozon of Lake Clear share their experience of Natural Family Planning. Learn why they chose it, how it has helped them grow closer as a couple, and why they believe it is a blessing for their marriage.

Anyone wishing to learn more about Natural Family Planning is also invited to contact the Diocesan NFP Office at (518)483-0459 or email us, apietropaoli@rcdony.org. NFP information may also be accessed at www.rcdony.org/nfp and at the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp.

# NFP: invitation to live God's plan for marriage

By Anthony J. Caruso, MD

Obstetrician/gynecologist and a member of Father Boecker Council Knights of Columbus Council 6090 in Lombard, III.

When learned well and embraced by a couple, natural family planning strengthens and protects the marital bond. As a prolife physician who works with couples seeking to learn NFP, I have seen it bring both blessings and challenges. Like any worthwhile endeavor, it requires time and effort.

### A deeper love

A husband and wife using NFP have a unique opportunity to learn more about the beauty of the female reproductive system. The intricate symphony involved in the monthly cycle is fascinating and illuminates God's plan for procreation. A couple's enhanced understanding should be an occasion to grow in love and respect for one another as they move forward in marriage.

Monitoring a woman's natural fertile and infertile periods leads a couple to regularly communicate about such topics as family size, physical health, psychological outlook and the role of intimacy in their married life. They also are encouraged to pray together to discern God's will.

Humanae Vitae, the prophetic 1968 encyclical on the regulation of birth by Blessed Paul VI, mentions four considerations couples may take into account in delaying conception: physical, economic, social and psychological. While Pope Paul VI outlined reasonable grounds for spacing births, he also warned against a mindset that would be closed to conception, calling children "the supreme gift of marriage [who] contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare" (8).

Thus, though couples may use NFP to delay conception for legitimate reasons, when touting the "effectiveness"

of NFP we should never forget that children are a blessing.

In all cases, NFP differs from contraception, for it does not separate the unitive and procreative meaning of marital intimacy. Not only that, but NFP avoids the risks and side effects of ingesting chemicals to suppress one's natural fertility. Invariably, there is a marked improvement in the health and well-being of women who stop using hormonal contraceptives. When they stop and learn NFP, women feel the difference in their daily lives.

There are other health benefits as well. Doctors who advocate NFP instead of contraception can more easily diagnose and treat underlying causes of infertility, and they can help women with irregular cycles by using natural therapies.

There are also challenges, which can become blessings when faced openly and with faith. When a couple uses NFP to delay conception, periodic abstinence is required during fertile periods. It is not uncommon for me to speak with women who become frustrated because their charting can reveal

they must remain abstinent for long periods of time. Other women express a strong desire to have another child, yet their husband is not supportive. Practicing NFP can be difficult if a husband and wife are not on the same page.

Nonetheless, NFP can help by encouraging communication between spouses as well as prayer. There is a very beautiful and beneficial interplay involved that can bring a couple closer together; even periodic abstinence can lead them to desire each other more, especially if they work toward the same goal regarding conception. Although everyone is different, and there is no one-size-fits- all method, all married couples of child-bearing age can benefit from NFP. As they turn toward one another in openness to life, and see the love of God reflected in each other, they make for stronger marriages and happier families.

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### **VATICAN LETTER**

# Unique papal vision

By Junno Arocho Esteves Catholic News Service

WATICANCITY (CNS)- The challenges and experiences of the church in Latin America figure heavily in Pope Francis' papacy, especially when it comes to making bishop appointments, addressing global issues and the pastoral care of the poor and the marginalized.

### Pope Francis brings Latin American perspective to universal mission of the church

Pope Francis' preference for "shepherds with the smell of sheep" has become a prerequisite in his recent appointments.

In July, the pope chose a relatively unknown pastor from a small diocese in the Dominican Republic to lead the metropolitan archdiocese of Santo Domingo, where the evangelization of the New World began.

Bishop Francisco Ozoria Acosta of San Pedro de Macoris, who has experience as a pastor, vice rector, director of formation and professor in pastoral theology, was considered by many as a surprise choice.

However, choosing a bishop whose ecclesial ministry is centered on pastoral care offers a glimpse into the pope's vision of a church that looks outward rather than being self-referential, a vision he embraced as a Jesuit priest, as the archbishop of a major Latin American archdiocese and now as pope.

"This doesn't mean that Pope Francis presents the Latin American church as a model and repeats what he did (there). Rather, he takes from his ecclesial experience in Latin America all that he believes is impor-



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Pope Francis greets an elderly woman as he meets with people in a poor neighborhood in Asuncion, Paraguay, in this July 12,2015, file photo. Pastoral care of the poor and those in need has been emphasis of the pontificate of Pope Francis.

tant for his universal pastoral ministry," Guzman Carriquiry, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America told Catholic News Service in early June.

"It seems to me very clear that in the conclaves, popes are chosen not because of geopolitical calculations, nor due to a majority from a (particular) region. The person chosen is that unique person who gathers the qualities that the cardinals --together in conclave and inspired by the Holy Spirit --consider to be the one most suitable to guide the church in a given historical moment," Carriquiry said.

While the world is currently witnessing the effects of a more globalized society, the pope has seen it firsthand in his homeland.

In a letter commemorating the 200th anniversary of Argentina's independence, Pope Francis highlighted the suffering of the sick, the poor, prisoners, as well as those exploited through child abuse, drugs and human trafficking.

"They are the most afflicted children of the motherland," he wrote.

He also lamented the abandonment of the elderly and young people, who are the most vulnerable victims of a "throwaway culture' that is imposed upon us globally."

The importance of reaching out to the peripheries is a constant theme emphasized by Pope Francis. However, his calling for a church

that reaches out to those in the margins of society was made long before his elec-

As archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he headed the drafting committee for the final document of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007 in Aparecida, Brazil.

Its call to renew the church's commitment to mission and discipleship in the Latin American continent, particularly to those far from the church, continues to resonate today, particularly in a time where the church is in decline in traditionally Catholic countries.

"It is not by chance that he became pope in the emerging moment of the peripheries within the dynamics of Catholicism," Carriquiry said. The countries with the largest population of Catholics - Mexico, Brazil, the United States and the Philippines - "are all peripheries within Catholicism," he added.

"The countries following those are France, Italy and Poland. But within 10 years, these three countries will be surpassed in numbers of Catholics. By whom? Nigeria, Colombia and Congo," he noted.

The plight of migrants and refugees is another issue close to the pope's heart, a view "that has shaped his personality" through his own personal experience as "the son of immigrants who were the forebears of a great Catholic tradition," Carriquiry said.

One of the pope's surpris-

One of the pope's surprising gestures was bringing three Syrian families back to Italy following a visit to a refugee camp in Greece April 16. On his return flight, the pope emphasized the need to integrate rather than reject those who come in search of a better life.

"With integration, Europe's culture is enriched. I think that we need an education, a lesson, on a culture of integration," the pope told journalists April 16.

Nevertheless, Pope Francis' emphasis on the church's preferential love for the poor and the suffering, while certainly influenced by his Latin American roots, is not a foreign concept, Carriquiry told CNS.

"These are not Latin American inventions; these are fundamental themes for the life and mission of the church. What can certainly be attributed to Latin America is the Aparecida document, which launched the continental mission, that missionary impulse urged by the pope," Carriquiry said.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Religious leaders at New York vigil urge people to be calm

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) -- During a candlelight vigil for peace July 11 in Brooklyn, religious leaders called for calm in the wake of recent shootings in different parts of the country. "Today, despite all the many advances, our nation seems to remain torn apart over race. The victims are our children, our brothers and sisters, our parents, our friends and loved ones," said Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas Di-Marzio at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn. At the vigil, attended by more than 1,500 people, the bishop prayed that people in this country would see each other as brother and sister after the deaths of two black men shot by white police officers in Louisiana and Minnesota and the five white police officers killed by a black sniper in Dallas. He also mentioned the victims in Orlando, Florida, where a lone gunman went on a rampage at a gay nightclub. Bishop DiMarzio alluded to the fact the prayer service was being held in the shadows of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch that commemorates those who died in the Civil War, which ended the institution of slavery. "But more needs to be done," he said.

### Vatican says no changes in direction priests face during Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Recent comments by a high-ranking Vatican official have sparked questions about the direction priests should face while celebrating Mass, but the Vatican spokesman said Pope Francis has made it clear no changes are foreseen. Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, urged priests and bishops at the Sacra Liturgia conference in London July 5 to start celebrating Masses "ad orientem," or facing away from the congregation, beginning the first Sunday of Advent this year. However, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, issued a statement July 11 indicating the Pope Francis met with Cardinal Sarah July 9 to indicate no liturgical directives will begin in Advent. "Cardinal Sarah is always rightly concerned with the dignity of the celebration of Mass, that it might adequately express an attachment of respect and adoration for the eucharistic mystery," Father Lombardi's statement said. "Some of his phrasing has been badly interpreted, as if he had announced new, different indications from those now given in liturgical norms and the words of the popes on celebration toward the people and the ordinary rite of the Mass," the spokesman added.

### U.S. House, in bipartisan vote, pass Conscience Protection Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a bipartisan 245–182 vote, House members July 13 passed the Conscience Protection Act, which would provide legal protection to doctors, nurses, hospitals and all health care providers who choose not to provide abortions as part of their health care practice. "We're grateful to House Speaker Paul Ryan for bringing the Conscience Protection Act to a vote, to all the co-sponsors for their leadership, and to those members of both parties who support the civil right of conscience," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore in a statement. The cardinal is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and the archbishop heads their Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. "Even those who disagree on the life issue should be able to respect the conscience rights of those who wish not to be involved in supporting abortion." they said.

# New campaign invites millennials to 'come home' to Catholic faith

By Allana Haynes
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Catholics Come Home, an organization dedicated to inviting those back to the Catholic faith, has launched a new campaign meant to reach out to the millennial generation.

In addition to its CatholicsComeHome.org website, the campaign has created CatholicsComeHome.com, an interactive website aimed at millennials who are seeking "something more."

"Our CatholicsCome-Home.org website and 'Evangomercials' have aired for over 18 years, helping more than a half a million souls home to the Catholic Church," said Tom Peterson, the president and founder of Catholics Come Home, in a phone interview with Catholic News Service.

"We are now speaking directly in the language of millennials through our new website and new Evangomericals on our CatholicsCome-Home.com site to help encourage young people to accept our invitation home to Jesus and his holy church," he said.

Evangomercials is a name Catholics Come Home trademarked to describe its TV commercials on Catholic evangelism, which the organization says "change hearts."

Peterson said he was inspired to help millennials, after speaking to Catholic families around the world who were saddened by their children and grandchildren leaving the church.

"Statistics show that 80 percent will leave their faith by age 23," he said. "We felt the call to help in this new means of evangelization."

With the rising influence of secularism, young people now more than ever have left

the faith.

There's a tsunami of secularism that has permeated our culture, our nation and the world," said Peterson. "Young people are the largest group to leave their faith. Many are also leaving, not only the church, but leaving Christian faith in Jesus, period. The increase of secularism, specifically agnosticism and atheism has skyrocketed. The time is critical to do something to help bring souls to heaven. The young people need our help now.'

Catholics Come Home is not only an invitation to Catholics, but people of all faith and religious backgrounds.

"Our campaign is not only directed to young Catholics who have drifted from the faith, but also to any young person out there who may not have been exposed to faith at all, or who may have grown up in a different faith tradition," said Peterson.

"In our focus groups, we noted that so many young people are looking for something more. We've created a new Evangomercial, called 'Something More,' that specifically addresses their needs," he continued.

"We've also used that concept of finding 'something more' in many of our other messages aimed at millennials," he said. "We've discovered that they're looking for authenticity. They're looking for answers, but they don't want to be told what to do, they want to be invited in a gentle way.

We feel that the new messages on our Evangomericals and website, will do just that, with God's grace and the help of the Holy Spirit," Peterson said.

The website tells the stories of those who turned away from the faith, and

have since then reclaimed it.

"We've seen millennials return to the faith, through the efforts of Catholics Come Home," said Peterson. "Three of their stories are on our website, CatholicsCome-Home.com, and those millennials were featured on our worldwide primetime television show, also called Catholics Come Home."

He said, of those featured on the website, some left the faith completely, while others were looking for a deeper faith.

"We find that millennials are looking for the same thing as older Catholics, and that is something more," said Peterson. "We now know that something more is what Saint Augustine tells us, that our hearts are restless, until they rest in God."

Although the campaign is aimed at millennials, he said, the message to them remains the same.

"The message to millennials or anyone, is that Jesus loves us, has a plan for our lives and wants us to spend an eternity with him in heaven," said Peterson. "The way we deliver that message to millennials has to be done in words and images that will appeal to that age group."

CatholicsComeHome.com, was launched in June, in advance of World Youth Day July 26 to July 31.

On July 12, the Georgiabased organization nounced another initiative -a global evangelization outreach to be carried out via its new international language websites and Evangomercials in "the nine most common Catholic languages" around the world: English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Czech and Tagalog. Work is underway to launch websites in Korean. Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin and Arabic.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS** 

# About prayer

Our readings today teach finds just fifty-- or forty-

us wonderful lessons about prayer. They teach us to be bold and confident when we pray, like Abraham and like Jesus Himself.

God has heard complaints about the outrageous sins of the citizens of Sodom.

As He and his angelic helpers stand besides Abraham. God confides to Abraham that, in his anger, he plans to destroy by fire the entire city.

Abraham, fearful for his nephew Lot and his wife who live there, feels a sense of terror. Thinking of the innocent residents, he begs God not to carry out his plans.

He boldly bargains with God to spare the city if he

### July 24

### 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time READINGS

Genesis 18:20-32 Colossians 2:12-14 Luke 11:1-13



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

five, or forty people---or even ten!

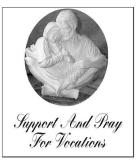
In reality, God does not find even those ten, so He destroys the city. Only Lot and his family barely escape with their lives.

Were it not for the boldness of Abraham's prayer, bargaining with God, it is not likely that they would have escaped.

In the Gospel, Jesus urges us to be bold and persistent, even if God answers our prayer according to His own will, not necessarily in the way we wish.

The "Our Father" is model for every prayer.

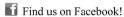
Notice that in St. Luke's version of the prayer, it is not a prayer to be said only once in a while, but a prayer to be prayed every day, even many times a day. We need "daily bread" often. "Pray always" Jesus admonishes us. His door is always open. So we should knock on God's door often and with persistence. His mercy never runs out.





### Visit our website www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more





### DO YOU LOVE ME? KEEP MY COMMANDS

# Learning to love the law

By Stephen M. Tartaglia Diocesan director, family life ministry

During the opening keynote address at the World Meeting of Families, Bishop Robert Baron spoke about how the commandments help us to glorify God and increase our freedom. He quoted Psalm 119, "My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times...Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

### The commandments are meant to fill us with life

Naturally, he said, this sounds strange to us, after all, how many people are so excited about laws and rules.

I remembered learning volleyball in school as a child. The teacher told us how the game was played and all the rules. It seemed like the rules were just common sense so I impatiently wanted to skip this rule review and get right into playing the game.

Bishop Baron continued, offering a story from his past about trying to learn to golf. He just went out and whacked at the ball. It didn't go very far and he got frustrated. After a while a golf pro gave him a few pointers about how to stand, how to hold the club, how to swing the club and how to move his body. Suddenly he could hit the ball straighter and farther than he ever had before. The golf pro said "Okay, that's enough for today," but Bishop Baron said "No, no, tell me more!" He began thinking about golf day and night and reading golf magazines all the time and he couldn't get enough because he saw the dramatic improvement in his game.

As he mastered the game, his frustration lessened and his enjoyment of the game increased.

This is how it is with

God's rules and commandments. Far from being merely restrictions that keep us from doing whatever we want, the commandments are meant to fill us with life, protect us from

things that would hurt us, free us from things that would hold us back, and empower us to accomplish great things.

This sounds a lot like what families do with their children.

All effective families have rules and expectations. My children are still very young and for a time we lived in a house

Stephen M.

**Tartaglia** 

with a short driveway on a road that was 55 mph. We had a rule about keeping the door shut and locked all the time and we were very strict about this. If someone left the door open, they received a serious punishment because the consequences were a matter of life and death for our little ones. The rule and the punishment were both entirely motivated by love.

There are blessings for keeping the commandments and bad consequences if we don't. But the commandments do something else that is extraordinary. They show us our false gods. They show us where and when we are choosing something other than God if we pay attention to them and take them seriously. They show us where we fail. This is important because God loves us madly and jealously. He doesn't want to share us with any false gods. He wants all of our mind, heart, soul and strength. When we give these to him, we become spectacular.

When I was in high school I played football. I wanted to be a starter but I was only second string because I did not give my all. I would exercise and practice with everyone else, but unfortunately I only gave the least

required effort to do what everyone else was doing. I saw that the coach always demanded more of us and I was afraid that if I gave my all, at some point the coach would demand more than I

could do. I didn't want to go there, and as a consequence, I remained second string.

There is no way that we can perfectly keep all the commandments all the time, but we have to give one hundred percent and reach the point where we say "I just can't do it on my own." Only by

God's grace can we be successful. When we are weak we are forced to acknowledge our dependence on

Some people say that marriage is 50/50, but that's divorce. Marriage is both partners giving 100 percent, and as such it is reflective of God's love for the Church. God wants us to love him completely, and He loves us completely, holding nothing back, even to the point of death on a cross.

Families are the training grounds for the future men and women "outstanding in holiness". Living in close quarters with people is not easy. Living with people of different ages and stages of development is not easy. Living with people for decades is not easy. Families develop practices, rules, habits and routines that make this manageable and provide opportunities for growth, and the commandments help with this, especially if the family does a weekly review accompanied by regular confession.



This is the third in a series of articles written by Mr. Tartaglia exploring faith development within families as he considers the Ten Commandments

### AT THE MOVIES

# **G**HOSTBUSTERS

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Few films released over the last several decades have embedded themselves as firmly in the public consciousness as the 1984 comedy "Ghostbusters."

Both the lyrics and the tune of its impossible-to-forget theme song cling tenaciously in the collective memory. So too do any number of its one-liners and visual images ("He slimed me!").

While the franchise offerings that followed generally failed to live up to the quality of the original, they did extend across several media, from the 1989 bigscreen sequel (unimaginatively titled "Ghostbusters II") to television, comic books and video games. And now - lo, these many years later - there arrives a reboot.

The plot of this 3-D "Ghostbusters" (Columbia) runs a similar course to that of its long-ago progenitor. But director and co-writer (with Katie Dippold) Paul Feig mixes things up by shifting the gender balance.

In lieu of the Reagan-era male specter collectors -played by Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Hudson and



CNS PHOTO/SONY

Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig and Leslie Jones star in a scene from the movie "Ghostbusters."

Harold Ramis - we get lady metaphysical musketeers.

The first of these we meet is Columbia University physics professor - and tenure aspirant - Erin Gilbert (Kristen Wiig). With her future on the line, the last thing Erin can afford is to have her colleagues discover that she once collaborated on a book about the paranormal with her nowestranged best friend, Abby Yates (Melissa McCarthy).

So when Abby, who continues to research the subject, puts their volume up for sale on the internet, Erin pays a visit to Abby's lab to protest. There she's introduced to Abby's current sidekick, tech whiz Jillian Holtzmann (Kate McKin-

non).

Spooky circumstances soon have Erin and Abby patching up their differences and teaming with Jillian to track the numerous ghosts that have suddenly started popping up around New York City. They're eventually joined on their hunt by no-nonsense transit worker Patty Tolan (Leslie Jones), whose subway station has fallen victim to one of the hauntings.

Rounding out the band of

Rounding out the band of wraith wranglers is Kevin (Chris Hemsworth), the ditzy hunk of a secretary the women hire after renting office space for their new partnership. The dumbblond/eye-candy gags aimed at Kevin typify the

phasis on (admittedly spectacular) special effects.

The movie's treatment of

The movie's treatment of the supernatural is unlikely to lead even the impressionable astray. But the fact that the jokes, though generally harmless, sometimes drift into mild raunchiness makes this suitable for grownups only.

The film contains occult themes, some strong but stylized violence, a suicide, brief irreverence, occasional sexual humor, several crass terms and obscene gestures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

### APPLEFEST CARD

overall tone of the proceed-

eventually drowned out by

an increasingly heavy em-

ings, a light note that's

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### REDFORD PICNIC

Redford - 161st Annual Redford Picnic to be held.

Date: Aug. 21

Place: Grounds of the Parish Center at Church of the Assumption

Schedule: Events start at 11:30 a.m. beginning with "Saranac Hollow Jammers" until 1:30:"Roy Hurd" from 2 p.m. to 4 followed by "Bob, Anne Marie & The Backroads Band" from 4:15 p.m. to 6:15. Drawing for the \$5000 cash prize will be at 6:15 p.m. Y

Features: Ham and Roast Beef dinners will be served in the gym. Games, Fancy Booth and rides on one of the oldest merry-go-rounds in North America rummage sale and numerous other events.

### **OLA FOUNDERS DAY**

Ellenburg Center - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to celebrate Founders Day.

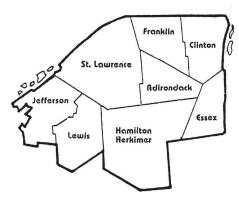
Date: Aug. 27 Time: 11 a.m.

Features: Bishop LaValley will offer Mass and a lunch will follow

Contact: For reservations or information call 518-594-3253 or email olahouse@gmail.com

### PROGRAMS AT OLA

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer program



The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to: North Country Catholic, PO Box 326. Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org. Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

for the coming months has been announced.

Schedule: Each first Saturday through Nov. Rosary will begin at 11 a.m. (with confessions available) and Mass will be offered at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch.; Each third Saturday (Except Aug.) there will be a retreat day on a theme of Mercy starting at 10 a.m. with Mass and lunch. Reservations are required. The House of Prayer will be opened each weekday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact: call 518-594-3253 or email olahouse@gmail.com

### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Plattsburgh** — St. Peter's is sponsoring their annual Golf Tournament.

Date: Aug. 5

Time: Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.; arrive 30-60 minutes prior to the start Place: Adirondack Golf Club

Cost: \$65 for non-Adirondack members, \$50 for Adirondack members, \$25 for awards dinner only.

Features: The proceeds will benefit the Youth Programs sponsored by St. Peter's Farmers Insurance Company is the new Corporate Sponsor. They are also accepting \$50 hole sponsors

Contact: Send registration form, check payable to John Mockry, 51 Oak St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901 by Aug. 1. Call 518-578-4927 or 518-562-4179

### RENOVATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh - 6th Annual St. Joseph's Church (Dannemora) Building Renovation Golf Tournament to be held. Date: Aug. 12

Place: Bluff Point Course Cost: \$60 per person which includes golf, cart, meal and prizes.

Features: 4 person scramble. Proceeds will go to the Renovation Fund.

Contact: Teams or individuals may contact Deacon Ed at 563-0828 or Fr. Mickey at 492-7118 for an application.

### HAMILTON-HERKIMER

### SUMMER HEAT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wells/Speculator - The 5th Annual St. Ann's & St. James' "Summer Heat" Golf Tournament will be held.

Date: July 23

Time: Shotgun start at 8 a.m. Place: Lake Pleasant Golf Course Cost: \$65 per person. includes a cart Features: The format is Foursomes/ Scramble. All the proceeds go towards supporting neighbors in Lake Pleasant, Piseco, Speculator and Wells needing heating assistance next winter. Lunch and prizes will be provided. Sign-up is at the ClubHouse, St. Ann's or St. James Churches. Donations and Sponsors graciously accepted to St. James Church, PO Box 2214, Speculator, NY.12164

Contact: For further information, call Richard at 548-3635/rsnyder304@hotmail.com or Sue at 924-5557/ spsail@citlink.com

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Long Lake - Court Our Lady Of Mercy #1511, Catholic Daughters of America is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social to raise funds for charity.

Date: July 24 Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Henry's parish Hall Cost: Adults, \$5; Children under 12, \$3 Features: Homemade brownies, homemade gluten free brownies, ice cream and a variety of toppings available

### CDA CEREMONY

Long Lake - Court Our Lady of Mercy #1511, Catholic Daughters to honor deceased members

Date: Aug. 17 Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: Long Lake Cemetery

Features: The ceremony will honor deceased members of Our Court by placing an official Catholic Daughter Grave Marker on the respective graves of deceased members. Families of the deceased will be invited to participate in the placing of the markers. A Eucharistic celebration will follow in St. Henry's Church. All Parishioners will be invited to attend. The Court wishes to thank George and Shirley Britton for the generous donation in honor of George's Mother, Marcella Britton who was a member of her court in Pawling, N.Y.

### SUMMER PARISH PICNIC

Wells - The Fifth Annual St. Ann/St. James' Summer Parish Picnic is set

Date: July 24 Time: 2 p.m. to 5

Place: Wells Pavilion

Features: This year's theme is "Favorite Summer Sports" and all are invited to come dressed in the outfit they would enjoy their favorite summer recreation in. There will be a prize for best dressed. Hamburgs, hotdogs, sausage and drinks provided; bring dish to pass.

Contact: Sign up at the back of either church. Call Deb Walters at 265-3977 or e-mail debwalters@frontiernet.net for more information.

### **JEFFERSON**

### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Carthage - St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Secular Franciscans will have a 2 hour Adoration to pray for Vocations. Date: July 23

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon Place: St. James Church

### HOMESCHOOLERS MASS, LUNCH

Cape Vincent – Homeschool families are invited to 3rd annual Mass and pot luck lunch.

Date: July 31

Features: Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Vincent of Paul Church followed by a pot luck lunch at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point.

Contact: RSVP to Dolores at 315-654-3932, call or text.

### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Adams - St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Secular Franciscans will have a 2-hour Adoration to pray for Vocations.

Date: July 23 Time: 10 a.m. to Noon Place: St. Cecilia's

### WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sackets Harbor - St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor has weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

### LAY MINISTER PICNIC, PRAYER

Cape Vincent - Please join fellow commissioned lay ministers on the shores of Lake Ontario for a picnic lunch and reflection offered by Deacon Patrick Donahue.

Date: Aug. 6

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Dablon Point Cost: \$10 per person

Contact: Please contact Jeannie Grizzuto at jgrizzuto@rcdony.org - 393-2920, Ext. 1413 by Aug. 1st.

### LEWIS

### DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of August will be held.

Date: Aug. 7 Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction, All are welcome.

Contact: 348-6260.

### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Lowville - Eucharistic Adoration set Date: July 21

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Silent Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Benediction.

### **CHICKEN BBQ**

Harrisville - Knights of Columbus sponsoring Chicken BBQ to be held.

Date: July 23

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Francis Solanus Church Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$5;

under 5, Free; Chicken only, \$5 Contact: For pre-sale tickets call Larry 315-543-2946 or Dan 1-845-292-3053



# 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

# Called to serve God's people

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

"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord" (Ps. 89:2)
These words were on Father George Maroun's prayer card for his Silver Jubilee, 25th year of priesthood celebrated on May 4, 1999.

### No one could ever walk away from an encounter with Father Maroun without having been in the presence of a true missionary extending his love of God to all

Reflecting on his life of love of people and love of singing. I picture him singing PS 89:2 in the midst of his mountains when God took him unto himself. Thus, Father Maroun's reward for faithfully fulfilling his call to serve God's people.

The news of his sudden death was a heart break for me, his Maroun family, his diocesan family and his beloved St. Martin de Porres Parish Family, Mollendo, Peru.

Words of gratitude for his loving service are a wonderful tribute.

Many of his former parishioners in St. James, Carthage and St. Mary's Copenhagen recall and comment on how difficult it was for him to "ready himself" for Mass to bring us the Eucharist. Yet ready himself he did, greeting us with smiles and words of encouragement. He often reminded us that life isn't easy but we do what we can on our faith journey. Words spoken by one whose example was daily seen as he met his own life's challenges in trust.

We all know that Father Maroun's missionary heart was first formed in his family midst loving Lebanese heritage living in Tupper Lake. After he responded to God's call to priesthood, his diocesan family nourished and cared for him exceptionally as he did them.

Last year, at this same time Father Maroun was transitioning from active ministry to a year of grace-filled moments. No one could ever walk away from an encounter with Father Maroun without having been in the presence of a true missionary extending his love of God to all.

We cherish the memories and ask in faith that we nourish the "seeds of mission" he so carefully planted in each of us. Thanks Fr. George F. Maroun. May you rest in peace.

Father Andres in Mollendo, Perú, sent a message of sympathy about Father George Maroun's death to the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg:

"Sister Mary Ellen. Cordial Salutations. We are deeply sad for the lost for FR George Maroun, a big loss for the Diocese and his friends. Here in our parish this Friday we will celebrate a mass to celebrate his work and passion towards this parish that he loved so much".

### **OBITUARIES**

### Stanley A. Seymour

WEST CHAZY — A Mass of Christian Burial for Stanley A. Seymour, 80, father of Father Scott R. Seymour, was held July 9 at St. Joseph's Church.

Mr. Seymour died July 6 at the CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh; burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

He was born in Plattsburgh, July 2, 1936, the son of Raymond and Loretta (Mayo) Seymour. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1959.

Mr. Seymour married the former Loretta Barcomb on Feb. 2, 1963, in St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks with his uncle, Father Earl E. Mayo presiding.

Mrs Seymour died Aug. 14, 1994.

He worked for many years at the Imperial Wall Paper Mill until his retirement.

Mr. Seymour was a member of St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy and the St. Joseph's Men's Club. He served on the Pastoral Council, was a member of the Knights of Columbus, an usher, and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

Mr. Seymour enjoyed making candy, gardening, and being in nature.

In addition to Father Sevmour, he is survived by another son, Joseph Seymour of West Chazy, a sister, Mary Paul of Plattsburgh; three grandchildren, Anthony Seymour, Samantha Seymour, and Andrea (Jon Engle) Seymour; one great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Loretta Engle, brother-in-law. Howard Chauvin of West Chazy; and sisterin-law and brother-in-law, Sandy and Kenny Duffy formerly of Rouses Point; several nieces and nephews; and close friend Dickie Revell

Stanley was predeceased by his parents, his wife, one son, Steven Walter Seymour; brother, Alton Seymour and his wife Carole; sisters, Phyliss Ormsby and Joan Seymour; and brothers-in-law Red Paul and Hector Barcomb; sister-in-law, Noella Chauvin; and mother-in-law and father-in-law, Gertrude and Floyd Barcomb.

Donations in Mr. Seymour's memory may be made for Masses to be said by his son,

the Morrisonville Ambulance Squad, St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy or St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville.

Adams — Shirley A. Nichols, 87; Funeral Services July 14, 2016 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

**AuSable Forks** – Philip A. Caito, 86; Funeral services July 9, 2016 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**AuSable Forks** — Rebecca "Becky" Lynn (Parrow) Snow, 55; Funeral Services July 8, 2016 at the Holy Name Church.

**Black River** – Roger B. Stock, 68; Funeral Services July 8, 2016 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Brushton** — Leland J.Trumble, 90; Funeral Services July 15, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cape Vincent** – Donald E. Wood, 91; Funeral July 7, 2016 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial Riverside Cemetery.

Carthage — James L. "Bucky" O'Connor, Jr., 83; Funeral Services July 6, 2016 at St. James Church.

Chateaugay — Clarence L."Fit" Soulia Jr., 67; Funeral Services July 13, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Nina M. (Reff) Locke, 91; Funeral July 13, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan — Gerald M. Ritz, 89; Funeral Services July 11, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Croghan** — Theresa M. Schack, 81; Funeral Services July 15, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** — Edith (Reyor) Ashline, 95; Funeral July 10, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** — Julia A.Thomas, 68; Funeral Services July 1, 2016 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville — Catherine E. Quinn, 100; Funeral July 15, 2016 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Madrid** - Barbara M. (Randall) Pryce, 84; Funeral Services July 15, 2016 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Canton.

**Malone** – Bonnie (Smith) Demers, 69; Funeral Services July 15, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Constable.

Massena — Norma G. (Belile) Blanchard, 77; Funeral Services July 9, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

Massena — Patricia (Lesher) Hedges, 92; Funeral Services July 14, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — John M. "Jake" Kormanyos, 89; Funeral Services July 7, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Bernard G. LaClair, 88; Funeral Services July 14, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville — Robert S. "Bob" Armstrong, 62; Funeral July 8, 2016 at All Saints Church; burial in All Saints Cemetery.

Morristown — Esther (Martin) Smithers, 79; Funeral Services July 8, 2016 at St. John the Evangelist Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

North Lawrence — Madeleine (Plumadore) Cummings, 95; Funeral Services July 15, 2016 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**North Lawrence** — Mary Jane Donovan Downs, 87; Funeral July 16, 2016 at St. Lawrence Church; burial parish cemetery.

Norwood — Nichole Marie (White) Reynolds, MSGT., USAF, Ret., 46; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2016 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Louis F. Lalone, 83; Funeral July 8, 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Margaret (McGuire) Murray, 93; Funeral July 11, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery

**Peru** – Theresa P. (Sibley) Blair, 87; Funeral uly 15, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Carmela "Mel" (Vetimiglia) Montefusco, 91; Funeral Services July 12, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16** 

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# Holy friendship

By Amanda Conklin Contributing Writer

Over the years I've come to learn that a few deep, lasting, Christ-centered friendships are far more important than many shallow, secular relationships.

It has been a very hard journey as I've had to say goodbye to some people I had spent large chunks of my life with along the way.

Some times there doesn't have to be a fight or particular falling out to realize that your friends don't share your values and you aren't moving each other any closer to heaven.

When I look at my core group of friends who have made it through the highs and lows, they all share something in common, they have their roots in Christ.

Friendship is a re-occurring theme in a lot of St. Augustine's writings and one particular quote stands out to me as a simple yet profound commentary on the reality of true friendship:

"Particularly when I am worn out by the upsets of the world, I cast myself without reservation on the love of those who are especially close to me.

"I know I can safely entrust my thoughts and considerations to those who are aflame with Christian love and have become faithful friends to me.

"For I am entrusting them not to another human, but to God in



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICH

In her reflection on friendship, Amanda Miner, campus minister in Canton, writes, "My time at Camp Guggenheim both as a camper and counselor especially showed me how laughter can ease tension, bond people together, and truly bring Christ present to the here and now."The 2016 Guggenheim staff is learning exactly what she means. Pictured, first row, from left are Joy Leader, Nate Pultorak, Leagon Carlin and Allison St. Louis; middle, John McBride, Kevin McCullouch, Conner Cummings, Michael Bobak, Tess Bandy and Ashlee Fairchild; back, Abigail St. Louis, Kathryn Petrelli, Ellen Miner, Grace Leader and Kelly Donnelly, camp director. Missing are Joey Izzo, Katy Sherman, Maura Bobak and Maeve McCullouch.

Whom they dwell and by Whom they are who they are."

We were all made to be in relationship. God himself is relationship; Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one. In today's difficult and often upsetting world, it is so important to have fellowship.

Laughter is one thing that has always helped to relieve anxiety and ground me, and has reminded me that Christ has already triumphed and allows me to reflect on the beauty of life. That is another common thread throughout my deepest relationships; we love to laugh. It brings a sense of normalcy to life. Robert Frost once said "If we couldn't laugh, we would all go insane."

We often see portrayals of the more serious times and events in the life of Christ, but I frequently like to imagine the fellowship between Him and his closest friends, the apostles. I'm sure there were many moments of deep laughter and joy and when I am struggling, I love to think about what those moments would have looked like.

My time at Camp Guggenheim both as a camper and counselor especially showed me how laughter can ease tension, bond people together, and truly bring Christ present to the here and now.

Next time you're feeling the heaviness of the current world atmosphere, and feel the darkness setting in, take a moment to laugh with a friend.

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### **OBITUARIES**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Plattsburgh — William F. Singley, 86; Funeral Services July 7, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry — William E. Baker, 75; Funeral Services July 13, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

**Port Leyden** — Ruth (Thomas) Mangan, 102; Funeral July 11, 2016 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Old Calvary Cemetery.

**Pyrites** — Anne Mary (Bessette) Scott, 84; Funeral July 2, 2016 at St. Paul's Oratory; burial in the Hermon Cemetery.

Raymondville — Eileen (Hand) Derushia, 94; Funeral Services July 11, 2016 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in St. Henry's Cemetery, Dekalb Junction.

**Star Lake** – Thomas H. Flynn, 78; Funeral July 11, 2016 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

**Theresa** — Edwin E. Vock, 84; Funeral Services July 7, 2016 at St. Theresa Avila Church; burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** — Bernadette (Bedore) Dattola, 96; Funeral Services July 7, 2016 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Loretta "Lou" (Kentile) Jourdan, 89; Funeral Services July 11, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Suzanne M. Howell, 62; Funeral Services July 12, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Albert M. Oddi, 91; Funeral Services July 12, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Westport** – Simon "Sam" Joseph Gutierrez, 90; Funeral Services July 8, 2016 at St. Philip Neri Church; burial in parish cemetery.