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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 16

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUG. 31, 2016

Entering God's merciful embrace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The "narrow gate" to salvation described by Jesus isn't narrow because God is oppressive, but because pride bloats Christians and prevents them from entering God's merciful embrace, Pope Francis said. Christians "must seize the opportunities of salvation"

and not waste time on trivial things before the gate is closed, the pope said before reciting the Angelus prayer Aug. 22.

"If God is good and loves us, why does he close the gate at some point?" the pope asked visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The reason, he said, is because "our life is not a video game or a soap opera; our life is serious and the goal to achieve is important: eternal salvation."

In the day's Gospel reading, Jesus calls on his followers to "strive to enter through the narrow gate, for

many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

By using the imagery of the narrow gate, Jesus tells his listeners that the question of how many will be saved is not as important as knowing "which path leads to salvation," the pope said.

Building Parishes With Living Stones

For the past two years, the *Living Stones* Planning Committee has been working to develop a plan for our Diocese ("*Living Stones Plan*") along with strategies for its implementation, in order to: enhance parish vibrancy, encourage greater participation among the laity in leadership roles; and assess parish demographics in relation to the economic, human and spiritual resources available in each parish and those of neighboring parishes.

Bishop LaValley writes about the completed plan.

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Living Stones: Foundation of parishes

Fort Covington woman shares memories of her grandfather
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

FIRST VOWS AS A SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH



PHOTO BY SISTER MARY EAMON LYNG

Sister Patricia Carmella Urbinelli professed her First Vows at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown Aug. 13. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass with priests from the diocese, concelebrating. Sister Patricia will serve as the youth director for the parishes in Ogdensburg, Morristown, Hammond and Rossie.

INSPIRE: CALLED TO LOVE

Registration deadline is September 9



The registration deadline for INSPIRE: Called to Love, set for Sept. 25 at the Olympic Arena Complex, is Sept. 9. The event, lunch and parking are free of charge but require a reservation through www.inspirecalledtolove.com and or by contacting local parishes. "World renowned Catholic speakers will be sharing dynamic presentations on the universal call of all Christians," organizers say. "A band will be energizing the teenagers during their youth rally, and children under 11 will have activities custom-made to inspire and entertain them throughout the day." Bishop Robert E. Barron, auxiliary bishop of Las Angeles and creator of the Catholicism mini-series featured on PBS, will serve as keynote speaker for the day which is expected to draw thousands of Catholics from the region.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

MERCY IN GOD'S COUNTRY: NCC series explores diocesan works of mercy... p. 8

NORTH
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CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

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BISHOP TERRY

R. LVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

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Editor/

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

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

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountrycatholic.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The challenge to live a vibrant faith

It's a little jarring to read Bishop LaValley's letter about the culmination of the work of the Living Stones Planning committee. (See Follow Me on page 3)

In just four years, we can expect to see the number of resident pastors in our midst to decrease from the current 49 to only 34.

In a diocese of such a large geographic expanse as ours, we can only imagine the challenges this will bring.

The key to it all, Bishop LaValley said, is to form vi-

brant parishes utilizing the gifts of all the baptized.



Mary Lou
Kilian

"Vibrant" is a good word to consider when we look at the various expressions of faith in our north country church.

I can't imagine that any gathering will show more vibrancy than what we'll see at *IN-SPIRE*. Called to Love next month.

Thousands of Catholics from our diocese and neighboring regions have already registered for this major event in the life of the church.

One happy problem that organizers are facing is how to best accommodate the large number of young people who have registered for the Youth Rally.

I think "vibrant" won't begin to describe the level of faith-filled excitement that will fill the Olympic Arena Sept. 25.

And, this vibrancy will continue in the work of our parishioners long after they've returned from Lake Placid.

Over the next couple of months as we move through this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the *North Country Catholic* will explore how Catholics in the North Country are living out

the call to mercy. In particular, we will share how individuals, organizations and parishioners are embracing the Corporal Works of Mercy, giving food to the hungry and alms to the poor and so on.

In order to offer the fullest story of "God's Mercy in God's Country," we welcome any suggestions from our readers about vibrant, merciful enterprises taking place in all corners of the diocese. Please email mkilian@rcdony.org about stories that should be told in the NCC.

After all, the diocesan newspaper must remain a vibrant part of the diocese too!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Mercy: defining attribute of our church

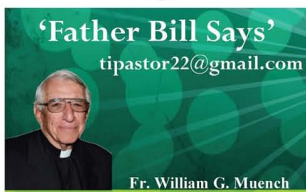
Mercy – we hear a great deal about God's mercy and our call to be a merciful people these present days. This is the Jubilee Year of Mercy as proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. The motto for this year Bishop's Fund in our diocese is "Mercy in Motion." So, I thought that today I would write a bit on mercy.

First off, my meaning – mercy means many things – benevolence, forgiveness and kindness. The very concept of a "Merciful God" appears in various religions, like Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

So, I recently decided to reread Cardinal Walter Kasper's book, "Mercy." Cardinal Kasper is a German Cardinal, now retired. He is a learned theologian and an outstandingly pastoral Bishop. I have read articles by Cardinal Kasper and actually heard him talk once at St. Mary's Seminary.

His book, "Mercy," is interesting because it was written in 2012, before Pope Francis was elected Holy Father. However, his ideas prefigured Pope Francis' vision of the Church's mission of mercy.

Let me share a bit of Cardinal Kasper's ideas from his book, "Mercy." He helps us realize the importance of mercy –



'Father Bill Says'

tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

God's mercy for us through our Church today. Cardinal Kasper begins his study by exploring Sacred Scripture to demonstrate to us how important this message of God's mercy is. Mercy is spoken of often by the Old Testament prophets and mercy is the central mission of Jesus in the Gospels.

And so, Cardinal Kasper reminds us that mercy is central to our Catholic Church today. It must be an important part, a necessary part of the life of every Christian. Christ's Church, as a Church, must be founded on God's great love for all – and so Christ's Church is called to be a merciful and loving people.

For Cardinal Kasper, mercy is God's fundamental and defining attribute.

Cardinal Kasper writes of the Catholic Church as a Sacrament of Love and Mercy. Jesus' precept of mercy is not just applicable to the life of individual Christians but also for the

Church as a whole. The Church as the Body of Christ is a sacrament of the presence of Christ in the world. Christ is the sacrament of mercy – a sacred sign of God's great love for all people that should radiate to the whole world of the merciful love of God.

Jesus' message of mercy is a powerful message. Jesus' message of mercy must be central to the teaching, the life and the mission of the Catholic Church. It is sad to think that there are some who reproach the Church as not following God's call to mercy.

Sadly, some seem to experience our Church as rigid and lacking in mercy. Now is the time for the leaders of our Church to powerfully emphasize that our Church will always mean mercy to all.

For that reason, at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII proclaimed that our Catholic Church must, above all, use the medicine of mercy. Pope Francis truly understand how central and how powerful mercy is for the Church of Jesus Christ. Nothing is more important for Pope Francis – his message to our world is "What can my Church do for you?"

Cardinal Kasper describes Saint John Paul II's emphasis is the Church's task to give witness to divine mercy. Cardinal Kasper sees that this will happen in a threefold manner:

(1) The Church must proclaim the mercy of God. We experience this now in the importance of Pope Francis proclaiming this Jubilee Year of Mercy. We must talk and teach and pray about God's mercy in a special way throughout this Jubilee Year.

(2) The Church must concretely provide people God's mercy in the sacrament of mercy, the sacrament of reconciliation. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of Penance; it is an important sacrament, a source of real happiness for us all especially in repentance of our sins. I must write about confession more in the future.

(3) Finally, Cardinal Kasper writes, the Church must allow God's mercy to appear and be realized in its concrete structures, its entire life, and even in its laws.

I am certain that Pope Francis has already begun to demonstrate his efforts to encourage and insistence that our Church must become more merciful to the needs of its own people.

FOLLOW ME

Building Parishes with Living Stones

In my pastoral letter, *Find Your Home in Christ*, promulgated in April of 2014, one of the priorities set forth was to "Build Parishes with Living Stones." For the past two years, the *Living Stones* Planning Committee has been working diligently to develop a plan for our Diocese ("*Living Stones Plan*") along with strategies for its implementation, in order to:

- 1) enhance parish vibrancy;
- 2) encourage greater participation among the laity in leadership roles; and
- 3) assess parish demographics in relation to the economic, human and spiritual resources available in each parish and those of neighboring parishes.

In the formulation of this *Living Stones Plan*, the Committee consulted extensively with pastors and parishioners.

Every parish pastoral council in the Diocese was asked to conduct a self-evaluation, measure the vibrancy of the parish and suggest possible placement of priests in order to provide the best care of souls and meet the needs of the faithful in the parishes of the area.

The fruit of consultation, deliberation, and prayer, the *Living Stones Plan* is sent to pastors this week and includes the reconfiguration of many existing parishes into parish groupings

and the assignment of 34 available diocesan pastors. Although currently there are 49 resident pastors, the number 34 reflects the current estimate of available pastors in 2020.



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

The *Living Stones Plan* is now available on our diocesan website (www.rcdony.org) under "Planning".

As you know, our Diocese covers an expansive geographical area with a limited number of priests available to minister. One of the major challenges in planning is to ensure that our faith communities have a pastoral presence, assigning our priests where they are most needed.

Although all parish groupings will have a pastor and all parishioners will have access to Sunday Mass, your pastor may not reside in your community and the Mass location and time may not be

what you are accustomed to at present. In situations where a priest is not in residence, it is imperative that someone be available to attend to pastoral needs through ministry that is not reserved solely to priests.

Our pastors will be calling upon our permanent deacons and qualified laity to assume an even greater role in providing pastoral care through various ministries or service as pastoral associates. Also, in some particular situations, the

bishop may assign a pastoral life coordinator to assume the administration of a parish. Each parish grouping will be called upon to formulate a detailed plan to address all the pastoral needs in their grouping.

The goal of this *Living Stones Plan* is to form vibrant parishes utilizing the gifts of all the baptized, both clergy and laity

The goal of this *Living Stones Plan* is to form vibrant parishes utilizing the gifts of all the baptized, both clergy and laity. In the coming weeks and months, your pastors will be asked to share with you details of the *Living Stones Plan* and begin the necessary collaboration with groups in your parish and with your neighboring parishes to formulate the pastoral plan for your parish grouping.

Change is not always easy but it is a requisite for growth. In appreciation of the fine work done by the *Living Stones Planning Committee* and acknowledging the great faith of the people of our Diocese, I am confident that we will continue to grow and to move forward as we work together to "*Build Vibrant Parishes with Living Stones.*"

"Catholics. . . .

Whether you're young or old, married or single, religious or ordained,

Inspire

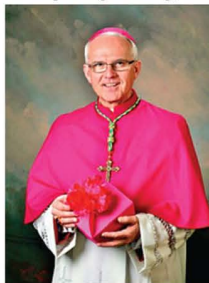
CALLED TO LOVE

is for YOU!

Registration Deadline!
September 9th

Look for more information in your parish bulletin. All the information and forms necessary for your participation, for childcare and for the Youth Rally are located at <http://www.rcdony.org> or <http://www.inspirecalledtolove.org>. What are you waiting for? Sign up today for this FREE event.

**The Most Rev.
Terry R. LaValley**
Bishop of Ogdensburg, NY



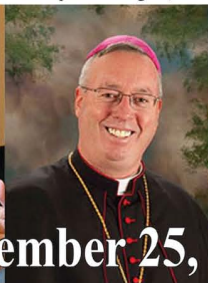
**The Most Rev.
Robert Barron**
Auxiliary Bishop
of Los Angeles, CA
Keynote Speaker



George Weigel
Author, Catholic Theologian



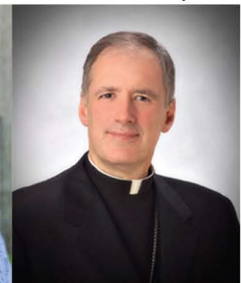
**The Most Rev.
Christopher Coyne**
Bishop of Burlington, VT



Jennifer Fulwiler
Author, Radio Host



**The Most Rev.
Paul-André Durocher**
Archbishop of Gatineau, Québec
Guest Homilist for Holy Mass



Sunday, September 25, 2016

LIVING STONES... FOUNDATIONS OF OUR PARISHES

A man of 'deep and tangible faith'

By Jocelyn Kelly
Contributing writer

FORT COVINGTON - Some of my earliest memories take me back to my grandfather's arms. Sturdy and safe, the sinewy limbs that embraced me belonged to Clarence Furnia, a hardworking man of humble means, quick wit and unforgettable sayings.

Visiting his home in Chateaugay was a joy of my childhood, for what youngster doesn't delight in the attention of a devoted grandfather?

Though small in stature, of diminutive French Canadian stock, my grandfather stood tall in my mind and even larger in my heart. His strong weathered hands were quick to reach down, lift me up and place me gently upon his lap or to fold around mine as we strolled down the sidewalk, stopping at the little bridge to throw stones in the creek or at Jake's Redhots for lunch.

That Grandpa indulged me was apparently no secret. Though one of many grandchildren, being the youngest in the only family that lived close by was seemingly enough to win his favor. I find no other explanation as I was a rather unruly tomboy who loved nothing more than to cover myself in coal dust from the railroad bed across the street or emerge muddy and water-logged from the creek behind his house.

In an attempt to alleviate some of the frustration I caused my parents, Grandpa wisely took me to Alix's one day and bought me my first pair of rubber boots. I cried when I had to take them off.



Clarence Furnia was born in Churubusco, Dec. 10, 1900. He married Mary Harness of Bellows Falls, Vt., in 1930. Clarence and Mary lived in Chateaugay and had eight children: Anna Mae, Clarence Jr. ("Sonny"), Bob, Jack (the author's father), Larry, Helen Marie, Janet and Bill. They owned Jake's Redhots, a roadside stand on Route 11, known for its "michigans." Clarence also worked at the Chateaugay Fish Hatchery. A Third Order Knight of Columbus, Clarence died on May 7, 1972. Hundreds of people made their way to the Furnia home on Monroe Street during his two-day wake to pay their respects.

Even at such a young age, I sensed that my grandfather's love for me was special. I can now articulate what I could then only intuit—his love was steadfast and enduring.

Despite my impulsive tendencies and selfishness, he was always eager to welcome me back into his gentle arms.

My willful ways were no match for his patience and generosity, helping me to



Jocelyn Kelly of Fort Covington writes about the powerful influence of her grandfather in the early development of her faith. Clarence Furnia died a week before Jocelyn, shown above in this family photo, made her First Communion.

understand the joy of forgiveness.

And as certain as I was of my grandfather's love of me, I was equally aware of his intense love of God.

A devout Catholic, his faith was deep and tangible. Grandpa never drove by a Catholic Church without making the Sign of the Cross.

Standing on the seat beside him as we pattered through town, I sensed the importance of this simple gesture. Leaning into his side, my arm draped around his neck, I became familiar with the deliberate movement of Grandpa's hand from forehead to breast, shoulder to shoulder.

The mystery of this gesture, repeated every time we passed the Church, created in me a sense of awe and curiosity.

Once I learned its meaning I was struck by Grandpa's reverence which, despite his unassuming nature, he displayed with conviction.

My grandfather, upon waking each morning and before retiring each

evening, fell to his knees, his prayers floating through his bedroom door, an example to all in the house. In a steady cadence, he would fill the air with the words of the rosary and his worn prayer book.

In addition to his disciplined prayer life, Grandpa also sought Christ through the Church, occasionally attending a second Mass on Sunday and, during the last decade of his life, becoming a daily communicant.

Taking to heart the Lord's promise of forgiveness through the sacrament of Confession, Grandpa made his way to St. Patrick's every Saturday afternoon in preparation for Sunday Mass. After receiving absolution and praying his penance, he would return home, bathe, put on clean clothes and fast until Mass on Sunday.

He was even known on occasion to trudge back to Church for a second confession after succumbing to his playful nature and telling a joke.

In the short time we were together, my grandfather clearly made a deep impression on me. My most vivid memory is of his last visit to our house just weeks before I was to receive my First Holy Communion. As he was getting ready to leave, my mother emerged from my bedroom holding my delicate white dress. I was struck then, and still am, by his beautiful response—tears of joy ran down his creased face.

Grandpa died unexpectedly exactly one week before I received the Eucharist for the first time but I was certain that day, as I approached the altar, that he was watching me.

The last time I saw my grandfather, he lay still in the casket in my grandparents' familiar living room, his rosary entwined in his strong weathered hands.

At seven I understood,

An Invitation

The *North Country Catholic* continues a series of stories about outstanding parishioners in the diocese from years gone by.

The series is inspired by Bishop LaValley's call for "Living Stones" in our parishes, people whose service outside their church reflects "what happens inside the sacred walls." The subjects are men and women who in effect were "stones" within their parishes.

We hope to make this fully representative of our parishes, but we can't do it without your help. Are you aware of somebody who was very active at promoting the faith in your parish years ago and who equally set a good example by his or her service to the community? Perhaps it was somebody in your family, possibly a parent or grandparent.

You are invited to research and write about your nominee. If writing is not your thing, tells us about your nominee, providing whatever material you may have, and we will take care of the rest.

Good photos of the nominee are welcomed, of course.

Submissions may be emailed to mkilian@rcdony.org, or mailed to The *North Country Catholic*, Post Office Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

with perfect ease and simplicity, the promise of eternal life for God's holy ones; I had no doubt my grandfather was in heaven.

More than 40 years later, as I recall those tender moments with Grandpa, I am astonished by the goodness of God. In his infinite wisdom and kindness he gave me a childhood gift, an example that helped guide me, decades later, back to the Church.

The faith and prayers of our ancestors are powerful tools in the hands of God. May we pray for them, ask their intercession, and thank them for being conduits of his merciful love.

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Deadline for mandatory registration is Sept. 9

Final plans set for *INSPIRE*

LAKE PLACID – The registration deadline for *INSPIRE: Called to Love*, set for Sept. 25 at the Olympic Arena Complex, is Sept. 9.

The event, lunch and parking are free of charge but require a reservation through www.inspirecalledtolove.com and or by contacting local parishes.

"World renowned Catholic speakers will be sharing dynamic presentations on the universal call of all Christians," organizers say. "A band will be energizing the teenagers during their youth

rally, and children under 11 will have activities custom-made to inspire and entertain them throughout the day."

Bishop Robert E. Barron, auxiliary bishop of Las Angeles and creator of the Catholicism mini-series featured on PBS, will serve as keynote speaker for the day.

The keynote presentation and closing Mass will take place in the Herb Brooks arena, site of the 1980 "Miracle on Ice."

Break-out sessions for adults will be hosted by Bishop Christopher Coyne of Vermont, chairman of the USCCB Communications Committee; Jennifer Fulwiler, a radio-host, wife/mother, and former atheist; and George Weigel, biographer for St. John Paul II.

The Youth Rally is designed for those in grades 6-12 with interactive events and a concert by Full Armor Band.

Child care activities are open to children from age 3 to 11.

The purpose of all presentations/activities is to lead participants to rediscover the call that each Christian was given at his or her baptism: the call to holiness. The day is designed to help participants discover (or rediscover) their vocations as married, single, ordained or religious.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the closing Mass, using the chalice of Pope Francis. The chalice was

made and provided to *INSPIRE* by the pope's friend, Adrián Pallarols, who will be on site for the event.

Bishop Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau, Québec, will preach the homily/

The choir will consist of 300 vocalists from across the North Country.

The venue is handicap accessible, but due to long distances between arenas, wheelchairs are encouraged as needed. All three arenas

and the adjacent high school will be utilized for the program.

Doors open at 9 a.m. for visiting with various vendors and exhibitors; the prayer and presentations begin at 10:30.



Silversmith Adrian Pallarols crafted a chalice for Pope Francis to commemorate his visit to New York City in September, 2105. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will use the chalice at the *INSPIRE: Called to Love* Mass Sept. 25 in Lake Placid. Pallarols of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a personal friend of Pope Francis, and will be attending the Lake Placid summit. Thousands of Catholics from the Diocese of Ogdensburg and neighboring dioceses have registered for *INSPIRE*. The deadline for registration is Sept. 9.

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!
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2016
BISHOP'S
FUND APPEAL

www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal

Diocesan development director offers advice:

Make a Will... join Memorare Legacy Society

By Scott Lalone

Executive Director, Development Office

Did you know without a Will, the state law decides how to distribute what you took a life time to earn?

Naming your own executor, avoiding estate taxes, avoiding probate, keeping peace within the family are just a few reasons and benefits of completing a Will. It's just taking that first step.

With August being National-Make-A-Will Month, what better time than now?

Over the years many individuals have made bequests - through their Wills or trusts - with the diocese, their parish, Catholic school, Catholic Charities, Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg and other ministries and institutions of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as one of their final beneficiaries.

Other donors who have been called home to God in

the past several years have used Charitable Gift Annuities, Endowment Gifts as well as their Wills to provide for the future of the Diocese.

In commemoration of their faithfulness and the commitment of those today and tomorrow who will make such gifts, in 2008 the Memorare Legacy Society was established. It is through this society that the Diocese of Ogdensburg will thank donors for their support of the diocese, parish or school, a diocesan program/ministry, the Bishop's Fund Appeal or to a Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The Memorare Legacy Society honors and recognizes the generosity and vision of those who have chosen to leave a legacy to the Diocese of Ogdensburg through estate or deferred gifts.

One qualifies for membership by designating a portion of his or her assets to pass at death to the any of the above mentioned. This

may be accomplished with a simple statement that you have remembered the Church in your will or similar document such as a trust, life insurance policy, charitable gift annuity, designation of an IRA or 401(k) or any other more complex transactions.

Members of this society are those who have informed the diocese of a planned gift that, in the future, will benefit the Diocese of Ogdensburg or any of its Parishes or programs.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Rest in Peace

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

- Aug. 31** – Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Rev. Albert R. Plante, 2000
Sept. 1 – Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955
Sept. 2 – Rev. Timothy J. Mahoney, 1938; Msgr. Claudius Sechi, 1966; Rev. Thomas G. Votraw, 2007; Rev. Floyd J. Bleaux, 2009
Sept. 3 – Rev. David W. Driscoll, O.S.A., 1963; Rev. John S. Branche, 2003
Sept. 4 – Rev. Walter J. Charbonneau, 1982; Msgr. Robert H. Groux, 2000
Sept. 5 – Rev. Arthur Tardiff, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. John Sullivan M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Louis C. Gardner, 2000
Sept. 6 – Rev. James Connor, 1930

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact: **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrienne 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

Bishop's Schedule

Aug. 31 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Sept. 2 – 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Sept. 3 – 4 p.m., Installation Mass for Reverend Donald Manfred as Pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Croghan; and St. Francis Solanus Church, Harrisville; at St. Stephen's Church.

Sept. 4 – 8:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 6 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Sept. 7 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Sept. 8 – 8:30 a.m., Opening School Mass and Visit at St. Mary's Church in Canton

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions: **Sept. 8** - 7:30 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall/SUNY Potsdam
Sept. 10 - 10 a.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh
Sept. 14 - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh
Sept. 14 - 6 p.m., St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga
Sept. 14 - 6:30 p.m., St. Alexander's School, Ticonderoga
Sept. 15 - 5:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena
Sept. 20 - 6 p.m., St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

Environmental Stewardship

What Time is it? (Part 1)

What time is it on planet earth? Members of the world community responded to this question when they met in Paris for COP21 Meeting last November.

In light of the scientific facts concerning climate change and the rising temperature of the oceans, nearly every country in the world, covering 99% of global emissions, sent representatives to Paris for the COP21 Meeting.T

They discussed ways to work together to lower carbon emissions that scientists have determined is the major human activity causing global warming. (To learn more: see: A Way Forward: Facing Climate Change produced by National Geographic and United Nations on YouTube 8 mins.)

While there is still debate to the causes of global warming, or even more disturbing, little mention of it at all in the issues facing our Nation, Pope Francis has spoken out strongly about this issue.

Supported by more than 90% of scientists world-wide, several former popes, Catholic Bishops and leaders of major religions around the world, Pope Francis states:

"The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. . . very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level. . . can create extreme situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas." Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes in lifestyle, production and consumption. "Laudato Si (#23 & 24)

What time is it for us? A time for prayer on Sept. 1 World Day of Prayer for Care for our Common Home.

A time to look for signs of change from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources in our local area.

Memorare Legacy Society Form

Requesting a brochure to be sent to you or by simply completing the membership form below and returning it makes you an automatic member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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As evidence of my/our desire to provide a legacy gift, I/we wish to inform that (name of beneficiary) _____

has been named in my/our estate plans.

In recognition of your intention, you will be enrolled into the Memorare Legacy Society.

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Return completed form to: Scott Lalone, Executive Director
 Development Office, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Mary Sue Arnold has offered music ministry in Essex County since the early 1970's

Organist honored after decades of service

By Tina Bigelow
Contributing writer

WILLSBORO - Mary Sue LaVallee Arnold, organist for several local churches in Essex County for 43 years, has retired with a celebration hosted by The Catholic Community of Westport, Elizabethtown, Willsboro and Essex.

Mary Sue moved to Willsboro with her family in the summer of 1966. At that

time, Father Frank McMahon was the pastor and Betty McGee was the very talented longtime organist at St. Philip of Jesus Catholic Church. Betty retired in 1972 and moved to Texas leaving St. Philip of Jesus with no music for the Mass.

Father Leo Wiley was assigned to take over as pastor with Father McMahon assisting and partially retired. Father Wiley asked Mary Sue if she would attempt playing the organ for the choir, but

because she had not played the piano for 20 years, and had never learned to play the organ, she declined the offer.

Very shortly after, Father Wiley was assigned to another parish and Father Paul Whitmore took his place. He had extensive background and talent in music, organ and voice. When he offered to give Mary Sue organ lessons, she graciously accepted.

It was at this time that guitars were being introduced into the Catholic churches, so Father Whitmore recruited Sue Bruno, Robin Blanchard and Lori Anderson to instruct and encourage this newly-formed choir with the organ and guitar accompaniment.

Two years later, he was assigned to a new parish, but before he left he introduced Mary Sue to Jim Conley who was organist for the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Port Henry and a music teacher at Moriah Central School.

After taking six lessons from him, she was on her own and practicing every day.

By 1978, Mary Sue's confidence and ability had improved, and she was asked to be the organist and choir director for the United Congregational Church in Willsboro.

Serving in that capacity for 18 years, she provided her music ministry on Sunday mornings for the United Congregational Church at 9:15 a.m. and then traveled over to St. Philip of Jesus just in time to play for their 11 a.m. service.

When St. Philip of Jesus moved their services to an earlier time, she decided to retire from the United Congregational Church.

As she continued to play for the Masses at St. Philip of Jesus, she also accepted many offers to play for weddings, funerals and special occasions for all the churches in Essex, Westport, Elizabethtown and Lewis.

In the early 90's, Betty Jean Wimet joined with her voice and guitar, setting the St. Philip of Jesus choir up with an organist and a guitar quartet accompaniment.

In 2006, when Father Scott Seymour took his assignment at St. Philip of Jesus, he

recruited pianist Christina Romero, choir director Penny Martin, and many new singers to prepare for St. Philip's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

This gave Mary Sue a rest from accompaniment and an opportunity to sing in the choir. However, two years later, she was back as the organist and the director of the choir when Christina and Penny were no longer available.

Due to vision and hearing impairments, she had to make the sad decision to retire completely.

She closes this chapter of her life with words of sadness and appreciation by saying that although she will sing with the choir as long as she is able, her music ministry as an organist has been a real blessing to her and that she will greatly miss the opportunity to play for the choir, priests, and church events.



Mary Sue LaVallee Arnold, who served as organist for churches in Essex County for more than 40 years, was recently honored at a retirement celebration hosted by The Catholic Community of Westport, Elizabethtown, Willsboro and Essex.

Make a Will

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

This ensures a continuous commitment of care to their Church, to the Church's vision and to the charitable works that flow from her missions through their thoughtful planned gift. Members' names will not be made public unless they specifically give their consent to do so.

Memorare Legacy members

Current members of the Memorare Legacy Society are: Monsignor Joseph

Aubin of Plattsburgh, Therese Bruyere of Ogdensburg, Reverend Daniel Chapin, Reverend Douglas Comstock of Alexandria Bay, Mrs. Judith Kelly of Lady Lake Florida, Ms. Sharon Kelly of Lowville, Miss Helen Knepp of Ogdensburg, Reverend Arthur LaBaff, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Lalone of Ogdensburg, Reverend Gilbert Menard of Plattsburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Pearson of Watertown, Monsignor Leonard Poissant of Keeseville, Deacon and Mrs. William Frances Raven of Black

River, Deacon Bernard Slate of Clayton, Miss Kathleen St. Denis of Plattsburgh, Reverend Bryan Stitt of Malone, Reverend Richard Sturtz of Schroon Lake, Mr. Joseph Tebo of Ogdensburg as well as several who prefer their intentions to remain anonymous.

It is easy to become a member of the Memorare Legacy Society. Requesting a brochure to be sent to you or by simply completing the membership form on page 6 and returning it makes you an automatic member.



CAR RAFFLE

Our Annual Car Raffle is underway. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. They are also available at the rectory Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drawing will be held after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 9, 2016 and the winner may choose the car or \$15,000 in cash.

The price for the ticket is \$20 or six (6) tickets for \$100 with all proceeds going to St. Agnes School.

The car this year is a 2016 Subaru Outback fully equipped from Jerry Strack of Central Garage here in Lake Placid.

If you wish to buy tickets by mail, please fill out the form & enclose your check made out to **St. Agnes Church**

ST. AGNES CHURCH
169 HILLCREST AVE
LAKE PLACID, NY 12946

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Telephone _____

Number of Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____

\$20 EACH or 6 for \$100

You do not have to be present to win.

NCC

What is mercy?

By Andrew Lauria
Staff writer

Recently I had the pleasure of speaking on a small panel with a group of young middle school students about mercy. They had just finished reading a book that was a compilation of various stories that illustrated the mercy of God acting in powerful and personal ways.

So as to prepare for this panel I began to think deeply about the essence and nature of mercy as informed by my own personal experience as a human person that is loved in an immense way by his Creator.

While a lot of attention has been given to the subject in this Year of Mercy, it wasn't until now that I really prayed and spent time reflecting on my own experience or mercy.

And this is what I have discovered:

Mercy is a very difficult thing to try to explain in specific words but it seems that people have a very real sense of what it is. Some are more inclined to the presence of mercy, maybe those who are more observant or sensitive but everyone, even a hard-headed, stubborn, miserable person knows mercy when they encounter it.



So, we can begin by saying that mercy is something that is universally recognized but can be difficult to fully explain in an effort to understand it.

Mercy seems to be something that we encounter: it is outside of ourselves, somehow existing in a space that rests between our emotions and reason. It isn't mysterious, rather it is very real and its realness may be

its greatest mystery. It seems to come to us in as much as it is given and received for it cannot be forced or taken. Mercy is like a rope in such a way that you cannot push it but when employed properly, under tension, it holds much weight.

Mercy seems also to be something that is very personal, at every level, whenever we encounter it. Mercy

is never owed to anyone or any situation. You cannot possess mercy. Mercy can be learned but not created. In a more legal sense, mercy is never justice for justice is given to each what he is due. Mercy then is giving to someone what they do not deserve.

Mercy is not illusive; it is not strange, exclusive, or closed-off. Again, it is never due and never owed. It is

permanent and does not change when acted upon by an outside force. Mercy is impossibly robust, strong, convinced and unwavering. It cannot be destroyed. Mercy is an energy that cannot be created or destroyed. Mercy has a definitive source in the Divine for it is outside of our capacity as human persons to create such a thing ourselves.

Mercy is naturally cultivated in people that desire virtue. It is a gift that is grown inside of you, a gift that, like a wild flower, cannot be picked and given away until fully mature and in bloom. Mercy is given in front of a good conscience and is always the result of an act of goodwill. When received, mercy is both heavy and light as it demands it creates a permanence in the mind while lifting the burden of the heart.

Finally, it seems that mercy is naturally mysterious because it isn't generated by us. This is the same experience of wonder or awe. These experiences are not created by us but rather we participate in them; they call us out of ourselves. And as Catholics we believe that this calling comes from a personal God who is always calling us back to Him.

Mercy is to hear this call and offer to communicate it in joy to others.

Diocesan Catholics live out the works of mercy

When Pope Francis opened the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in December, 2015, he told Catholics around the world, "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a well-spring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it."

"Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life," Pope Francis said, "All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy."

"The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love," Pope Francis continued "The Church 'has an end-

less desire to show mercy."

Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg share in that endless desire to show mercy.

Story ideas are welcome

In a new series "God's Mercy in God's Country," the *North Country Catholic* will explore many of the ways this is happening across the diocese.

Following the direction of Pope Francis, we will "reflect on the corporal works of mercy," through articles that show how Catholics in northern New York feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the

sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

We begin the series with a reflection "What is mercy?" by *NCC* writer Andrew Lauria of Wells.

Next week's paper will feature an article showing how Plattsburgh parishioners are feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty.

This will be followed by stories of people in Watertown burying the dead, in Saranac Lake caring for the sick, in Malone visiting the imprisoned and so on.

The editor welcomes articles and suggestions for articles to insure that every part of the diocese is represented. Material may be sent to Mary Lou Kilian at mkilian@rcdony.org.

Celebrating the Sisters of St. Joseph

Parish aims to 'build a culture of vocations where Church vocations are encouraged and celebrated'

By Kathleen Lauzon
Parishioner, St. Mary's, Fort Covington

FORT COVINGTON - Bishop Terry LaValley called on Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg "to build a culture where Church vocations are encouraged and celebrated."

Parishioners of St. Mary's of the Fort did just that on Aug. 14 as the parish enjoyed a celebration in gratitude and appreciation for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Tom Kornmeyer, pastor, celebrated Mass assisted by Deacon Brian Dwyer with St. Mary's choir leading the music.

After Mass, parishioners and six Sisters of St. Joseph gathered for a lunch and a visit down memory lane at St. Mary's Parish Center, which served as the Catholic School from 1957 to 1971.

Parishioners and the Sisters provided memorabilia (including a pre-Vatican II habit). Shared pictures and stories brought back wonderful memories.

The Sisters of St. Joseph who took part in the cele-

bration were Sister Mary Eamon, major superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph; Sister Mary Christine, Sister Noel Chabanel, Sister Suanne Johnson, Sister Shirley Ann Brown (who is from Fort Covington) and Sister Marie Cordata (who taught at St. Mary's).

Personal reflection about the day

How wonderful to have Sisters in our church and school/parish center again. Our thoughts and prayers were with other Sisters who were unable to come: those who taught us, and those from our parish.

These holy, dedicated women showed us how to "know, love and serve God." As Father Kornmeyer said, the foundation they laid here is still very evident today. If only our children could have the same opportunity today. So now it is our turn to pass this treasure along.

The Vocations Committee has accepted that task. We are working to raise vocation awareness among all parishioners.

We have initiated a Family Rosary campaign. Each week a large rosary is passed from family to family. While the rosary is in their home, they are asked

to pray for holy vocations to the priesthood, religious life, single life and sacramental marriage. We are now in our tenth month of this prayer.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will call men and women from our parish to enter the consecrated life. We will do all that we can to assist those He has chosen.



St. Joseph Sister Shirley Ann Brown of Hammond, a native of Fort Covington, greets some old friends at the Aug. 14 celebration of the Sisters of St. Joseph sponsored by St. Mary's of the Fort Parish in Fort Covington. From left are George Lauzon, Norma Lauzon, whose mother, Mrs. Smith, taught at St. Mary's School; Sister Shirley Ann and Pat Black.



Kayla Stark and Mary Beth Stark spend some time with Sister Marie Cordata Kelly who taught at St. Mary's School



The Sisters of St. Joseph who attended the Fort Covington celebration of their order were, from left, Sister Mary Christine Taylor, Sister Marie Cordata Kelly, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, Sister Suanne Johnson, Sister Shirley Ann Brown and Sister Noel Chabanel Hentz.

Pope: Receive forgiveness in confession

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- God's mercy is poured out upon the repentant so that they can change and grow, sharing mercy with others and helping build families, neighborhoods and societies where people learn to forgive, Pope Francis said.

"One is reconciled in order to reconcile," the pope said in a message to bishops, priests and church workers attending Italy's annual week of liturgical studies.

"All liturgy is a place



CNS/PAUL HARING

A priest hears a confession in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, April 28, 2014. God's mercy is highlighted in the sacrament of reconciliation, Pope Francis said in a message to bishops, priests and church workers attending Italy's annual week of liturgical studies.

where mercy is encountered and accepted in order to be given, the place where the great mystery of reconciliation is made present, proclaimed, celebrated and communicated," said the papal message, released by the Vatican Aug. 22.

In order to learn to forgive others

Of course, he said, the gift of God's mercy is highlighted and experienced in a special way in the sacrament of penance or reconciliation.

Although the repentance and absolution are personal, he said, "God's mercy cannot be sealed up in inimitic and self-consoling attitudes because its power is seen in its ability to renew people and make them capable of offering others a living experience of the same gift."

Catholics must be helped to see that when they are forgiven, they must learn to forgive others, the pope's message said. The world needs "witnesses of mercy in every sphere," people who can help others desire and learn how to forgive.

"This is a task to which we are all called, especially in the face of the bitterness that entraps too many people who need to find again the joy of interior serenity and the taste of peace," he said.

The rite of the sacrament of reconciliation, the pope said, must be experienced as "a door, not only to re-enter after being away, but also as a threshold open toward the various peripheries of a humanity increasingly in need of compassion."

Historic Louisiana flooding may change region forever

By Richard Meek
Catholic News Service

BATON ROUGE, LA. (CNS) - Water lapped at the heels of Father Michael Galea, steady rain an arduous reminder of Mother Nature's unfinished business.

With a sadness in his voice, Father Galea, pastor at Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant, estimated that as many as 90 percent of his parishioners were impacted during the recent historic flooding that touched nearly every corner of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

"It's going to change the whole dynamic of Holy Rosary as a parish as we know it," Father Galea told The Catholic Commentator, the diocesan newspaper. "It's not going to be the same. And we are going to lose quite a bit of people if they choose to move away."

"But hopefully with love and compassion and a lot of hugs we can become a family all over again. That is what is most important is for us to be together again."

Coming together as a family, whether it is a community, church parish or simply a family dinner, is a question many are asking in the wake of the floods that in some area dumped 20 inches of rain in as many hours. The carnage is stunning.

In Central, it is estimated 27,000 out of 28,000 people were impacted, leaving some to speculate if the suburban community will be able to recover.

In Livingston Parish, a civil jurisdiction, at least 75 percent of residents suffered some type of water damage, with most of the destruction major. Residents in the civil jurisdictions of East Baton Rouge, Ascension and Tangipahoa parishes also were forced to dig out.

Much of Zachary was damaged, as the wide swath of destruction seems endless. In the aftermath many resi-



CNS PHOTO/JONATHAN BACHMAN, REUTER
A statue of Mary is seen partially submerged in flood water in Sorrento, La., Aug. 20.

dential streets appeared to be mere passes surrounded by mountains of debris. And the stench permeates one's pores, a smell that eventually subsides but never leaves.

Schools were closed, many for weeks, and businesses were struggling to reopen. Curfews were enacted in civil parishes throughout to lessen the threat of looting in the impacted areas.

Some estimates are as high as 100,000 homes damaged, with thousands fleeing to evacuation shelters. The floodwaters claimed 13 lives, and many others survived only after being rescued from their rooftops, reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina 11 years ago.

According to Joe Ingraham, chief financial officer for the Baton Rouge Diocese, six churches took on water and the parish schools at two of those also were damaged. Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School, which opened in August, was inundated with 4 feet of water and has to relocate.

Although the damage was widespread and costly, Ingra-

ham managed to see the silver lining in the storm clouds that blanketed the area for nearly a week.

"It could have been worse, when you see four churches out of 71 severely damaged," Ingraham said. "The worst thing is the damage to our parishioners and their homes."

The storm, which first began to unleash its nearly weeklong fury Aug. 12, packed a one-two wallop that drove water into areas that had never experienced flooding. Initially, torrential rains from the slow-moving system initially caused street flooding, which also forced water into homes.

But the greater damage came in the days that followed as area rivers overflowed their banks and flowed unfettered into neighborhoods, businesses and even major thoroughfares.

At one point, Interstates 10 and 12, the two main arteries in and out of Baton Rouge, were closed. Along I-12, some motorists were trapped in their cars for more than 30 hours, presenting a unique opportunity for ministry for Father Jamin David, pastor at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Albany.

After surveying the 20 acres encompassing the parish grounds, Father David's focus shifted to the stranded motorists, who were without food, water or even a bathroom.

"We opened up our facilities to everyone," Father David said. "It became a humanitarian effort. Really, it was the multiplication of the fishes."

Even as the waters continued to rise, donations, in the form of cash, clothes, gift cards, cleaning supplies and other necessities began to filter in from all over the world. On Aug. 23, the Knights of Columbus donated \$200,000 to the diocese and another \$30,000 to the Knights' Louisiana State Council.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope leads 11,000 pilgrims praying rosary for quake victims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- After a strong earthquake struck central Italy and with the early news reporting many deaths and serious damage, Pope Francis turned his weekly general audience Aug. 24 into a prayer service. While the pope and some 11,000 pilgrims and tourists recited the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary in St. Peter's Square, six Vatican firefighters were on their way to the town of Amatrice, about 85 miles east of Rome, to help search for victims under the rubble. The pope sent six Vatican police officers to join them the next day. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.2 quake had an epicenter close to Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict and home to a monastery of Benedictine monks, who are attracting a growing number of visitors because of their solemn prayer life and beer brewing business. The monks and their guests were all safe, but the monastery and Basilica of St. Benedict suffered serious structural damage. Smaller tremors - at least two of which registered more than 5.0 - continued even 24 hours after the main quake. By early Aug. 26, Italian officials said the death toll had reached 267, and 260 people were hospitalized with quake-related injuries. Rescuers had been able to pull 238 people out of the rubble. When Pope Francis arrived in St. Peter's Square for his general audience just six hours after the main quake, he set aside his prepared audience talk and instead spoke of his "heartfelt sorrow and my closeness" to everyone in the earthquake zone, especially those who lost loved ones and "those who are still shaken by fear and terror." "Having heard the mayor of Amatrice say, 'The town no longer exists,' and knowing that there are children among the dead, I am deeply saddened," Pope Francis said.

Suspect sought in murders of nuns who worked at Mississippi clinic

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Police continued to search for the killer of two women religious who spent years caring for poor people as nurse practitioners in central Mississippi. Sister Margaret Held, 68, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, and Sister Paula Merrill, 68, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, were found stabbed to death Aug. 25 in their Durant, Mississippi, home, police said. The sisters had worked at the Lexington Medical Clinic in Lexington, about 10 miles from the house they shared. Warren Strain, spokesman for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, said police discovered a car missing from the nuns' home the evening of Aug. 25 on a secluded street about a mile from where the women were found dead. Police officers discovered the women's bodies after co-workers called asking to check on them after they failed to report for work at the clinic. "These were just two wonderful faith-filled women who just brought so much life to this poor little section of Mississippi. They and so many of the sisters who have come down here throughout the years are the unsung heroes," said Franciscan Father Greg Plata, sacramental administrator of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Lexington, where the sisters participated in parish life.

Retired Pope Benedict says it was his 'duty' to resign from papacy

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Retired Pope Benedict XVI said in an interview that he felt a "duty" to resign from the papacy because of his declining health and the rigorous demands of papal travel.

While his heart was set on completing the Year of Faith, the retired pope told Italian journalist Elio Guerriero that after his visit to Mexico and Cuba in March 2012, he felt he was "incapable of fulfilling" the demands of another international trip, especially with World Youth Day 2013 scheduled for Brazil.

"With the program set out by John Paul II for these (World Youth) days, the physical presence of the pope was indispensable," he told Guerriero in an interview, which is included in the journalist's upcoming biography of Pope Benedict.

"This, too, was a circumstance which made my resignation a duty," the pope said.

An excerpt of Guerriero's book, "Servant of God and Humanity: The Biography of Benedict XVI," was published Aug. 24 in the Italian newspaper, La Repubblica.

Pope Benedict said that although he was moved by the "profound faith" of the people of Mexico and Cuba, it was during his visit to the two countries in 2012 that he "experienced very strongly the limits of my physical endurance."

Among the problems with committing to the grueling schedule of an international trip was the change in time zones.

Upon consulting with his doctor, he said, it became clear "that I would never be able to take part in the World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro."

"From that day, I had to de-

cide in a relatively short time the date of my retirement," he said.

**...because of his declining
health and the rigorous
demands of papal travel**

Guerriero noted that while many believed the pope's retirement was a defeat for the church, Pope Benedict continues to seem "calm and confident." The retired pope said he "completely agreed" with the journalist's observation.

"I would have been truly worried if I was not convinced - as I had said in the beginning of my pontificate - of being a simple and humble worker in the Lord's vineyard," he said.

The retired pope added that while he was aware of his limitations, he accepted his election in 2005 "in a spirit of obedience" and that despite the difficult moments, there were also "many graces."

"I realized that everything I had to do I could not do on my own and so I was almost obliged to put myself in God's hands, to trust in Jesus who - while I wrote my book on him - I felt bound to by an old and more profound friendship," he said.

The retired pontiff spends his days in prayer and contemplation while residing at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery in Vatican City. For 19 years, different contemplative orders took turns living in the monastery with a mission focused on praying for the pope and the church.

Benedict said that upon learning that the Visitandine nuns would be leaving the residence, he realized "almost naturally that this would be the place where I

could retire in order to continue in my own way the service of prayer of which John Paul II had intended for this house."

Among the visitors Pope Benedict receives is Pope Francis, who "never fails to visit me before embarking on a long trip," he said.

Asked about his personal relationship with his successor, Pope Benedict said they shared a "wonderfully paternal-fraternal relationship" and he has been profoundly touched by his "extraordinarily human availability."

"I often receive small gifts, personally written letters" from Pope Francis, he said. "The human kindness with which he treats me is a particular grace of this last phase of my life for which I can only be grateful. What he says about being open toward other men and women is not just words. He puts it into practice with me."

Pope Francis, who wrote the book's preface, expressed his admiration for the retired pope and said his spiritual bond with his predecessor "remains particularly profound."

"In all my meetings with him, I have been able to experience not only reverence and obedience, but also friendly spiritual closeness, the joy of praying together, sincere brotherhood, understanding and friendship, and also his availability for advice," Pope Francis wrote.

The church's mission of proclaiming the merciful love of God for the world, he added, has and continues to be exemplified in the life of Pope Benedict.

"The whole life of thought and the works of Joseph Ratzinger have focused on this purpose and -- in the same direction, with the help of God -- I strive to continue," Pope Francis wrote.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Why do bad things happen to good people?

"Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends?"

How would love to know the answer to that question, especially when a friend dies in a car accident, or a close relative is struck down with a life-threatening illness at a young age!

What was God thinking of when He allowed so much evil to happen.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Why do bad things happen to good people?

The first reading today from the Book of Wisdom asks the same questions, but fails to give us very satisfying answers.

It does, however, tells that when we are in real need of God's guidance, He sends his Holy Spirit, and "thus were the paths of those on earth made straight".

Often when with confi-

dent faith we plead, "Come, Holy Spirit..." light will lift us and enter into our confusion.

God will show us a way out of the darkness.

In the Gospel, Jesus demands of His followers total and complete obedience, choosing decisively to love Him more than we love our own families.

This means taking up whatever cross of suffering or trial He offers to us.

It means growing in detachment from our possessions,

Sept. 4

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 9:13-18b

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Luke 14:25-33

There is a cost to discipleship, but His wisdom and love will sustain us at the same time. Jesus warns us that this takes planning.

Have we amassed enough resources to last a lifetime?

Using the example of a person building a tower, a man must have enough materials to finish the job. Otherwise, those witness the project will laugh, saying, "This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish."

Constant prayer, reading of Scripture, and trust in His Providence will provide all we need. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, shows us the way of wisdom.

Tough advice this Sunday for those who aspire to be followers of Christ.

DO YOU LOVE ME? KEEP MY COMMANDS

Of moms and dads and the 4th Commandment

When I was four a contractor was working in our house. The man was over six feet tall and when he noticed me staring he asked if I ever saw such a tall man. I said "My Dad is taller. My Dad is the tallest man on the whole street." At five feet, nine inches, my Dad was actually one of the shortest.

When I was about eight-years-old I fell off of a jungle gym in the neighbor's yard and broke my arm. My Dad vaulted the fence to help me and it must have been impressive to me because I kept telling people how my Dad jumped over the fence in just one jump to help me.

When I was in college my Dad gave me his car so I could go back and forth from school. The car broke

down while I was on my way home one weekend. I didn't have much money on me and I didn't know what to do so I called my Dad.

We are able to love because we were loved first. We share the love we learn from our parents with the rest of the world

He had made plans for the evening, but he put those aside and drove out to meet me. He made arrangements to get the car towed to a garage, and when we arrived, he helped the mechanic push the car into position, without being asked, while I just stood there watching.

The mechanic made the repair and my Dad paid for everything. When we got home, my Dad added me to his credit card in case I had an emergency in the future.

At every point of my life my Dad has demonstrated his love for me, but because my parents divorced when I was a teen, there were times in my life when it was difficult for me to recognize or acknowledge my father's love for me.

When I was teaching the Fourth Commandment to eighth graders I used to have my students do an assignment that involved making a chart of their life up to age 70, divided into five year increments. I asked them to describe what it meant to keep the Fourth Commandment, to "honor your father and mother," when they were five, ten, 15, 20 etc. all the way up to 70.

It's unrealistic to expect a 13-year-old to know the intricacies of life, the sacrifices, the struggles, the pains and the joys of keeping the Fourth Commandment throughout an entire lifetime, so I made them do this assignment with their parents and I told them they could consult their grandparents too if they wanted.

This turned out to be one of their favorite assignments and it generated a great deal of discussion, for example:

- What if you are angry at one or both of your parents?

- What if your parents have done really bad things

to you or other people?

- What if you are adopted? Do you have to honor your biological parents or your adoptive parents?

- What if your parents are divorced? Do you have to honor your stepmother or stepfather?

Sometimes I would address these questions directly, but many times I would say "Go back, talk about this again with your parents and come back and tell me what they said."

Parents are their children's first teachers and the Church prays that they may also be their best teachers. The job of the parent is to help their children grow closer to God.

Being a good teacher means presenting information to the students in ways that are appropriate to their stage of development, repeating lessons until they are learned, modeling the behaviors you want to see in the student and correcting them when they make mistakes.

Good teachers also care about their students person-

ally, but parents provide a level of care and nurturing for their children that would be inappropriate for teachers to provide.

In addition, the relationship between student and teacher is usually only for a specific period of time, but the relationship of parent to child is lifelong, through all the changing phases of life.

As parents age, the role of caregiver often shifts from parent to their adult offspring. For some elderly parents, this can bring on feelings of sadness or humiliation because they believe themselves to be a burden on loved ones they are accustomed to providing for.

But elderly parents continue to provide opportunities for their children to grow closer to God through their acts of loving care. We are able to love because we were loved first. We share the love we learn from our parents with the rest of the world. We can truly say, "that which was from the beginning (of our lives), which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have gazed upon and touched with our own hands, this we share with you."



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

AT THE MOVIES

DON'T BREATHE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Moviegoers with long memories may recall director Terence Young's 1967 adaptation of Frederick Knott's play "Wait Until Dark" in which Audrey Hepburn portrayed a blind housewife forced to defend herself against three sighted thugs.

The film's premise -- involving a doll stuffed with heroin that Hepburn's character, Susy Hendrix, had innocently come into possession of -- may have been flimsy.

But the confrontations to which it led, in which Susy proved remarkably resourceful at tilting the battlefield against her adversaries, had viewers in danger of slipping off their seats.

Lo, the years have passed, and director and co-writer Fede Alvarez's generally effective but sometimes nasty thriller, "Don't Breathe" (Screen Gems), turns out to have a great deal more in common with Young's movie than just a title in the imperative mood.

Once again we have a trio of home invaders, this time made up of youthful friends -- and partners in petty crime -- Rocky (Jane Levy),

Alex (Dylan Minnette) and Money (Daniel Zovatto).

And once more have a sightless victim waiting in the wings in the person of a reclusive veteran (Stephen Lang) the script, penned with Rodo Sayagues, never names.

As the purloining pals quickly discover, though, their supposedly easy mark is no Audrey Hepburn, in-trepid or otherwise.

A sympathetic figure in theory -- he's been targeted by the burgling buddies because of a large legal settlement he was awarded after his young daughter was killed by a reckless driver -- he's actually a homicidal loon with well-honed combat skills.

Add to that the fact that his house is the only inhabited dwelling in an abandoned area of Detroit, and that it's watched over by a ferocious guard dog, and it's pretty clear just how soon the tables will be turned on the amateurish thieves.

Alvarez is fairly restrained in his presentation of the mayhem that follows. Though blood flows, it's measurable in ounces not bucket loads.

Yet, as the action progresses plot developments

begin to strain the laws of logic. More significantly, perverse behavior and the horror equivalent of gross-out humor creep in -- and creep out the audience in a way those seeking casual entertainment are unlikely to appreciate.

The film contains intense violence with some gore, a disturbing sequence involving a bizarre sexual assault, brief scatological humor, a couple of uses of profanity, much rough and crude language and an obscene gesture.

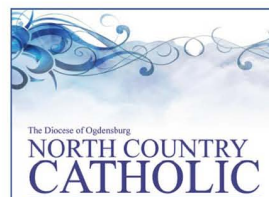
The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



CNS PHOTO/SONY

Stephen Lang star in a scene from the movie "Don't Breathe."



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Offering of Sufferings
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inspires you to offer Him

September



Our Lady
of Sorrows

DIocese OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

SEPTEMBER 2016

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ADIRONDACK

FALL RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Fall Weekend retreat for adults to be held.

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Dates: Sept. 16-18

Cost: Suggested Offering \$145

Theme: "Pondering the 'Gospel of Creation' *(taken from Laudato Si)

Features: Facilitated by Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ and will include a guided nature walk by Paul Gabaldi, Adirondack guide and published nature photographer, times to pray and to share with others the spiritual wisdom revealed by God in Autumn. Mass will be offered by Fr. Paul Kelly during the weekend.

Contact: Space limited. For more information, call 315-212-6592 or email sr-bethsjs@gmail.com.

CLINTON

TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's to have their Annual Roast Turkey Dinner.

Date: Sept. 11

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post 1623

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$7; under 5, Free; EMT's, Firefighters & Police Offices will be offered Free dinners.

Features: 50/50 and raffle tickets to be sold. Take-outs available by calling 735-4372 or 593-7567.

Contact: For more info, call 593-2052

SETON SCHOOLS

Plattsburgh - Families of students from Pre-Kindergarten (3 & 4 year olds) through Grade 12 can arrange for a private, personalized campus tour.

Contact: Development Office at (518) 561-4031 or email admissions@thesetonschools.org.

HOST PARENTS WANTED

Plattsburgh - Seton Catholic is seeking host families for international students

Features: Seton is currently accepting applications for fall 2016. Each family receives a monthly stipend to offset the expense of hosting a student.

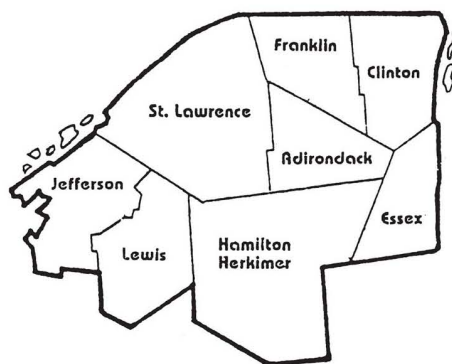
Contact: (518) 561-4041.

CLOTHES, SHOES DONATION CENTER

Plattsburgh - Drop unwanted clothes, shoes, sheets, blankets, bedspreads, towels, curtains and stuffed animals in our BLUE drop box.

Place: Seton Catholic

Features: Seton receive 5 cents per pound of donations. You can also donate cans and bottles in our redemption box.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

PROGRAMS AT OLA

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

FRANKLIN

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Brushton – St. Mary's Church events committee to have a breakfast buffet.

Date: Sept. 11

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, \$25 (Mother, Father, and school age children)

Contact: For take-outs 518-529-6580

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Burke – St. George's Church will hold a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Sept. 18

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: Raffle on prizes of \$100 - \$75 - \$50 for donation of \$1 each.

SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held the first Saturday of each month.

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Contact: 518-856-9656

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

Old Forge – Discerning men are invited to consider the call to the priesthood.

Dates: Sept 4 and 18; Oct 2, 16, 30; Nov 13; Dec 4; Jan 29; Feb 12; Mar 5; Apr 2 and 23; May 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Bartholomew's Rectory

Features: Reflection, Vespers & dinner.

Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.

Contact: If you plan to attend or for more info contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com/ 315-369-3554; or Fr. Bryan Stitt, bstitt@rc-dony.org.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River K of C to have a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

Date: Sept. 10

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish center

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Evans Mills – Knights of Columbus Council 7471 is again leading an adult Bible study course this fall.

Date: Eight Wednesdays beginning Sept. 14

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: The topic is the Epistle to the Galatians. Jeff Cavins, a nationally known Scripture instructor, will be our lecturer via DVD. Knights will head up discussions of outside reading and homework. Catholics from any parish are welcome. The parishes of St. Mary's-St. Joseph's-St. Theresa's pay for all course materials and provide free refreshments.

Contact: We request that students register beforehand at 767-1065 to allow time to order the appropriate number of workbooks.

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Mon.-Fri.

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

Features: The office has a variety of pro-life videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – September Divine Mercy devotions will be held.

Date: Sept. 4

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

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

Contact: 348-6260

PARISH BUS TRIP

Loville – St. Peter's is sponsoring a bus trip to benefit Loaves and Fishes.

Date: Oct. 10-12

Place: Samson the biblical being presented at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster PA.

Cost: \$389 for 40 or more and \$404 for less than 40.

Features: This trip includes The performance of Samson, 2 nights stay, 2 breakfast, 2 dinners, Guided tour of the Amish Countryside and more. We will pick up in Lewis and Jefferson County.

Contact: Nadine Logan 315-376-7391. Nlogan@twcnr.com

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – First Saturday Rosary to be held.

Date: Sept. 3

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: The Rosary followed by a 15-minute private Meditation. Confession will be available starting at 2:45. The Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4 p.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: Sept 4 and 18; Oct 2, 16, 30; Nov 13; Dec 4; Jan 29; Feb 12; Mar 5; Apr 2 and 23; May 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Features: Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.

Contact: Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Stephen Rocker, pastorsmsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcnr.com or Fr. Bryan Stitt, bstitt@rcdony.org.

MANICOTTI MONDAY

Norfolk – Manicotti Monday has been canceled for the month of September and will resume in Oct.

Date: Oct. 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9.75; Under 5, Free

Features: Serving homemade meat-filled manicotti and/or homemade spaghetti and meatballs. The meal includes the main course, tossed salad, Italian bread, beverage and dessert.

Contact: Laurie at 315-384-4242

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
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Gratitude: never taking something for granted

By Molly Ryan
Diocesan Mission office

The average American family will spend roughly \$100 per student on school supplies this year - and that is not including school clothes, according to the National Retail Federation.

As I researched briefly for this article, the word gratitude comes to mind. Gratitude for so much and even more for so much that we maybe take for granted. I hope that our returning students to schools across our diocese are grateful to their parents for providing school supplies to facilitate a year of learning. Gratitude to the facilities that will house them as they learn and grow throughout the school year. Gratitude for the teachers and staff who will guide them on their sometimes difficult journeys.

As students are finishing summer jobs, beginning Fall sports, purchasing their own school supplies, sneakers and back packs, I hope that they have a heart filled with gratitude. Yes, gratitude that they have the ability to play and work and earn money. Yes, gratitude that there are employment opportunities available. Gratitude that there are resources easily available and accessible.

Working in the Mission office, we hear stories about the children in our developing lands. For instance, in Mollendo, Peru home of our former Mission Parish, children in schools there are blessed if they have only one notebook and one pencil. The struggles that students in developing countries endure are countless, and the lack of access to school supplies is only one of them. You see, textbooks for courses are not available to each student. They must share and do not get to bring them home. Sometimes they are outdated and old.

This is such a departure from what our students here encounter in our schools. For Peruvians, their one notebook and pencil is a respected treasure. Many students in Peru have summer jobs that pay little or in some cases nothing. School clothes and new back packs are a luxury.

While the struggle continues for students in developing countries, they continue to be grateful for what they receive through the mission appeals and collections by the people of our diocese. Additionally our Catholic school students and religious education program enrollees are generous with their time and treasure through donations to the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). In great hopes that our pending generosity this school year will make for a fruitful learning experience for students living far away. Gratitude. That is what we in the Mission Office have for all you. Thank you again for all you do and all you will do this year. Good luck!

OBITUARIES

Leo Giroux

PLATTSBURGH - A Mass of Christina Burial for Leo Giroux, 92, was held Aug. 23 at St. Peter's Church with his grandson, Father Joseph W. Giroux of Malone presiding. Mr. Giroux died Aug. 19 at his home; burial was in the parish cemetery.

In 2013, Mr. Giroux was honored by Pope Francis with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross for distinguished service to the Church.

He was born in Plattsburgh April 23, 1924, the son of Wilfred and Corine (Guay) Giroux. He married Theresa Bedard June 8, 1946 in St. Joseph's in West Chazy.

Mr. Giroux was a dairy and poultry farmer, served as a Justice of the Peace, Plattsburgh Town Councilman and a founding member of District 3 Fire Department. A devout Catholic, he was an active member of St. Peter's Church.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Theresa, Plattsburgh, their children; Joseph (Carolyn) Giroux, John (Rosemary) Giroux, Marcel (Gail) Giroux, George (Debra) Giroux, Lucy Giroux and Patty Gallagher, all of Plattsburgh, Kathryn Giroux of Essex Junction, VT, Philip (Pam) Bronder-Giroux of Malden, MA, and Marian (Ken) Knox of Amherst, NY, his siblings; Pauline Fisher, Marguerite (Rodney) Collins, and Roger Giroux, his sister-in-law Anita Giroux, all of Chazy; 26 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Giroux was predeceased by a daughter Monica Giroux, a son Lawrence Giroux, his siblings; Sarto Giroux, Paula Giroux, Royal Giroux, and Marie Labine

Memorial donations may be made to Seton Academy, The New York Covenant House, or Hospice of the North Country.

Brushton - Phyllis J. (Cramer) Kirk, 73; Funeral Services Aug. 24, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Santa Clara Cemetery.

Gouverneur - Mary Jane (Hobart) Jones, 73; Funeral Services Aug. 20, 2016 at the Green Funeral Home; burial in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Heuvelton - Norman F. Drummond, 93; Funeral Services Aug. 24, 2016 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Hogansburg - Priscilla A. "Bulla" (Lazore) Herne, 48; Funeral Services Aug. 27, 2016 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville - Robert Sarfino Riani, 79; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2016 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Keene - Jim McDonough, 86; Funeral Services Aug. 23, 2016 at St. Brendan's Church.

Lyon Mountain - Thomas Alexander, 82; Funeral Services Aug. 22, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church.

Lyon Mountain - Shirley (Garrow) Pageau, 85; Funeral Services Aug. 25, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Massena - Jane E. Carville, 59; Funeral Services Aug. 25, 2016 at the Phillips Memorial; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Shirley M. (Goodreau) Moniere, 73; Funeral Services Aug. 24, 2016 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Katherine A. Mullins Rublack, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 23, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Nicholas Cemetery, Lodi, NJ.

Morrisville - Frederick W. Balko, 81; Funeral services Aug. 22, 2016 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisville - Gary R. Macey, 75; Funeral Services Aug. 24, 2016 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg - Frances O. (Wagoner) Creighton, 94 Funeral Services Aug. 20, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Maurice E. "Pete" Brown, 91; Funeral Aug. 20, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam - Denise (Roy) Aitken, 92; Funeral Services Aug. 27, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Notre Dame de-Belmont Cemetery, Quebec City.

Potsdam - Gerald Frederick Fullerton, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 25, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery, Nicholville.

St. Regis Falls - John D. Butler, 22; Funeral services Aug. 25, 2016 at the Ham-mill Funeral Home; burial in Maple Grove Cemetery.



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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Norwood - The Norwood Knights of Columbus will have their 21st annual cabbage roll sale.

Date: Sept. 17

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until all sold

Place: St. Andrew's Church basement

Cost: \$3

Contact: For pre-sale orders call Mark Tebo 353-8821, Phil Regan 353-9917 or Jim Murray 261-9975.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MEN'S RETREAT

Saranac Lake — Catholic's Men's Retreat to be held.

Date: Sept. 9-11

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$100 includes meals and lodging

Features: Are you ready to step "Into the Breach"? Based on Bishop Olmsted's Apostolic Exhortation "Into The Breach", weekend participants are encouraged and challenged to reclaim and live the virtues of Christian masculinity. Outdoor activities include canoeing and hiking.

Contact: Online registration coming soon or for more information please contact John Miner 518-354-0727 jd-miner@roadrunner.com

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Come celebrate family at Family Guggenheim.

Date: Oct. 7-9

Features: A four day get away in the Adirondacks to hike, swim and praise with other faithful families! Families will enjoy engaging workshops, free time for

the beach and nature and rest, fishing, liturgies, family rosary, campfires, a variety show, prayer, and time to play

Contact: Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, dleader@rcdony.org 315-287-2874

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake — After-abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

Date: Sept. 2 – 4

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: If you or a friend are suffering after an abortion, consider attending a Rachel's Vineyard retreat. Chaplain for the fall retreat is Fr. Bryan Stitt. A confidential registration form is located at www.rcdony.org/pro-life.

Contact: Colleen Miner 518-524-0774

INSPIRE: CALLED TO LOVE

Lake Placid - The diocesan vocation summit, with internationally known speakers, has been set

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Olympic Center Complex

Features: 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), Jennifer Fulwiler (author and radio host), Bishop Christopher Coyne (Bishop of Burlington, VT and Chairman of the USCCB Communications Committee). 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, go to www.inspirecalledtolove.org.

BISHOP'S FUND 2016... MERCY IN MOTION

Bishop's Fund supports ministry to young people

By Kelly Donnelly

Diocesan youth ministry director

"Camp taught me so much and I don't know what I would've done without it. When I got there Sunday night, I didn't wanna stay but Friday afternoon when it was time to leave I cried because I didn't wanna go. I met new friends and perfect counselors who taught me everything..."

These sentiments that a camper from Camp Guggenheim shared with me capture what I witness time and time again: youth programming in our diocese enables teens to have life-changing experiences.

Thanks to generous donations to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, the youth of our diocese are given opportunities to grow closer to Christ. Diocesan-wide events such as the annual youth rally, Camp Guggenheim, leadership weekend, and the youth buses for life to the March for Life would not be possible without these donations.

Furthermore, in every corner of the diocese, local programs for youth that are offered are directly impacted by the Bishop's Fund. Last year, the Youth Ministry Certification Program kicked off with a weekend retreat for youth ministers, and since then, classes and collaborative events have been held and will continue to be held so that youth ministers have the support to fully minister to the teens in their parishes. Thus far, all of these programs have been free to participants. Volunteers in parishes who work with youth are given a tremendous responsibility, and helping them to have resources, support, and guidance in their work is vital to the growth of the



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Anna Dumas of Chateaugay was one of hundreds of teenagers from across the diocese who spent a week at Guggenheim, the diocesan summer camp, this summer. Guggenheim is one of numerous diocesan programs for youth which receive support from the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal.

young Church.

As I meet people across the diocese, I am blessed to hear stories of what a difference youth programming has made in their lives, or the lives of their children, grandchildren, neighbors, and fellow parishioners. Whether it is the camper who writes an essay about finding a sense of belonging and desire to stay committed to God because of his week of Camp, the March for Life pilgrim who explains that she entered into

the experience looking for a few days in D.C. with friends and left the experience passionately pro-life, or the parent who stops me in the grocery store to say that their child put up a crucifix in her bedroom after a youth event, I see glimpses of the tremendous impact youth ministry has on individual lives.

Moving forward, I remind myself of the diocesan and parish youth ministry goal: "to provide age-appropriate opportunities which will lead our youth to a life-changing encounter with Christ which will nourish a faithful, fruitful and joyful friendship with Him and His Church."

I ask you to prayerfully consider donating to the Bishop's Fund Appeal in order that as a family of faith we might continue to have the resources available to help provide opportunities for youth so that they grow in friendship with the Lord.



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