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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 19

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 21, 2016

## INSPIRE: Called to Love on Sunday

LAKE PLACID - The Olympic Arena doors will open at 9 a.m. Sept. 25 for INSPIRE: Called to Love, the diocesan vocation summit.

Nearly 4000 Catholics from the Diocese of Ogdensburg and neighboring dioceses have registered for the day. Its purpose is to "celebrate the universal call to ho-

liness." Upon arrival, participants will pick up registration materials and visit exhibits at the 1980 Olympic Mezzanine.

The program then moves to the Olympic Arena where Bishop LaValley will lead morning prayer at 10:30.

The keynote address will be delivered by Bishop

Robert Barron of Los Angeles, an acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian.

He is also the founder of the global media ministry Word on Fire, which reaches millions of people by utilizing the tools of new media to draw people into or back to the Catholic Faith.

The program will continue

with breakout sessions led by Bishop Christopher Coyne: "Spirituality of the Church and Vocations," Jennifer Fulwiler: "Promoting Vocations in a "Francis World," and George Weigel: "Mission, Evangelization, and Vocations."

The day ends with the celebration of Mass at 3:15 p.m.

## In search of spiritual guidance

In 2014, the diocese launched a program for the formation of spiritual directors.

Father Jay Seymour, vicar for pastoral personnel explained that "spiritual direction is simply a way of discerning in a confidential setting with someone who has personal experience and knowledge of God and the spiritual life how the Holy Spirit is working in one's life."

Among those who have successfully completed the diocesan program are Bob and Mary Farrington of Potsdam who now welcome directees.

FULL STORY, PAGES 5 & 10

## God's Mercy in God's Country

Sister Stephanie Frenette brings love and hope to the poorest

of the poor through Mission of Hope

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## INSPIRED...TO BECOME A PRIEST



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Deacon Todd Thibault sits at the edge of the lake at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake during a diocesan retreat for seminarians in July. He will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Oct. 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Deacon Thibault reflects on the growth of his vocation in an article on page 4.

## RETIREMENT REFLECTIONS

Treasures gift of silence



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO  
Pope Benedict XVI walks with his cane in 2013 at the Vatican following his final general audience. Retirement has given the 89-year-old Pope Benedict what he describes as the gift of silence to enter more deeply into prayer, especially with the Psalms and the writings of early church theologians but the inevitable approach of death also makes his failings and God's judgment a more pressing concern, he said. Pope Benedict's reflections on his life and his discussion of how his prayer life has changed as he ages are included in German writer Peter's Seewald's new book-length interview, "Last Testament."

**FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP:** Election year message from U.S. bishops, pages 8-9



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Publish 45 issues per year:  
Weekly except skipping one week in Jan and April and every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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

## Editorial Office:

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

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news@northcountry  
catholic.org

## Entered at the

## Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 andadditional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication should be addressed to  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
deadline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## At last, our Day of Days has arrived!

Well, after more than a year of preparation, our diocesan Day of Days is finally upon us.

On Sunday, nearly 4000 of us will be "making a joyful noise unto the Lord" at INSPIRE: Called to Love in Lake Placid.

We'll be joined by at least four bishops, a personal friend of Pope Francis and a few Very Important People in the Catholic world.

This historic event would not have been possible without the tireless work of the

summit planning committee led by Father Garry Giroux. We must all be grateful for the generosity of Father Giroux and his committee members - Father Scott Belina, Carol Gonthier, Deacon Mark Bennett, St. Joseph Sister M. Cordata Kelly, Marcia Bugee, Hon. Robert Main, Jr., Marika Donders, Dominican Sister Elizabeth Menard, Kelly Donnelly, Patrick Murnane, John Fehlner, Father Bryan Stitt and Michelle Watkins - who

Mary Lou  
Kilian

made countless trips across our large diocese for long and intensive meetings.

Then, of course, they left those meetings with lengthy to-do lists which, thank goodness, all got done.

The logistics involved in a day like INSPIRE are just mind-boggling.

Because of their dedication and creative energy, we can be confident that we will, indeed, be inspired by the phenomenal speakers coming to our diocese. We know that we will leave the Olympic Arena on Sunday afternoon well fed - both spiritually and physically.

Those of us who have the privilege of attending INSPIRE will welcome the prayers of all who can't make the trip to Lake Placid.

We'll need prayer for safe travels and prayer that the lofty goals of the day will be met. And then, we will all be praying that this once-in-a-lifetime experience makes a difference in our diocesan life long after Sept. 25.

As Bishop LaValley has said, participation in INSPIRE is not the end but just the beginning as we work together to insure that we are part of a Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled church.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## The Parable of the Forgiving Father

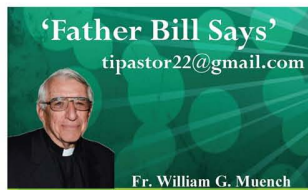
I would like to begin today by expressing my gratitude to my editor, Mary Lou Kilian, for giving me this forum to share my ideas with you. As a priest, I am a preacher of the Word of God. Every Sunday of my priesthood I have celebrated Mass and preached a homily to various congregations. I am sure that my brother priests will agree with me that these moments at Mass are among the happiest of my life.

Now I add to those happy moments my time that I spend with you in this column. So, I thank my editor for giving me this wonderful opportunity. And I thank you for reading my stuff.

Pope Francis directs my attention whenever he speaks or writes; he boldly leads us and he does so in good and bold ways. His writings are powerful, in my opinion. We have been blessed in our time with such a find Holy Father.

I find my direction today from the Holy Father's declaring this year as a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis wants us Catholics to be a merciful people - a forgiving people. At this time, this must be the characteristic that describes us. As Christians, we are called to be a merciful people - a for-



giving people. In the Gospels, Jesus challenges us often to be a forgiving people because our God is so merciful.

Recently, the Sunday Gospel reading was the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus teaches us that God, our Father, was passionately forgiving and loving just like the father in the parable. Jesus goes on to tell us that we must be just as forgiving.

So, Pope Francis picked up on this by declaring that this year would be a Jubilee Year of Mercy. The months of this year of Mercy has been a time of inspiration and meditation for us all. This has been a time to learn from Jesus and Pope Francis that the Spirit that will transform this world will be mercy and forgiveness. This leads all of us, priests, to direct our personal attention toward mercy.

We Catholics love this parable of Jesus - and for most of us this Parable of the Prodigal

Son is our favorite - it certainly is mine. Several years ago my friend, Father Joe Neville, gave me a copy of that wonderful painting of Rembrandt of the Prodigal Son. The father is welcoming home the prodigal and in the painting the older son is standing there. You can see in his eyes whether or not he will welcome his brother home. I find this painting unique; Rembrandt places himself in the painting as a spectator. There is also an individual in the background - the mother - a woman who brings the spirit of love to this whole moment.

Each time I read this Gospel of the Prodigal Son - and speak or write about it - I do so in gratitude. I have been a prodigal. I have walked away from my relationship of love with my God. With the help of the Lord, I have come to my senses and in repentance turned back to my God, trusting in his mercy and loving forgiveness. This has transformed my life. Each time I find God's love and mercy I find conversion. I truly accept and live my life in this mercy.

Jesus cleverly gets his message across in this story. After all these years of listening to this story, we all know exactly how the father will react when the Prodigal Son returns home.

But, let's be honest, humanly speaking this loving reaction is unique. Consider the story. This kid is really a nasty character. He wants his inheritance now, while his father is still alive. He lives a dreadful life. He is a very selfish person; even his decision to come back home is selfish.

I could understand, from our point of view, if the father ignored the kid as he comes up the road. But Jesus is teaching us about God. God does not ignore us when we return, when we are repentant, when we come trusting in our faith in the Lord's forgiving love.

Here is God the Father rushing down to meet the Prodigal and, in my mind, there have been many times when the Lord has rushed down and welcomed me home in love. It is a thrilling moment. The Lord wants me to know that I am worth something.

This Parable has always been titled the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Nowadays many spiritual leaders want to call this the Parable of the Forgiving Father. The Father rushes out to welcome home the Prodigal in loving forgiveness. The Father comes out to talk with the older son - he calms him down - he gently and lovingly shows him how loved he is.



FOLLOW ME

# We believe in miracles

During the *Year of Faith*, in December 2012, the Diocese of Ogdensburg charted a course to bring clarity of vision and purpose to the Church of the North Country. I established a Leadership Team that engaged in thirteen months of fruitful, creative and open discussion of what "can be" and "should be" our vision for the Diocese in our changing world. I hosted several listening sessions throughout northern New York to assist us in discerning what the People of God desire in terms of priorities in ministry and service.

After much prayer and fruitful dialogue, this Leadership Team, comprised of lay women and men, deacons, consecrated religious, and priests, prepared a five-year vision with key priorities and established goals that I announced at our Chrism Mass on April 9, 2014.

Since that time, many of the faithful from across our expansive Diocese have worked diligently on several committees to meet the goals that were established to help us address our Diocesan Priorities. I am so humbled and grateful for the strong commitment and deep faith of our team members.

You may remember the beautiful Eucharist we celebrated at the Olympic Arena, presided over by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Vigano, concluding the *Year of Faith* in September 2013.

Again, this local Church, gathers in Lake Placid to celebrate our faith, to acknowledge the impressive accomplishments of our committees in meeting the established goals, and to send us out with renewed vigor and clearer vision as Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled disciples in mission.

We are so blessed to welcome to our North Country renown gifted individuals of strong faith who will provide us with inspiring messages to go forth from Lake Placid with hearts filled with new purpose and resolve.

Bishop Robert Barron, our key note speaker,

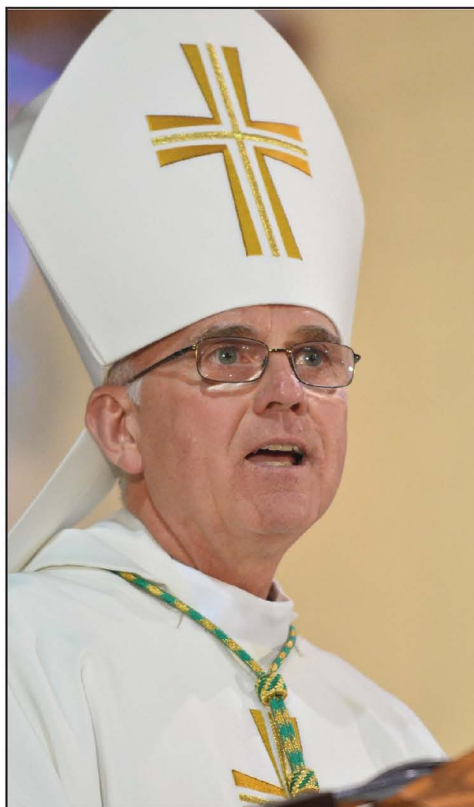


PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop LaValley is shown during the 2013 Year of Faith Mass at the Olympic Arena. He and thousands of Catholics from across the diocese are returning to the arena Sunday for *INSPIRE:Called to Love*.

will set the tone of our Vocation Summit: *INSPIRE: Called to Love*. The day will see Bishop Christopher Coyne, Mrs. Jennifer Fulwiler and Mr. George Weigel as our featured presenters. Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher of Gatineau-Hull, Quebec will be the guest homilist. Our young people throughout the Diocese will participate in the annual Youth Rally as part of the faith and fun-filled weekend experience.

Thirty-six years ago from this very location, Sports caster Al Michaels asked the question: "Do you believe in miracles?" as the U.S. Olympic hockey team was about to defeat the heavily favored Russian squad.

That question reverberated from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts and beyond. The news of the *Miracle on Ice* brought a whole lot of incredulous smiles.

With the enthusiasm of a new found love, our encounter with Jesus brings a joy-filled beam to our faces and peace to our hearts. From the shores of Lake Champlain to the banks of the mighty St. Lawrence, from the Canadian border to the southern Adirondacks and beyond, we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, the *Miracle on earth*.

This Family of Faith knows God's goodness and mercy. We invite every person we encounter to join us in our common journey to the Father.

New resources and pastoral support from our diocesan offices will help us continue to focus on: *Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones*. Clearly, these priorities are intimately related.

Every person is a vital contributor in this shared mission of building up our local Church.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the "Star of Evangelization," inspire and guide all our efforts.

Thank you for embracing the joy of the journey.

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## Deacon looks ahead to ordination, back on growth of his vocation

# "I can't imagine doing anything else"

By Kristina Dean  
Staff writer

CANTON - Looking back at his career choices, Deacon Todd Thibault saw God's hand in his life long before he made the decision to become a priest.

The Colchester, Vermont native, now a transitional deacon at St. Mary's Church in Canton, said he felt a call early in life around fifth or sixth grade. Because he was extremely shy, he didn't pursue it until he was in his early 20's.

At that time he spoke with his pastor, Father Richard LaValley, but decided to step away because he didn't feel ready.

Much later - after he'd worked for the Diocese of Burlington for ten years and was taking night classes for a business administration degree - an offhand comment made by the vicar general made him pause.

"He came and congratulated me and said they should pop me into the seminary and finish me off," the deacon said, who laughed it

off.

Later, he mentioned it to the director of stewardship and development who said that made sense to him.

"I was all shook up" Deacon Thibault said. "I went home and had a sleepless night. I thought working for the diocese was all God was asking of me. This kept me up for most of two nights."

Deacon Thibault consulted his former pastor, now Msgr. LaValley, who was very excited, and had been praying for some 18 years for him to become a priest.

He also consulted his parents, who weren't surprised.

"My father said it couldn't hurt to try," the deacon said. "No one that I told found it to be very surprising. Quite a few people asked me why I never became a priest or thought about it."

Finding this decision nerve wracking, he prayed to ask if God wanted him to go into the seminary.

"A huge feeling of peace came over me," he said. "That's when I knew that I needed to find out what this was about,"

"It didn't take long for me



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Deacon Todd Thibault

when I was in the seminary to figure it out," Deacon Thibault said. "I was at Holy Hour praying. There had been talk that day, it was 2012, about all sorts of the end of the world stuff. I prayed, 'Oh Lord, please

don't let me die before I'm ordained."

That made him pause, wondering where that thought came from.

"I realized, that's what I was called for. That's when I knew he was calling me. I've never looked back since," he said.

Originally, the deacon received his associate's degree in hotel/motel management from Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

He worked in the hospital industry for 15 years before working for the Burlington Diocese as a case director for the office of tribunal, then eventually as a Bishop's Fund coordinator for the office of stewardship and development before receiving his bachelor's degree.

Being a quiet person, Deacon Thibault said standing in front of people was one of his "big hangups."

During his seminary time, he took extra scripture courses for this reason. He worried how he'd speak in front of a congregation.

Also while in the seminary, he wrote reflections about himself and his journey that helped him to come to a re-

alization that God had been preparing him for the priesthood all along.

"He was pushing me outside my comfort zone, in jobs where I had to deal with the public and do presentations," he said. "I was pushing me out there where I wouldn't have naturally gone on my own."

With his ordination to be priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg approaching on October 8, the deacon said he looks forward to sacraments like baptism and first communion.

"I want to celebrate with families and bring them in to open up that faith and the wonder of God's creation," he said. "At this point, I can't imagine myself doing anything else."

The oldest of three boys Deacon Thibault said he spent his first two years of theology study at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Mass. He said eventually it became clear that the Diocese of Burlington was not where he was called to be.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is a good fit, he said.

Besides thanking his parents, the deacon praised the late Father George Marou, former pastor of St. James Church in Carthage where Deacon Thibault spent his pastoral year.

"It was a wonderful year in Carthage. I'd moved from the diocese in a home that I always knew and lived. But was always made to feel so welcome in Carthage, Deacon Thibault said. "The parishioners made me feel at home from day one."



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**Potsdam** - Market Street at Main Street  
2 p.m. to 3:30 - Christina Tartaglia 315-704-3688

**Saranac Lake** - Bandshell Park at River St.  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 - Colleen Miner 518-891-2309

**Schroon Lake** - Route 9 at Leland Ave.  
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# Companions on the journey

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

**POTSDAM**— When Bob and Mary Farrington of St. Mary's Parish joined a dozen other Catholics of the North Country to begin the diocesan spiritual direction formation program, they didn't need to be convinced of the value of spiritual direction.

**Father Jay Seymour writes about the new diocesan spiritual direction program, page 10**

Bob has been in spiritual direction since 1999 and a spiritual director since 2012.

Mary has been in spiritual direction since 2000 and spiritual director since 2011.

Both are committed to serving as companions with others who seek to discern the presence of God in their lives.

In April, they completed the two-year course "Spiritual Direction in the Ignatian Tradition" given by the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, and sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Prior to taking part in the diocesan program, the Farringtons had earned certification in spiritual direction through other organizations.

Mr. Farrington was certified by the Haden Institute after completing the course in Spiritual Direction Training at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He also completed the Evening Institute in the Ministry of Spiritual Direction at the Centre for Spiritual Growth in Ottawa.

Mrs. Farrington earned a diploma in spiritual guidance from the An Croi Wisdom Institute in Ireland in conjunction with the Shrine of St. Joseph, Sterling, New Jersey.

Together they have established "Journey to Life Ministries" out of their Potsdam home.

According to their



PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN

Bob and Mary Farrington of St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam have successfully completed the diocesan spiritual direction formation program. Here they discuss their own experience with spiritual direction and its importance in the lives of Catholics.

brochure "a director/companion/guide to those seeking to journey to the fullness life has to offer. The guide is a companion who walks with directees as they discern the presence of God in their lives. Contemplative and creative ways are offered to help people see how the spiritual intersects with all areas of their lives."

"One of the main things we do is listen," Mrs. Farrington said. "We listen for where God's presence has been in the life of the directee and then, through questions and

comments, help a directee recognize where God has been at work where they might not have noticed.

"We find that for some folks it is one of the few times someone has really listened to them and their story," she said.

Mr. Farrington listed typical reasons people have for seeking guidance: difficulty with forgiveness, grief, difficulty understanding the church, struggle with prayer or "having a wonderful life and wanting it to continue."

"There is not one blueprint

for seeking accompaniment," he said. "Each person has a different point of view. The only requirement is that you wish to be closer to God."

The husband and wife take different approaches to their ministry.

"I'm very ritualistic," Mrs. Farrington said. "I bring people into the room, light a candle and invite the Spirit of God through prayer."

"I ask 'how has God been in your life?' and sometimes there are very specific issues like hurt or death," she said.

Her contemplative/cre-

ative approach can include listening to the directee's story, assistance with prayer, silence, music, art and journaling.

Mr. Farrington said, "I'm not very ritualistic. The directee is in charge. People come to talk about their spiritual lives and I hope I ask the right questions."

The meetings are one on one in a private place, Mr. Farrington said. "Nothing is shared by the director outside the meeting; the emphasis is on your relationship with God. The director will assist you in finding God's will for your life."

The Farringtons agree that their most important responsibility in the process is to nurture their own spiritual lives with prayer and regular contact with their personal spiritual directors.

"There's no way you can be a spiritual director," Mr. Farrington said, "without your own spiritual director."

The Farringtons have completed the diocesan Formation for Ministry program and believe that commissioned lay ministers, among other Catholics, would benefit from spiritual direction.

"Most people don't know what it is," Mrs. Farrington said, "and they don't know that they might need it."

The couple have prepared a power point presentation about spiritual direction and are willing to speak with any interested group.

They may be contacted by phone at 315-842-4385 or through email, mary-farr1155@msn.com or bob-farr1155@outlook.com.



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## BISHOP'S FUND 2016...MERCY IN MOTION

# Bishop's Fund supports ministry to young adults

By Marika Donders  
Director, Office of the New Evangelization

Young Adults, those in their 20s and 30s, are often a difficult group to reach in our parishes. Many, if not most of this demographic are in transition. Perhaps they are recent college graduates in their first "real" job. They may be newly married, or a couple with their first child on the way. They may or may not be college graduates. Unlike those in campus ministry, they are not a homogeneous group. Like many folks in transition, the one thing that most young adults are looking for is real community. This is where the parish community can come in, to provide that home away from home.

How does your parish reach out to young adults?

There are a few parishes in our diocese that are offering Theology-on-Tap type events, where young adults get together for some socializing and a talk about the

faith. But young adult ministry could take so many different forms to meet the needs of this group of people.

Often it is a peer ministry: young adults sharing with other young adults: a group for new moms (or new dads), a group of young adults who go like to hike and pray (or fish, canoe, paint, sing, make music, or other forms of recreation in our beautiful North Country). Young adult ministry can also take the form of more experienced (shall we say older) adults mentoring Young Adults. There is no "one size fits all."

A good place to start may simply be to ask young adults in your parish what they need, and how we can assist them in their journey of faith and so begin a conversation about young adult ministry in your parish (or regionally among several parishes).

The Office of Young Adult Ministry, as a component of the Office of Evangelization, offers resources to parishes and young adults to help young adults connect and even to start young adult groups whether in the parish or regionally.

Using social media, the Young Adult Ministry Office communicates with young adults about diocesan events and opportunities. In addition to offering support for the formation of Young Adult Groups, the office is also responsible for the coordination of the Diocesan World Youth Day group. One group just came back from WYD in Krakow, Poland which you will be able to read about in the

next couple of issues of the North Country Catholic.

The next World Youth Day will be in Panama in 2019. World Youth Day is an experience for young adults from all across the world to meet up every three years, to pray together, to be catechized, and to experience the universal church as they meet with the Holy Father. For many young adults, the experience of World Youth Day is the catalyst to deepen their faith and to become leaders in their communities and parishes.

If your parish is interested in starting ministry to young adults, our office is here to help.

Thank you for supporting the Bishop's Fund, without which none of the many works of the diocese, including the support of Young Adult Ministry would be possible.

For more information see <http://rcdony.org/youngadultministry.html>

## Rest in Peace

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

- Sept. 21** – Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953  
**Sept. 22** – Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951  
**Sept. 23** – Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982  
**Sept. 24** – Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005  
**Sept. 25** – Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989  
**Sept. 26** – Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

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## Bishop's Schedule

**Sept. 20-22** – New York State Catholic Conference Bishops Meeting in Douglaston, NY

**Sept. 23** – 9:30 a.m., Opening School Mass and Visit at IHC Jr./Sr. High in Watertown

**Sept. 25** – Inspire: Called to Love Vacation Summit at the Olympic Center in Lake Placid

**Sept. 26** – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 27** – 9:00 a.m., Opening School Mass at St. Peter's Church and Visit at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh

**Sept. 28** – 11:00 a.m., Priest Council Meeting at St. James Church in Carthage

## 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 pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions:

**Oct. 1** – 10 a.m., Kateri Hall, Akwesasne

**Oct. 29** – 9 a.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

## To Report Abuse

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

## Environmental Stewardship

### What time is it? (Part 5)

As we celebrate this year of Mercy, Pope Francis is his message on World Day of Prayer for Care for Creation (9/1) tells us that "it is time to have mercy on our common home."

He relates our moral responsibility for the care of Creation to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

He states "As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a grateful contemplation of God's world."

When we take a 'contemplative moment' to experience the awesomeness of God's artistic handiwork around us on these beautiful autumn days, are our hearts moved to a profound sense of gratitude?

Why not take a few minutes to pay attention to what in the natural world catches your attention these fall days?

Be amazed at its uniqueness. Then, ask what message God might have for you at this moment?

In her book *Out of the Ordinary*, Joyce Rupp shares her 'Autumn Prayer of Acceptance.' It begins with "Autumn God, earth teaches me by her natural turning from one season to another.

As she enters into the dying and rising cycle, she welcomes changes.

May I be open to the teachings in this season of autumn and turn, as autumn does, toward opportunities for my spiritual transformation... When I fight unwanted and unsought changes and when I seek to keep things just as they are, place me on the wings of birds flying south for another season. Gather their spirit of freedom into my heart

Let me be willing to leave my well satisfied places of comfort for the discomforts of a long flight into the unknown."

What messages does Autumn hold for your life journey?

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CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY... FEED THE HUNGRY, GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR

# A mission of hope & love

By Shan Moore  
Staff writer

PLATTSBURGH— Growing up in Detroit, Barb Frenette saw the challenges faced by a disabled child who lived on her street.

She saw people who were hungry.

And the girl vowed, when she grew up, that she would help those who were less fortunate.

Where, her siblings asked, would Barb find work with the disabled population?

"God will provide," she blithely replied.

Sitting in her Plattsburgh living room on a recent hot summer day, she said, with a chuckle, "I never thought it would be in Nicaragua."

While still Barb to family, for 57 years she has been Sister Stephanie Frenette.

## Bringing hope to the poorest of the poor

The Dominican Sister of Hope has not only fulfilled her childhood aims but also the promise of the very name of her order, bringing hope to the poorest of the poor in one of the most impoverished third-world country in the world.

Sister Stephanie has ceased to count the number of trips she has made there with North Country Mission of Hope, helping to provide food, medical care other basic needs and, most importantly, empowerment to people with virtually nothing.

Near the very beginning, when the Plattsburgh-based group was first establishing itself in Nicaragua, Sister Stephanie saw in one woman the utter desperation felt by so many there.

In the marketplace, that Nicaraguan mother begged the nun to take her baby back to the United States with her.

The request shocked Sister Stephanie at first, and then she realized "she wanted to give up her baby for the sake of her baby."

Nicaragua, she discovered, "is a whole different world."

The nun soon found her niche.

Living at Pajarito Azul Disability Center were — and still are — children and adults with profound disabilities, many just abandoned there because the poor have no access to services that would allow them to keep their loved ones at home.

From the start, it was plain to the Americans that the center provided wonderful care, but the kind of equipment and treatment needed was sorely lacking.



Sister Stephanie Frenette holds a child at a disability center in Nicaragua. One of the best gifts Mission of Hope can bring to the poor, she says, is "simply love."

Mission of Hope was able to win some grants to improve conditions, but as valuable, Sister Stephanie said, "is simply love and care.

"It's very important that we recognize that."

She and other volunteers bring that in abundance — in hugs, smiles, laughter.

## Facing personal disability and pain

Sister Stephanie understands disability.

A knee replacement several years ago didn't stop her from traveling to Nicaragua with Mission of Hope once she got her physician's OK.

She cheerfully set out in a wheel chair with her sweet smile and ready laugh, bringing with her decades of experiences as a teacher at Catholic schools in the North Country.

The second knee replacement proved a different story.

Infection set in — including two very rare forms of staph — and the typical approach failed to work.

Ten months on intravenous antibiotics didn't return the nun to health.

So she returned to the operating room, where the hardware in her knee was removed.

The hope was it could be replaced once the infections were eradicated, but that was not to be.

Sister Stephanie went into her seventh surgery in two and a half years not knowing whether doctors would stabilize her leg with a steel rod, from hip to ankle, or if they would be forced to amputate.

"They had to see how much bone was left," she said in a 2012 interview.

She awoke to see her left leg still in place, but it would never bend again.

"I said, 'OK, there are worse things in the world.'"

That was no platitude she voiced to herself; she had truly seen worse.

"I remember one of the first years we were (in Nicaragua), mothers crying at our door, saying they had nothing to feed their children," she said.

"And most of the time it was babies not being fed."

## Mission bringing change since 1998

Mission of Hope has brought change to Chiquilistagua and the other communities it has served since the group began its work in 1998 after Hurricane Mitch.

Many families now live in sturdy home-shelters paid for by mission supporters — 800 to date; they cook on safer outdoor rocket stoves, receive medical care at the Mission of Hope clinic or facilities with newer, better equipment provided by the group through generous donations.

Orphans and children with HIV/AIDS have sponsors who support their care; 650 children attend school through mission sponsorship.

And grants have provided thousands of meals shared among numerous schools.

It seems but a drop in the bucket to the endless need that is often complicated by government policies and the vagaries of the weather.

During last year's drought and resulting food shortage, Sister Stephanie said, people were digging up roots in the woods and boiling them as their only sustenance.

"That's hard for us to take," she said of how she and the other missionaries bear witnessing such poverty.

## Honored for a life of caring for others

In recent months, Sister Stephanie — who has not missed a Nicaragua trip since her final leg surgery and remains head of the group's kitchen during those missions — celebrated her 75th birthday and was honored with the Caring for Others award by Woodmen Life Chapter 463.

The nun, said Bishop Terry LaValley in a letter read on the evening of the award presentation at Rainbow Wedding and Banquet Hall in Altona, has been "instrumental in the formation of generations of young people in the North County, including me."

His letter also commended another of Sister Stephanie's former students, Sister Debbie Blow, who is executive director of Mission of Hope.

Sister Debbie calls the older nun her mentor; Sister Stephanie says of Sister Debbie: "I am very proud of what she does."

"By their own example," the bishop wrote, "they formed young people to be concerned about the needs of others, to seek justice for those who could not stand up for themselves, and to share God's blessings with those less fortunate than themselves."



# The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



The following information features excerpts from a summary of the US bishop's reflection *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states. The full documents can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>

"If indeed 'the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,' the Church 'cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.'"<sup>1</sup> So writes Pope Francis, quoting Pope Benedict XVI.

## Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to

choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33).

## How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?

### A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

### Making Moral Choices

The bishops do not tell Catholics how to vote; the responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience, aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection.

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all hu-

man life from conception to natural death (see St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.<sup>2</sup>

## What Public Policies Should Concern Catholics Most?

As Catholics, we are led to raise questions about political life other than those that concentrate on individual, material well-being. We focus more broadly on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. In light of ethical principles, we bishops offer the following policy goals that we hope will guide Catholics as they form their consciences and reflect on the moral dimensions of their public choices:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



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CONTINUED ON FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Address the preeminent requirement to protect **human life**—by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion and providing women in crisis pregnancies with the supports they need. End the following practices: the use of euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability; the destruction of human embryos in the name of research; the use of the death penalty to combat crime; and the imprudent resort to war to address international disputes.
- Protect the fundamental understanding of **marriage** as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman as the central institution of society; promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false “gender” ideologies; provide better support for family life morally, socially, and economically, so that our nation helps parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility.
- Achieve comprehensive **immigration** reform that offers a path to citizenship, treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries.
- Help families and children overcome **poverty** and ensure access to and choice in **education**, as well as decent work at fair, living wages and adequate assistance for the vulnerable in our nation, while also helping to overcome widespread hunger and poverty

around the world, especially in the policy areas of development assistance, debt relief, and international trade.

- Ensure full conscience protection and **religious freedom** for individuals and groups to meet social needs, and so enable families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for creation.
- Provide **health care** while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system.
- Continue to oppose policies that reflect racism, hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of **unjust discrimination**.
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of **military force**—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost—with a special view to seeking a responsible and effective response for ending the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- Join with others **around the world** to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation.



## Notes

1. *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 183.
2. *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52.

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*Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens*  
ISBN: 978-1-60137-545-2 Publication No. 7-545

*Part II of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens*  
ISBN: 978-1-60137-546-9  
Publication No. 7-546



*Diocese initiates a program for the formation of spiritual directors*

# In search of spiritual guidance

By Father Jay Seymour  
Episcopal vicar for pastoral personnel

One of the needs expressed by many faithful in the Diocese is to have spiritual direction with someone willing to accompany them in their ongoing Christian journey.

**On our common spiritual journey, we all need companions to support and guide us, hopefully pointing us in the right direction**

In particular, this need may have surfaced with those who have been through the Lay Formation for Ministry Program but it has also been expressed by a number of others from our parishes who simply want to grow in the spiritual life and develop a stronger relationship with Christ.

Spiritual Direction is simply a way of discerning in a confidential setting with someone who has personal experience and knowledge of God and the spiritual life how the Holy Spirit is working in one's life. Sometimes parishioners are reluctant to approach our priests for spiritual

direction thinking that they are too busy. Our priests are available for spiritual direction but, at the same time, the demand might exceed availability.

In responding to the need for more people who are qualified in this area, Bishop LaValley, in collaboration with a team from the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, initiated a program for the formation of spiritual directors in 2014.

Pastors were asked to submit names of potential candidates and over the course of the past two years the group has undergone extensive training including retreats, group work, spiritual reading and the supervised practice of direction.

Candidates were also expected to meet with their own spiritual director once a month.

Not all 14 of the original candidates have continued with the program but at least three people have completed all the necessary requirements and have been approved by Bishop LaValley to offer spiritual direction in the diocese.

Those who are now available to offer spiritual guidance are Bob and Mary Farrington from St.

Mary's Parish in Potsdam (see story on page 5) and St. Joseph Sister Maureen Sweeney from St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena.

Several others from our diocese are still in the process of completing the requirements of the program before being approved by the Bishop as spiritual directors. One of their frustrations is a lack of awareness on the part of the faithful about the nature of spiritual direction or even that it is being offered.

Perhaps for this reason, some spiritual direction candidates are finding it hard coming up with directees willing to work with them even though it would be a relationship beneficial to both.

All of the baptized are called to follow the Lord but sometimes it is difficult discerning just where the Lord is leading us. On this common spiritual journey, we all need companions to support and guide us, hopefully pointing us in the right direction. Not all will have a need for formal spiritual directors, as there are many ways of spiritual accompaniment, but if there is such a need, one should know that this option may be available.



Fr. Jay Seymour

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Liturgy marks 350th anniversary of first Mass in Vermont by French

ISLE LA MOTTE, Vt. (CNS) -- In 1666, Jesuits celebrated the first Mass at the site of the French-established Fort Saint Anne, Vermont's oldest European settlement. Today, the site is on Isle La Motte in Lake Champlain in the state's northwest corner. Scores of worshippers gathered Sept. 11 at the outdoor chapel at St. Anne's Shrine on the site for a Mass commemorating the anniversary. Capt. Pierre La Motte built the fort as a defense against the Mohawks in the area. The Jesuits also erect the first chapel in Vermont on the site. From that day to today, the celebration of the Eucharist "has been part of our lives in this great state," Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont, said in opening the Mass. He also acknowledged the significance of the date of the Mass, Sept. 11, asking worshippers to remember victims of all war and terrorism as the nation commemorated and mourned the terror attacks on the United States 15 years earlier. The liturgy was a votive Mass for peace.

## Pastors who become princes are far from Jesus' spirit, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Clergy who use their position for personal gain rather than to help those in need do not follow the spirit of Jesus who took upon himself the sufferings of others, Pope Francis said. Jesus often would rebuke such leaders and warned his followers to "do what they say but not what they do," the pope said Sept. 14 at his weekly general audience. "Jesus was not a prince," the pope said. "It is awful for the church when pastors become princes, far from the people, far from the poorest people. That is not the spirit of Jesus." As is customary, before speaking, Pope Francis made his way around St. Peter's Square in the popemobile, greeting thousands of pilgrims who waved, kissing children presented for a blessing and even taking repeated sips of the mate tea offered by an Argentine pilgrim. In his talk, the pope reflected on Jesus' tenderness toward the poor, the suffering and the oppressed and his invitation, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

## Cardinal: group's 'deceptive' ads promote abortion as 'a social good'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Ads appearing around the country "calling for taxpayer funding of abortion in the name of the Catholic faith" are "deceptive," "extreme" and promote "abortion as if it were a social good," said New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan. The abortion advocacy organization Catholics for Choice placed full-page ads Sept. 12 in the print editions of more than 20 local and national publications, including Politico, the Nation, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Dallas Morning News and La Opinion. The group "is not affiliated with the Catholic Church in any way," said Cardinal Dolan in a Sept. 14 statement as the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "It has no membership, and clearly does not speak for the faithful. It is funded by powerful private foundations to promote abortion as a method of population control." "As the U.S. Catholic bishops have stated for many years," Cardinal Dolan said, "the use of the name 'Catholic' as a platform to promote the taking of innocent human life is offensive not only to Catholics, but to all who expect honesty and forthrightness in public discourse."

# Poverty solutions almost absent as a presidential campaign issue this year

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- America has 46.7 million people living in poverty, but there's been little talk on the presidential campaign trail about the needs of poor people.

No doubt, poverty is a tough sell in a campaign where middle class votes - both blue collar and white collar - are important to success come Election Day Nov. 8.

But economic difficulties are fueling much of the voter angst, and Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump are attempting to tap into that uncertainty by portraying their economic policies as good for what ails the country and will lead to massive numbers of well-paying jobs.

"Poverty is an issue in the campaign, it's just not being talked about," said Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishop's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

"It's certainly driving a lot of the things in the campaign. It's certainly driving a lot of the anger. But we don't see on either side really any substantive policy proposal," Archbishop Wenski said.

Archbishop Wenski and other election observers doubt that poverty will suddenly become an election year concern this time around.

"It's hard to engage in a discussion about poverty or about anything else in this particularly very strange campaign," he said. "This is atypical in many ways and therefore some of these issues are not being engaged because it almost seems like an exercise in futility."

So while poverty is not on

the lips of the candidates, it would seem that some of their proposals are directed toward improving economic opportunity for the working classes and perhaps helping poor people as well.

Trump's proposals focus on reducing income taxes across the board and making it easier for companies to hire, invest in infrastructure and boost production. He has complained that businesses operate under too many restrictive regulations and promised that his administration would undertake a systematic review of those regulations and eliminate any that hinder business activity.

The Republican's plan is light on particulars when it comes to social policy, education and supports for low-income families, particularly the extreme poor.

Clinton, meanwhile, has stressed that she would implement a job creation plan focused on much-needed nationwide infrastructure improvements. She has pledged to address underlying causes of poverty, boost early childhood education and ensure a strong safety net, especially for those stuck in intergenerational poverty.

The Democrat also said it is important to continue improving the State Children's Health Insurance Program and the Affordable Care Act to keep people on the path to the middle class.

Yet poverty has been a largely avoided topic in the campaign.

"It's incredibly foolish to ignore poverty," said Kathryn J. Edin, Bloomberg distinguished professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University and co-author of "\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America." "What people aren't doing and they

should be doing is to link what's happening in our cities to the unbelievable disparities we're seeing across the country.

"Why did Baltimore burn? What's going on in Milwaukee, Ferguson? It's not frustration with the police, while that's important. It's anger and dissatisfaction with the lack of opportunity and living in poverty," Edin said.

Christina M. Greer, associate professor of political science at Jesuit-run Fordham University, suggested that poverty has been avoided in the campaign because poor people don't vote in the same numbers as other economic classes.

"The poor tend not to vote because of all these institutional factors and they get left out," she explained.

That means, Greer said, candidates would rather turn their attention to influencing those who do vote: the middle class.

"To try and galvanize poor people with 70-some days left and you're not guaranteed a return on your investment, it's something most politicians don't turn to," she said.

Rather than spending a lot of time trying to engage the presidential candidates, Catholic Charities USA has focused its advocacy efforts on Congress in a long-standing effort to build support for legislation that funds programs that would ease the burden of poverty in the country.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, Catholic Charities' president, said the agency feels it will be more successful advocating for poor people through individual members of Congress.

"We will talk with anyone on either side of the aisle to promote the alleviation, reduction of poverty," she said.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Giving dignity to the poor and dying

Just a few weeks ago, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa of Calcutta, although the world had already considered her a saint since her death in 1997.

She spent most of her life giving back human dignity to the poor and the dying. Her example left us little excuse to ignore those in desperate poverty of soul and body all round us.

The readings this Sunday show what Jesus thought of the indifference of the rich and comfortable.

In the first reading, the prophet Amos paints a picture of the wealthy rulers of Israel, lying on their beds of

ivory, and drinking wine from bowls, completely oblivious to the near-collapse of the kingdom. God is condemning their indifference, their selfishness, their lack of discipline, and their disobedience to His commandments. The northern kingdom is soon destroyed by Assyria.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us a story of Dives and Lazarus. The scene opens on the street in front of Dives' front door. There lies the beggar, Lazarus, in tattered clothes that scarcely cover his open sores. The door opens, and the well-fed guests of Dives

emerge, laughing loudly as they depart from their daily banquet. Then Dives comes out. Having bid good-bye to the last guest, he decides to take an evening walk.

Like his guests, Dives steps over the beggar, not even looking at him. He doesn't kick or abuse him. He just doesn't pay any attention.

The next scene is some years later. In the upper right, we see Lazarus in heavenly glory, courted by the angels, reclining at table with the patriarch, Father Abraham. In the lower left, we see Dives, in the torments of hell, looking longingly at the heavenly feast in the distance.

Why is Dives in hell? Not because he is rich, for Jesus, in telling the story, never

SEPT. 25

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Luke 16:19-31

condemns him for that. Why, then? Because he never thought to share his riches with this poor beggar who lay outside his door day after day. He never offered him some of the leftovers, never inquired about his health, never offered him employment. What a difference he could have made in the life of Lazarus.

He might have gotten to know him better, and given help to Lazarus' wife and children. Who knows?

They might even have become friends!

God's warnings in Scripture apply to every age.

Who are we stepping over? It's not a question of how much money we have, but how willing we are to share with those who have nothing. The rich man's sin was first of all a lack of awareness of the poor man right at his door. If we are Christians who are to care for others as brothers and sisters, then we can't be ignorant of their plight.

We must do our best to learn about their needs, and in some small way discover how we can share what we have. As Mother Teresa was fond of saying, "Do little things with great love, and make the Eucharist the center of your lives."



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## DO YOU LOVE ME? KEEP MY COMMANDS

## Faithful marriages: the work of a lifetime

It wasn't until I became a parent that I understood how much work is involved in celebrating a holiday.

We joke that cooking takes several hours but the meal itself only lasts a short time. Ironically, some of the best memories people have are not the meal but working together to get ready.

If you want to make something great, you don't just slap it together at the last minute. Building a house, you draw up plans and have them checked by a professional before you start building. Parties, houses, and vocations are all similar in this way.

A great deal of planning

and preparation are necessary.

Building a healthy and faithful marriage is literally the work of a lifetime. We begin learning about it by living in a family. The blueprint for marriage is laid out in three preparation stages, Remote, Proximate and Immediate.

The Remote Preparation stage, the longest, lasts from birth until a couple gets engaged.

Proximate Preparation stage is from the beginning of the engagement until shortly before the wedding ceremony.

Immediate Preparation stage is the shortest, usually just a few weeks before the wedding. Like golfing, the most work is done in the initial drives down the fairway, followed by a shorter chip onto the green, and ending by tapping the ball to putt in.

In Remote stage, the couple grows up learning about

marriage through the example of their parents and directly participating in family life.

Like learning to be an architect, they start with the basics and gradually learn more complex ideas until they are ready to start the practicum, participating in small supervised projects. In marriage prep, we would consider this dating.

If the dating couple believe they are being called to marriage, they get engaged and begin planning their blueprint of a future together.

The commitment is expressed publicly with the engagement ring, and the couple enters the Proximate stage. They begin to focus on preparing for the wedding ceremony, but they still have to work at preparing for the marriage itself.

In short, the "blueprint" they have developed has to be checked to make sure it has all the necessary elements for a successful Sacramental marriage.

The couple attends Pre Cana where they review these 'necessary elements' and they discuss their past histories, present beliefs, and future plans with each other.

The Pre Cana process is a way of helping the couple do a formal, guided discernment together, but the discernment is not over until they have publicly made their vows to each other on the day of the wedding. Until then, they can still delay or change their mind if necessary.

In the Immediate Stage, with the ceremony just a few weeks away, the couple will meet briefly with the

presiding priest or deacon. This meeting focuses on the couple's readiness to enter into a Sacramental marriage.

An essential part of the discernment process, it helps establish that the couple has the freedom and proper disposition to receive the Sacrament.

The priest or deacon meets with the man and woman individually and reviews the promises that they will make. They discuss any concerns that surface. If the couple is ready, the ceremony follows shortly, and the couple professes their promises publicly, before God, the Church, their family and friends.

After a couple gets married, they will need support. In previous generations with large extended families living closer together, there were plenty of relatives to help the couple and to provide mentoring.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Editor's note

This column continues a series of articles written by Mr. Tartaglia, diocesan family life director, exploring faith development within families as he considers each of the Ten Commandments



Stephen M.  
Tartaglia



AT THE MOVIES

# THE WILD LIFE

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Daniel Defoe is spinning in his grave.

The English author's celebrated 1719 novel "Robinson Crusoe," which set the standard for thrilling, realistic adventure fiction, has morphed into a 3-D animated kiddie comedy called "The Wild Life" (Summit).

Needless to say, this Franco-Belgian production, co-directed by Vincent Kesteloot and Ben Stassen, only pulls a few strands from Defoe's story. A sailor named Crusoe (voice of Matthias Schweighofer) is shipwrecked and washes ashore a deserted island. There he finds, not cannibals, but a wide array of exotic (and exceedingly loquacious) birds, reptiles and mammals.

"The Wild Life" tells the story from their point of view. The narrator is Mak (voice of David Howard), an exuberant parrot who finds life in paradise rather mundane. The human's appearance is an opportunity for knowledge and adventure.

Crusoe, in turn, adopts Mak and christens his new companion, not "Friday" as



CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE

Animated characters Kiki and Scrubby appear in the movie "The Wild Life."

in the novel, but "Tuesday." Mak is relieved. "At least it's not Monday," he says. "Everybody hates Mondays."

As Crusoe builds a treehouse and learns to "talk," Doctor Dolittle-like, to the animals, danger lurks in the shadows. Two feral cats (voices of Debi Tinsley and Jeff Doucette) survived the shipwreck and are now fixated on island domination.

Silliness (and occasional sassiness) aside, the animation in "The Wild Life" is first-rate and messages

about friendship and courage are worthy. A few action scenes of shipwreck and feline mayhem may frighten the littlest ones, but overall it's good, clean fun.

The film contains a few mildly scary action sequences. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## Faithful

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Continuing the golf analogy, this is like the caddy. The caddy is familiar with the course, it's hazards and challenges, and can offer helpful strategies for success. The caddy helps carry the clubs, gives advice on club selection, and offers moral support and feedback. The player keeps their own scorecard but the caddy will often score an additional card to help the player stay accountable, so that temptations to cheat are easier to overcome. An

accountability partner is another helpful tool for a successful marriage.

When things get tough and a person has the temptation to cheat or leave their vocation entirely, it's good to revisit their vocational discernment process. Remembering keeps us grounded and moves us out of our temporary feelings of the moment. It helps us to remember that our vocation is a call from God and He is the third string in the woven chord of our mar-

riage.

Families, therefore, play a significant role in the success of the marriage both before and after the ceremony. More is caught than taught. People carry the example of their parents with them into their own marriages, and often find themselves sounding and acting just like their Mom or Dad.

In answer to Phillip's request to show him the Father, Jesus said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

## October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider  
sponsorship of a full page advertisement  
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"We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us." ~Pope Francis

to appear in our October 12th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317



## CLINTON

## HARVEST DINNER

**West Chazy** – St. Joseph's Church to hold its 43rd Annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 9

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Center

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

Children under 5, Free

Features: Turkey with the trimmings, a country store. Take-outs available.

## FOR LAY MINISTERS

**Peru** – The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers' Association serves the commissioned lay ministers of the Clinton, Essex and Hamilton-Herkimer deaneries will have a Fall Event.

Date: Oct. 14

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish

Cost: \$10

Features: The evening will begin by praying the Rosary in church, followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValley. All diocesan commissioned lay ministers, are welcome as well as priests, deacons and religious of the three deaneries. Dinner will follow in Parish Center. Bishop LaValley will speak.  
Contact: Please RSVP by October 5 through the Formation for Ministry Office at (315) 393-2920 or jgruzzito@rcdony.org.

## HARVEST DINNER

**Ellenburg** – CDA Court Little Rose #1300 to have their Annual Pork & Roast Beef Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 9

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Edmund's Church

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

under, Free

Features: Raffle tickets to be sold. Take-outs available. Country Store.

## HARVEST DINNER

**Dannemora** – St. Joseph's Annual Harvest Turkey Dinner is set

Date: Oct. 9

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5-11, \$7;

under 5, Free

Features: live music, country and craft store, Chinese auction, raffle, and 50-50.

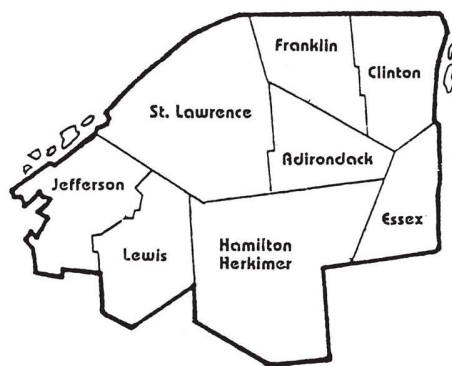
## LASAGNA DINNER

**Lyon Mountain** – All you can eat lasagna dinner to be held.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: American Legion



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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

## FRANKLIN

## HARVEST DINNER

**Brushton** – St. Mary's to have their Annual Harvest Turkey Dinner.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$9; Children

6-12, \$6; under 5, Free

## HAMILTON-HERKIMER

## DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: Oct 2, 16, 30;

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;

## JEFFERSON

## 5K RUN/WALK AND FAMILY DAY

**Watertown** – IHC is holding a 5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Day.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 7:30 a.m. Registration

Place: IHC Intermediate School

Cost: 5K walk/run: Pre-registration prices \$20/person (t-shirt included), \$50/Family (Shirts extra) 1.5 mile fun run 6 and under free Students \$5 Adults \$8, Family \$12, T-Shirts Extra

Features: Other Events: Grand opening of Gym, DJ Cookout, kids activities.

Contact: www.ihschools.org

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** – Ecumenical Bereavement meeting to be held.

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: SSSJ Hearthside Center

Speaker: James Monaco on Healing the Wounds of Grief"

## OCTOBER- ECO-FEST

**Watertown** – Watertown Faith and Ecology Group is hosting an Interfaith October-Eco-Fest.

Date: Oct. 1

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Features: Speakers from different religions who will share on how their faith traditions speak about our responsibility to care for our common home, the Earth. This will be followed by blessing of a Peace Pole, the planting of a tree, and Fall treats. public is invited.

## CIDER DAYS

**Sackets Harbor** – St. Andrew's church to celebrate a Fall Family Event.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: 12 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Andrew's Church

Features: Homemade Apple Pie ala Mode, Cider Donut Puffs, Hoffman Hot Dogs, Chili, Drinks. Live entertainment, Kids games, Face painting, Cake Wheel, bean bag toss and prizes. Red Thompson's 1949 Chevy Stake Truck on display.

## HOUR OF ADORATION

**Brownville** – The St. Joseph Cupertino chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order will be hosting an hour of adoration.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

Features: To pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious. Any interested person is welcome to attend

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Sept. 29

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Take-outs

begin at 4 p.m., bring own containers

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

## LEWIS

## POLISH FESTIVAL

**Houseville** – St. Hedwig's Polish Fest to be held.

Date: Oct. 9

Time: Following the 11 a.m. Mass

Features: Polish Platter \$8, Bake Sale items, Polish Hot Dogs \$1, Ice Cream Sundaes \$1, Theme Basket Raffles, and a 50/50 Raffle. Take-outs are available. Proceeds to benefit church repairs and expenses. Theme Baskets, Baked Goods and Volunteer workers needed.

Contact: 348-6260 or 348-8836.

## TURKEY DINNER

**Copenhagen** – St. Mary's to have their Annual Turkey Dinner.

Date: Oct. 6

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: Copenhagen Fire Hall

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 6-12, \$4.50;

under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$8

Features: Bazaar and bake sale. Raffle items and 50/50 raffle.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: Oct 2, 16, 30

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, pastormsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration Thursdays.

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Church

## MANICOTTI MONDAY

**Norfolk** – Manicotti Monday is set

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. tossed salad, Italian bread, beverage and dessert.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## LIFE CHAIN 2016

Life Chains to be held across the diocese.

Date: Oct. 2

Schedule: Massena (Main Street at Route 37) 2 p.m. to 3; Plattsburgh (Smithfield Blvd at Route 3) 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Potsdam (Market Street at Main Street) 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Saranac Lake (Bandshell Park at River Street) 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Schroon Lake (Route 9 at Leland Ave) 2 p.m. to 3; Note: Willsboro will be Oct. 23 (Route 22 at Main Street) 1p.m. to 2

Features: A peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life presence. Open to all faiths, rain or shines. Signs are provided.

## YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

**Washington DC** – Registration for High school pilgrimage to the Jan. 26-28

March for Life is opening

Date: Oct. 1

Cost: \$150 includes transportation, hotel, breakfast, dinner & shirt.

Features: Three coach buses will travel to the March for Life. Pickup locations include Massena, Canton, Gouverneur, Watertown, and Schoon Lake.

Contact: www.rcdony.org/pro-life for registration forms. Call 518-524-0774/518-891-2309

## LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

**Saranac Lake** – YOUth Lead: annual Leadership weekend to be held.

Date: Sept. 30-Oct. 2

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: Students in grades 9-12 are welcome to come to spend the weekend improving skills as a leader in the Catholic Church, growing in faith, and making new friends.

Contact: www.rcdony.org/youth/leadership/registration.html. For information, contact Kelly Donnelly at kdonnelly@rcdony.org or 315-854-4669





## 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

# Vocations

By Molly McKee Ryan  
Diocesan Mission Office

*"Send workers into your great harvest that the Gospel may be preached to every creature...in the way of salvation and love."*  
**Pope Francis Prayer for Mission Vocations**

On Sept. 25, thousands plan to gather in Lake Placid at the Olympic Center to worship, pray, and share in an experience that will inspire a legacy of love for years to come. While at this Vocations Summit, our brothers and sisters in Christ, fellow parishioners, friends, and loved ones will celebrate the universal call to holiness as it manifests in the vocations of Christian marriage and family life, the single state, the consecrated religious life, and the ordained priesthood and diaconate. Our vocation, by virtue of our baptism, calls us to be Missionaries.

### Inspired by missionaries and called to love

As the Holy Father speaks of Mission Vocations, here in our Diocese of Ogdensburg we have been beyond blessed to have decades of indigenous Missionaries shape our world and form bonds in the developing lands. From both priests and religious, one could say we have been and are "inspired" by the call to love. Missionaries share and spread their love of Christ to the Developing Lands while cultivating a vocational spirit. Upon their return home, they share their reflections collected there prompting our baptismal call to holiness! The missionary call to vocation by our baptism carries on and brings forth love.

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been rich with missionary spirit for many decades by sharing prayer, sacrifice and resources abroad. This Diocese has also put forth countless individuals (both priests and religious) who were called to their vocation and left the comforts of the North Country for hard work in uncertain surroundings. From our Mission Parish in Peru to our efforts with the Mission of Hope in Nicaragua and the Working Boys Center in Ecuador, this Diocese is no stranger to the concept of inspired love for the missions and encouragement of vocations for priests and religious there.

Missionaries like Father George Maroun, Msgr. Anthony Milia, and Sister Veronica Jane Lewis are examples of "inspired" spirits who were called to love. The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is honored to have had those Souls both at the helm and out in the field for so many years. Guiding hands and kind spirits like theirs continue to steer our ship through turbulent waters in the Mission Lands. They were workers, as the Holy Father says, that set out to harvest a spirit of love and salvation. They set forth a vocation for us by our baptism to become missionaries both here and abroad. Plant the seeds of love. These seeds will grow. Their growth will inspire your call to love. Your love can be a call to a vocation, either near or far.

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** — Mark S. Graves, 55; Funeral Services Sept. 13, 2016 at Holy Angels Church.

**AuSable Forks** — John George Bombard, 74; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2016 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brushton** — John E. Collette, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

**Champlain** — James F. Trow, 89; Funeral Services Sept. 15, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

**Croghan** — Robin Glen Davis, 56; Funeral Services Sept. 13, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Crown Point** — Charles F. Mazurowski, 91; Funeral Sept. 15, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Ironville Cemetery.

**Elizabethtown** — James P. Cashin, 72; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2016 at St. Elizabeth's Church.

**Harrisville** — Thomas Dean Ritz, 65; Funeral Services Sept. 14, 2016 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

**Keeseville** — Danny Lee Hart, 62; Funeral Sept. 15, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** — Shirley Ann O'Dell Call, 90; Funeral Services Sept. 13, 2016 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Matthews Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

**Malone** — Thomas Boyea II, 28; Funeral Services Sept. 15, 2016 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

**Malone** — Karen M. (Monaghan) Mahoney, 73; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Massena** — Kathleen M. (Arno) LaCombe, 89; Funeral Services Sept. 16, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

**Norfolk** — Marjorie R. (Monica) Wagstaff, 90; Funeral Services Sept. 16, 2016 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.



**Ogdensburg** — Michael J. Tortoriello, 60; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery

**Ogdensburg** — Eunice "Sissy" J. (Pearson) D'Amore, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 14, 2016 at Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** — Theresa (Menard) Lavoie, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2016 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** — Irene (Gilroy) Deyo, 101; Funeral Services Sept. 14, 2016 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Potsdam** — Ruth M. (Niles) Henderson, 74; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2016 at

Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

**Watertown** — James L. Brown, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 16, 2016 at Cummings Funeral Home; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

**Watertown** — Doris (Palmer) Herrick, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 17, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Vernon F. Taylor, 87; Funeral Services Sept. 15, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Roger Fiaschetti, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

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### 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





*Bishop Terry LaValley cordially invites you to the*

# *Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass*

*Sunday, October 30, 2016*

*2:30pm*

*St. Joseph's Church 306 West Main Street, Malone, NY*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The entire New York North Country Community  
is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well being  
of all in the law enforcement community.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*For more information:*

*Fr. Chris Carrara: 315-376-6662 or [ccc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ccc@twcny.rr.com)*