

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Stefanik seeks environmental stewardship | PAGE 13

The first four years of Pope Francis' papacy | PAGE 14

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 44

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 22, 2017

No magic in conversion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Conversion doesn't come from the wave of a magic wand, but from learning to do good through concrete actions every day, Pope Francis said.

While even "the saintliest person sins seven times a

day," conversion happens through humility and trying to become "better than the day before," the pope said March 14 during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"Converting doesn't mean

going to a fairy with a magic wand," he said. "No, it is a path, a path of turning away (from evil) and of learning." Reflecting on the day's first reading from the prophet Isaiah (1:10, 16-20), the pope said, "You learn to do good

through concrete things. Not with words, but with actions."

The reading from Isaiah gives three examples: "Help the oppressed, hear the orphan's plea and defend the widow."

Bishop's message for St. Joseph's Day

Bishop LaValley traveled to Watertown Saturday to join the Sisters of St. Joseph for their annual celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph.

In his homily, Bishop LaValley challenged the sisters to consider what God is "whispering."

"Do I have Joseph's trust, particularly when fear and confusion seem like constant unwelcome guests in my life," the bishop said. "Am I tuned in to receive and to act upon divine whispers? Do I dare pay attention to what God might be revealing to me?"

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

New pastor in Altona, Sciota

Bishop has appointed Father Adrian Gallagher as pastor in Altona, Sciota as well as Mooers and Mooers Forks

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

A PAPAL ENCOUNTER



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Rebecca Rose, musical director for St. Cyril Church in Alexandria Bay, took part in an international conference in Rome in early March on the theme: "Music and the Church: cult and culture fifty years after *Musica Sacram*." Each of the participants was invited to meet Pope Francis during the conference convened by the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture. Mrs. Rose asked the pope to bless two items of personal importance: her husband Kevin's identification shield (he is with the New York State Police) and her own necklace shield.

THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

NCC's 2017 Catholic marriage issue



This year's Catholic Marriage issue features reflections from six couples - including Sarah and Matt Bosley of Willsboro, shown above - on the vocation of marriage. The Bosleys, parishioners of St. Philip of Jesus Church, have now been married for 11 years and are the parents of four children. The special issue also includes a message from the diocesan director of family life and information on pre-cana sessions and natural family planning, among other features.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 5-11

DON'T FORGET: To renew your subscription to the *North Country Catholic*

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY
President
REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
Vice President
JAMES D. CROWLEY
Secretary-Treasurer
MARY LOU KILIAN
Editor/
General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping 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.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
catholic.org

**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional 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

Finding, following God in married life

Longtime readers know that the *NCC's* annual wedding issue takes a different focus than most other newspapers.

Rather than articles on dresses, rings and honeymoons we look at the *marriage*, striving to offer support for the new husband and wife as they follow their call from God.

This year, we're delighted to share the stories of six couples who recognize that their married life is truly a vocation, the way they have been called to live lives of holiness.

It's not always easy to find and follow God in married life

but, as one couple said, "our family and our life together has been enriched by the love God has for us and the love we have for each other."



Mary Lou
Kilian

And, the wise words of another wife: "My view of vocation has really grown in our years of marriage.

In the past I believed those called to a religious vocation had a 'higher' calling and were holier than lay people. I now realize being married and a parent is not a lesser calling than the religious life, nor is it a higher calling than the single life. It is a different calling. We are all called to grow closer to

Christ daily and share his love with others."

Although it's not common to hear the word "vocation" at a wedding, it wouldn't be difficult for the bride and groom to say the word. The real meaning of a vocation to marriage would be blessedly hidden from their eyes.

Back in the dark ages, when Tom and I were married - with plenty of Catholic education behind us - we had all the right vocabulary as we shared our vows. We made the most of the sacrament with favorite scripture readings and beautifully rendered music. My groom even sang to me, performing a piece with words from the Song of Songs which he had composed for the day.

We were surrounded by friends and family members who shared our faith.

We were ready to show the world how to live the vocation of marriage.

We didn't know what we were talking about!

Almost 40 years later, after decades of irritations, fights, worries about money, terrifying sicknesses, deaths and great sorrows as well as babies and grandbabies, holidays, fulfilling work, new homes and great joys, we have a much better idea.

Some days we did well at finding and following God; some days God seemed far from our grasp. Luckily, please God, we still have plenty of days to get it right!

FATHER MUENCH SAYS...

Creating some space for God with silence

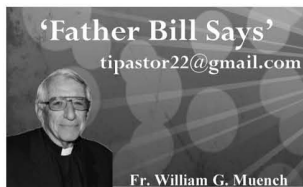
Each year we read the Gospel story of the Transfiguration on the Second Sunday of Lent. It is a rather curious story, wouldn't you say? Jesus takes three apostles, Peter, James and John, up a mountain, Mount Tabor. It's not a big mountain like the Adirondacks but it's a fairly good hike.

Once up the mountain, something rather curious happens. The Gospel tells us that Jesus was transfigured - his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. I think Jesus wanted to impress these apostles, give them confidence, to face the shocking events of Christ's Passion.

This must have been a well-remembered story since all three synoptic evangelists tell this story.

During this incident we are told that they were overshadowed by a cloud and, from that cloud, a voice speaks out. Obviously, it's the voice of God the Father who says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to him."

Prayer is about listening. I believe that each day of our lives the Lord longs to reach us, coming to us with love and



compassion as well as with his challenges for us to live out our discipleship.

The Lord touches our lives in many surprising ways - not as flamboyant as in this Transfiguration story - but just as real. Too often we do not recognize the Lord's message, we fail to listen. We need some silence.

You and I live in a very noisy world. We are constantly turning something on just for the noise of it all. Noise can be rather addictive for us. We seem to need the noise of the television or the radio or whatever to fill up the silence. All of this noise doesn't leave space for the Lord to reach us. We are not listening; we need silence to give God some space.

My favorite saint, Thomas Merton, wrote a great deal about silence. It seems rather obvious that a Trappist monk

would understand the importance of silence. These monks do not need or want all that noise that we think is so important.

I would like to share some ideas on silence from Merton. I discovered an essay by Merton in a book of his *Essential Writings*. He wrote this essay in 1968 at the request of some college students from the University of Louisville and titled it "Creative Silence." He challenges his readers to discover the power of silence.

Merton writes this in an attempt to understand silence: "Silence has many dimensions. It can be a regression and an escape, or a loss of self or it can be a presence, awareness, unification, self-discovery."

I know that in my own life there have been times when I used silence as an escape. I have blocked out myself from others, nothing to write, no listening. No one could reach me, especially the Lord.

I have learned that prayer becomes my solution to such times, to loneliness and emptiness. For prayer to be effective in my life silence is necessary. In silence, I can give the Lord

space to be part of my life. In silence, I can listen without interference. In silence, I can find the Lord and find myself.

Merton goes on: "Positive silence pulls us together and makes us realize, who we are, who we might be, and the distance between these two. In prayerful silence, listening to the Lord, we discover so much about ourselves. Who are we? We are a loved people. Jesus demonstrates God great love for us through his life, sufferings, death and resurrection. We must live like a loved person. Where I allow God to be part of my life in prayerful silence. I become a true disciple of the Lord. Those moments of silence bring Jesus more completely into our lives. When we give the Lord space, we find our true self."

Merton further adds: "Hence, positive science implies a disciplined choice, and what Paul Tillich called the courage to be." This is what Lent is about - a time to decide to draw closer to the Lord. Lent is about courage - to give some space to our God by listening, by praying, by giving up something.

FOLLOW ME

What is God whispering to you?

Bishop LaValley's homily for the celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

What is God whispering to you?

That's a question Pope Francis asked a crowd gathered at St. Joseph's Seminary down in Dunwoodie, during his 2015 pastoral visit to the United States. What prompted the question was the divine revelations that that seminary's namesake, St. Joseph, experienced in his dreams.

Today's Gospel (Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24) tells the story of one such dream about which we are all very familiar. It concerns the dilemma St. Joseph found himself in regarding his relationship with his betrothed, pregnant Mary and the whispers of a divine messenger. Joseph needed to make a decision. He acted upon what the divine messenger told him.

So, what is God whispering to you?

I thought this might be a helpful question to reflect upon on this occasion of celebrating your patron saint, St. Joseph who overcame fear and confusion by responding, with total trust, to the whisperings of God through a dream.

Do I have Joseph's trust, particularly when fear and confusion seem like con-

stant unwelcome guests in my life? Am I tuned in to receive and to act upon divine whispers? Do I dare pay attention to what God might be revealing to me?

I think one way of responding to this question is to ask myself: "Is God, God for me? Or have I become God for me? Or is some other person or object or a habit or an addiction, ruling my life?"

When I no longer pay attention to the voice of Me, LaValley almighty, I can begin to hear the gentle, soft voice of my Lord. Do I have faith enough in God's very existence, to allow God to be God for me? I pray, in every circumstance of my life, for confidence and trust in God's very existence. Then my ears and my heart begin to hear God's voice because I know God is real and present. It seems to me, that's raw, bare-bones faith - believing with every bone of body that there is a God, one God, and it's not me.

And then I pray in every circumstance, for confidence and trust in God's Providence - in God's plan for me. You see, sometimes we can get so preoccupied with planning for our future, that they - my plans for me - distract me from being attentive to what plans the Lord might be whispering to me.

In every circumstance, I pray for confidence and trust in God's power to protect me. I remember Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel (10:31), "So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

It is good every day to ask the question: With all my being, do I trust totally that God exists, that God has a loving plan for me, personally?

With all my being do I trust that God will protect me in every situation I find myself in?

My sisters and brothers in Christ, in your prayer - Know of God's existence, His loving plan for you - you personally, and His desire to hold you dearly, keeping you close.

I'm sure that at times, like me, you probably find yourselves just a little confused, maybe a bit scared and unsure about what tomorrow has in store for you. Have you heard God whispering to you? What prevents you from hearing Him? Do you expect divine revelation during your prayer time?

Maybe you have low expectations when it comes to divine messages. What noise from "out there" drowns out any hope of the divine whisper from having a chance of touching my heart? Worries about personal health, community



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

Bishop appoints new pastor

OGDENSBURG - After the March 16 meeting of the Priest Personnel Committee, Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that Father Adrian Gallagher, pastor of St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks and St. Joseph's Church in Mooers and temporary administrator of Church of the Holy Angels in Altona and St. Louis of

France Church in Sciota, has been named pastor of Church of the Holy Angels and St. Louis of France.

Father Gallagher will continue to serve as pastor in Mooers and Mooers Forks in addition to his new responsibilities as pastor in Altona and Sciota.

A native of Malone, Father

Gallagher was Franciscan for several years but returned to the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 2013 to be closer to his aging parents.

He was named pastor in Mooers and Mooers Forks Jan. 1, 2014.

On Feb. 29, 2016, he was incardinated into the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

life, family problems, ministry woes get all my attention, perhaps. Worries and anxieties muffle my ability to hear any divine message.

What could possibly prevent me from hearing the message, misinterpreting the message, denying that there is a message?

Maybe I have low expectations for my prayer life. I don't "hear voices" when I pray, but my heart does stir, in the quiet of prayer.

Maybe I am impatient with God. I expect clear, quick results to my prayer or maybe I fear what Jesus might be trying to tell me, so I welcome distractions.

Maybe the divine whispers coming my way become distorted, "filtered" by my own agenda, selfishness, pride, comfort, jealousy. My hearing becomes defective because what the Lord has to say may demand too much from me. My hearing may be very selective. I hear what I want to hear because I serve as my own God and I figure my plans are what God's plans are or should be. Lent is a perfect time to take a look at our in-

dividual prayer life and determine, through the grace of God, where it might need some tweaking.

Doesn't St. Joseph provide us with a wonderful example of paying attention to the divine messages that the Lord sends all of us?

Whether it's at quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament, whether it's in the midst of our ministry, perhaps it's in the comforting words, witness or challenging words of another, we seek to do the Father's will and follow Jesus.

Can you hear Jesus whispering to you? I wonder, what kind of "hearing aid" do I need?

Pope Francis wrote that "if the consecrated life wants to maintain its prophetic mission and its fascination, it must maintain the freshness and novelty of the centrality of Jesus... and show the beauty of following Christ and radiate hope and joy." I would argue that that can only happen if my heart and soul is tuned into the divine whisperings. Blessed Feast Day everybody! St. Joseph pray for us.

Immaculate Heart Central School Watertown, New York

Is seeking applicants for the position of
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

For the School Year 2017-18

Applicants should:

- Possess a Master's Degree in Education and/or Education Administration and Supervision;
- Be a practicing Catholic;
- Have successful experience(s) in a Catholic school;
- Give evidence of administrative leadership skills in the areas of Catholic identity, instructional evaluation, management, promotion and maintenance of an effective learning environment and public relations.

A comprehensive salary and benefits package consistent with experience is provided.

To apply, please send cover letter, application, resume, transcripts and letters of recommendation, no later than March 30, 2017 to:

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSI,
Superintendent of Schools
100 Elizabeth Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Funeral held March 11 for Sr. Margaret Turner, GNSH

HUNTINGTON VALLEY, PA.—A Mass of Christian Burial for Grey Nun Sister Margaret Turner, 89, was held March 11 at Holy Redeemers Sisters Chapel.

The former Sister St. George, died March 6 at St. Joseph's Manor, Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, in the 71st year of her religious life.

Daughter of the late Henry K. and Julia Jones Turner, Margaret Jean was born Feb. 4, 1928 in Gouverneur. Growing up in northern New York, she attended Morris-town Central High School for three years but graduated from St. Mary's Academy, Ogdensburg in 1946, entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart that same year.

She later received an RN

degree from Champlain Valley Hospital School of Nursing, Plattsburgh.

Her ministry spanned 50 years in the field of health-related care in Kodiak, Alaska; Plattsburgh, Ogdensburg, and Buffalo as well as in Philadelphia and Yardley, Pennsylvania.

North Country assignments included Champlain Valley Hospital, Plattsburgh; St. Joseph's Home and A. Barton Hepburn Hospital in Ogdensburg.

Sister Margaret returned to the Motherhouse in 1991, serving for the next ten years as driver for the sisters, as telephone operator and receptionist.

When failing health and

loss of most of her sight necessitated her retirement in 2001, her days included a ministry of prayer and receptionist for an additional 13 years.

She returned to the North Country and the Sisters' Camp on the St. Lawrence River as often as she was able, to visit and vacation over the years.

In addition to her religious congregation she is survived by her sister, Diane L Ray and several cousins.

Her brother, Emmett K Turner, predeceased her.

Donations in memory of Sister Margaret may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116.

Funeral held for Sr. Marie Elizabeth Cote, SCSL, 79

LEVIS, QUEBEC—A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Jacqueline Cote, 79, a Sister of Charity of St. Louis, was held March 6 the Chapel of Louise-Elizabeth House.

She died at the Louise-Elizabeth House of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis March 2

in her 58th year of religious life,

The daughter of Ovila Côté and of Queenie Byrne, she was born at the Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish in Québec.

Sister Jacqueline was known as Sister Marie-Elisabeth

when she served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. She taught at Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh as well as in Cheshire, Connecticut.

She is survived by her brother Claude Cote' and members of her religious community.

Bishop's Schedule

March 24 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 25 - 9 a.m., Lenten Prayer Breakfast with the Western Regional CORE at the Thousand Island Resort Hotel in Clayton

4 p.m., Mass at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks followed by Bishop's Burse Dinner

March 26 - 7:30 a.m., Mass at St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington
9:30 a.m., Mass at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks

11:15 a.m., Mass at Church of the Immaculate Conception in Keeseville

March 27 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

5 p.m., Operation Andrew Dinner at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

March 29 - 9 a.m., Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

March 23 - Msgr. Paul T. Joly, 1987

March 24 - Rev. George Roskwiatski, O.F.M. Conv., 1980

March 25 - Rev. Michael D. Charbonneau, 1909

March 26 - Rev. Jean P. Bernard, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Thomas J. Rodgers, O.S.A., 1971; Msgr. William E. LaVallee, 1976

March 27 - Rev. Bernard Marron, 1927; Rev. Henry Cormerais, 1938; Rev. Lawrence J. Gerrity, O.S.A., 1981; Rev. John L. Gallagher, O.S.A., 1982

March 28 - Rev. Francis McShane, O.S.A., 1932; Rev. Walter C. McMahon, 1978; Rev. Lawrence A. Mallette, 1989; Rev. Joseph P. Trombley, 2001

Environmental Stewardship

"I was thirsty and you gave me a drink."

Mt. 25:34-35b

In midst of Lent (which means "springtime of the soul,") comes "springtime for the earth." Along with spring comes rain to water the earth. While we may not welcome the 'mud season' that comes with it, it is the rain that brings along a fresh supply of water for all life.

While we see many places in our country and around the world devastated by floods, we also witness an increase in prolonged droughts that has a direct negative effect on farming and the quality of life, the prices of food increases, and lives of millions of people every year who must leave their homes and lands to search for places with water.

At the same time we witness high levels of contamination in rivers, lakes and other sources of drinking water that threaten the health and even the lives of millions of people.

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis states "... access to safe drinking water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights." (#30)

During this Lenten Season, we may ask ourselves "What does this have to do with me who lives in an area of the country surrounded by rivers, lakes and streams?"

As good stewards and neighbors the challenge confronting us is to conserve and to protect the quality of water in our neighborhoods. To learn more, consider attending a presentation on "Water, Nutrition, and Your Health," Sunday, March 26. See Calendar Events for more info.


Lenten Practice for this week: Count the number of pipes that bring both hot and cold water into your home. As a family write down a set of simple rules for using water responsibly. With your family offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of water.

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

 #Pontifex

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

 Find us on Facebook!



BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

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, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Subscribe to the North Country Catholic today!

Subscribe online at www.northcountrycatholic.org or call our office at 315-608-7556 to subscribe today!
Options to receive the NCC in your mailbox or in your e-mail.

DISCOVER THE GREATNESS AND BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE!

POPE FRANCIS

The North Country Catholic presents Catholic Marriage 2017

Married vocation: six couples share their stories

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

In September 2016, INSPIRE: CALLED TO LOVE proposed greater attention to the universal call to holiness - for all persons, in all states of life.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1603-4) affirms that "The vocation to marriage was written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator... [and] their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes."

These reflections testify to that goodness as they discuss the joys and challenges of finding and following God in married life.

Nick and Mary

Nick and Mary Haas. Married 26 years/ 3 children. St. Andre Bessette, Malone

On our wedding day, we each felt that we were marrying the person God wanted us to be with for the rest of our lives, although the word "vocation" did not come to mind at that time. In retrospect, it is clear that we were answering God's call to marriage.

Over the years, listening to sermons, attending workshops, and generally learn-



Nick and Mary Haas

ing more about our faith, we began to see that we were actually living our vocation.

We realized we were meant to be together from the first day of our marriage; God put us together for a reason. Looking at our marriage as a vocation strengthens this fact.

Our family and our life together has been enriched by the love God has for us and the love we have for each other.

The way we interact as a couple has shown our children how to love, listen to, and forgive one another.

The vocation of marriage strengthens not only the family, but the community

as well. It is a witness to the loving grace that God has bestowed on his people.

Matt and Sarah

Matt and Sarah Bosley. Married 11 years/4 children. St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro.

(Sarah) When we married, I did not think of it as a vocation, but I did feel I was where God was calling me to be. I did not think of us making one another holy, but being with Matt made me feel closer to God.

(Matt) I recognized marriage as being a vocation, but I didn't have a very deep understanding of what this meant, because I was not yet a confirmed Catholic at

the time. I knew I wanted God to be the foundation of our marriage and to support us in growing closer to him.

(Sarah) I think when we had children the realization that marriage is a vocation really sank in. Several months into marriage I realized we were making one another holier as our faults were no longer hidden and we had to address them. It is easy to pretend you are perfect when you don't have someone who knows you so completely.

(Matt) Having children gave the vocation of marriage a whole new meaning and made us focus even more on working together as one. Learning about God's vision for marriage through NFP classes and studying the Theology of the Body really gave us a deeper understanding about how to live out this vocation through love.

(Matt) I think understanding marriage as our vocation has really strengthened our marriage because it's helped us remember we're not in it for ourselves. We don't worry about keeping score or whether we're being loved well because loving each other so deeply and unconditionally has allowed us to develop more and more trust.

(Sarah) In reflecting on vocations at the Vocation Summit, I realized my view of



Sarah and Matt Bosley

vocation has really grown in our years of marriage.

In the past I believed those called to a religious vocation had a "higher" calling and were holier than lay people. I now realize being married and a parent is not a lesser calling than the religious life, nor is it a higher calling than the single life. It is a different calling. We are all called to grow closer to Christ daily and share his love with others.

As a wife and mother, it's my husband and children who most challenge me to be less selfish and more Christ-like.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Married vocation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Brian and Monique

Deacon Brian and Monique Dwyer. Married 13 years/5 children. Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay.

Monique and I met at Church many years ago, but the whole idea of vocation may not have been at the forefront of our minds. Mostly the word vocation was used to pray for ordained or religious vocations. We always tried our best to follow the plan God had marked out for us, but in 2003, "vocation" may not have been what we thought we were committing ourselves to.

In the early days of our marriage, Monique and I were eager to begin a family and to continue to serve the Church as God would see fit. When we were blessed with our firstborn and revealed in the glory of new life, the concept of vocation was taking shape as we were responsible for a precious life and knew that our ultimate goal was to get that child(ren) to heaven one day.

We were accepting our responsibility to train our kids in the faith and to build a home on the solid foundation of Christ - and to hand on the faith to our children and so make our corner of the world a better place.

God has continued to bless our family and so to bless our marriage. Children are the supreme gift of marriage and have taught us much about being good parents through their simple acts of faith and charity.

We often overthink things, but our children have taught us that it is childlike faith, simplicity, and openness that lead to real holiness.

We look forward to all that God has in store for our family as we continue our journey of faith and serving the Church as family.

Henry and Dayna

Deacon Henry and Dayna



Deacon Brian and Monique Dwyer
Leader. Married 22 years/ 8 children/ 2 grandchildren. St. James, Gouverneur.

The day that Henry and I said, "I do", we were already in awe of the gift of each other that God had given us. We knew we were committing ourselves to each other, totally, faithfully, freely and faithfully, until death would separate us.

We knew that we would hold on to God as the center of our marriage and never let go. We knew marriage was a vocation, and we embraced it enthusiastically. We were excited to answer all that God called us to through our vocation. We looked forward to doing ministry together, and raising children in the faith.

Still, as scripture says, "eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love him..."; our lives are more blessed than we could have ever imagined on our very happy wedding day.

We have been blessed to have eight beautiful children to raise, who have brought us more joy than we could have ever dreamed. We have a lovely daughter in law and two grandchildren, who are evidence of God's abundant

love for us.

Through the years, God has given us incredible opportunities to serve Him and His people. We immediately joined the Family Guggenheim family and have been part of it for more than 20 years. The love we were given through the Guggenheim family, with the leadership of Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, encouraged us in countless ways as we raised our many little ones. We heard God calling us to serve Him as a family and we became part of the Family Guggenheim Staff fourteen years ago.

There, we have always received far more from the other families than we feel we have given. God has used Guggenheim as the lifeline that has brought us to so many other blessings within the Church, through dearest faithful friends, and their example of sacramental marriage and parenting for discipleship.

God, speaking through these faithful friends, led us to Worldwide Marriage Encounter, North Country Mission of Hope, and Franciscan University. With Gayle and Gary's support, we made it through the formation process and Henry was ordained a deacon in 2013. Our greatest ministry together has been marriage



Tom and Maureen Dumont

preparation. We believe there is no greater need for our Church, our world, than for marriages to get it right. We are honored and truly blessed to witness to the blessings of marriage, and encourage young couples to embrace the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Tom and Maureen

Tom and Maureen Dumont. Married 48 years/ 6 children, 13 grandchildren. St. Andre Bessette, Malone

Our wedding day was our answer to God's call for us to serve him and bring more

lives into this world to love and serve him.

The call for our vocation was very clear years before we were married as we drew closer to Our Lord and to one another with mutual love and respect. The Holy Spirit was leading our lives toward each other and guiding us to be together.

Our Lord, Our Lady, and the Holy Spirit have guided us and strengthened us through many challenging times, always helping us to follow God's will.

We raised our six children the same way we were raised: God and his will come first! They all knew that their core values and love were based on faith and trust.

Of course, it was not always easy. When our five-year old Aimee was diagnosed with leukemia, we were shocked and heartbroken. I asked God to let her live and do great things for him--which he did. After five long years of chemotherapy, she was healthy; today she is mother of three and an oncology nurse!

Our years together have been filled with so many blessings; they could fill a book. Looking back fills us with awe and thanksgiving!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader

Married vocation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Dan and Patricia

Dan and Patricia Tower. Married 26 years/2 children. St. Andre Bessette, Malone.

Though certainly a lifetime commitment, our marriage spoke more "storybook" to me than it did "vocation." I knew my husband was honest, hard-working, and had the integrity to be a wonderful



Dan and Patricia Tower

leader in our family. My faith had always been important to me, but I did not quite realize that marriage would be a walk with God toward heaven and would require daily sacrifice.

But the fairytale ended just after the honeymoon when a freak stovetop accident spewed hot spaghetti sauce over everything in sight, including Dan's new puppy, and ruined the stove. The unhappiness that followed ended my fairytale ideals!

Next, while using NFP, we waited for two anxious years before conceiving our son, who soon developed asthma.

The delivery of our daughter 21 months later was so traumatic that one of her arms was paralyzed for two years.

Then the children and I were in a head-on collision when a vehicle crossed the center lane. Through a two year ordeal of constant pain, and struggles with fear and disappointment, the realization of vocation, and of the Lord's love, really grew.

Our wedding vows—promising to be faithful in

good times and in bad, in sickness and in health—came back with resounding clarity.

We realize more and more that God gives the sacrament of marriage abundant blessings, but we have to remember to ask for them. Our marriage has not been a perfect one, but one with much love.

Our marriage has not been one without suffering, but one with blessings too numerous to count. It may not have been what we expected, but the Lord has had a hand in it every step

of the way. When society tells you to give up on your marriage vocation, remember: you have a spouse to laugh with, trust, lean on

and confide in. But don't expect them to be perfect and fill every desire of your heart—that place is reserved for the Lord!

For wedding memories as precious as your childhood dreams...

FP FERGUSON PRINTING

315-287-1950

Rock Island Road
Gouverneur NY

Carlson Craft™

- Invitations
- Napkins
- Bridal Books
- Accessories
- Announcements
- Reception Items

2017 Pre-Cana Schedule

City	Date	Time	Location
North Bangor	March 23 and March 25	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 12966
	March 30 and April 1	6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond 3 Morris Street Norfolk, NY 13667
Clayton	April 20 and April 22	6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	St. Mary's Church 521 James Street Clayton, NY 13624
	Lowville	April 23 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Includes Lunch)	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville, NY 13367
North Bangor	April 27 and April 29	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 13367
	Saranac Lake	September 28 and September 30	6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Carthage	September 30 (Limit 7 Couples)	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	St. James Minor Church 327 West Street Carthage, NY 13619

For more information about Pre-Cana please contact:

Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader

Pre-Cana Coordinators

315-287-2874

315-393-2920

dleader@rcdony.org

Fax: 1-866-314-7296

Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste 304, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

Bibles, Crosses, Missals, Rosaries, Medals, Cards

Baptism, Wedding & Sacramental Gifts, Statues

Memorial, Candles, Icons, Music, DVDs, Recovery

Willow Tree Products, Seasonal, Maple Syrup & More!

Gifts of the Spirit! Shipping Available!

Hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(518) 561-5083 www.peacefuldovebooksandgifts.com

Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy

MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM

400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669

www.sisterspreciousblood.org

FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE

On the path to a sacramental marriage

By **Stephen Tartaglia**
Diocesan director of family life

My niece was married last July. I was amazed at how strongly I felt God's presence at the ceremony. My niece and her husband are non-Catholic Christians, both baptized and serious about living out the Christian faith as they understand it.

I've attended a number of wedding ceremonies that were overdone and expensive, and left feeling like I just saw a show instead of a holy sacrament. The experience at my niece's ceremony was different for me. It was prayerful, peaceful, and joyful. I was acutely aware of the presence of God and it strengthened the love I have for my own wife and family.

This called to mind the difference between 'Natural Marriage' and "Holy Matrimony."



Stephen M. Tartaglia

'Marriage' means a joining together of two items. For example, the marriage of chocolate and peanut butter gives us peanut butter cups, arguably the best candy ever invented, and although they come in pairs, unfortunately they do not multiply and get miniatures.

Natural and sacramental marriages both have as their purpose the joining together of a man and a woman for the pursuit of some temporal good. Historically, the main idea is that natural marriage as an institution is good for everyone. It generates new life, and provides for the needs of the children in an environment that is stable and has the greatest likelihood of success.

A sacramental marriage has the additional purpose of helping the spouses and their children get to heaven. Holy Matrimony offers the kind of help that other Sacraments give, namely grace. God becomes present in real, concrete ways in

the lives of the couple and their family.

Parents can help their children to 'catch' God's plan for marriage in several ways

The love between a man and a woman in a sacramental marriage is said to reflect God's love in that it is full, free, faithful and fruitful. This love, first experienced in the family, extends outward to the community.

'Holy Matrimony,' therefore, is a much clearer way of expressing the reality of sacramental marriage.

Unlike natural marriages, which are simply contractual agreements which can be broken and ended, Holy Matrimony is permanent because Sacraments cannot be undone. You can't be unbaptized or unconfirmed. A priest may be laicized, but he remains an ordained priest who does not perform priestly ministry. The Eucharist cannot become unconsecrated. Likewise, the bond that a couple forge

in Holy Matrimony cannot be undone.

Some people mistakenly believe an annulment is just a 'Catholic Divorce.' To help them understand, I ask them to consider another scenario. There is a significant difference between the Eucharist and unconsecrated bread and wine, even though they look identical. What if a host falls onto the credence table and is accidentally left off the altar during Mass? After the Mass the host is discovered by the sacristan who questions what to do with it. The priest investigates and eventually declares that the host is unconsecrated. He did not do anything to the host to remove the consecration, the consecration never happened. Although it looks the same as a consecrated host, it remains natural bread only.

The same idea applies to the sacrament of marriage. A couple can have a relationship that appears to be a sacramental marriage but it isn't because something was missing at the time of their marriage ceremony. In those cases, the couple may have a natural marriage, but not a sacramental one.

The same skills that make natural marriage easier and better also benefit sacramental marriages: financial management, effective communication, good parenting, conflict resolution, etc. But to have a successful sacramental marriage the couple must receive and live out the sacrament with the

proper disposition for the grace to be effective.

This 'proper disposition' is usually developed within the family, from the time that the children are conceived up until their engagement. This time period, called the remote stage of marital preparation, is when children learn to give and receive love, and learn to respond to God promptings in their life through the catechesis and example of their parents.

Parents can help their children to "catch" God's plan for marriage in several ways, such as sharing personal stories about their own faith experiences, guiding their children in making moral decisions, praying regularly as a family, reading the Bible, the Catechism, and other age appropriate spiritual books, choosing good movies and television programming to view as a family, and monitoring the use of technology. Modeling courtesies such as please, thank you, I'm sorry, and I forgive you, are also important.

It is essential for families to go to Mass and Reconciliation regularly. Parents must teach chastity through their words and their behaviors, and communicate that marriage is the proper context that God established for physical intimacy.

This is challenging because our culture works against the message of chastity, but it is an investment that yields countless blessings.

Chrism Mass 2017

Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled



All the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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

Thursday, April 6th at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

Would to God...

that his well-beloved Son was invited to every marriage, as he was to the marriage at Cana, for then the wine of his consolation and blessing would never be lacking to it.

St. Francis de Sales

The multiplication of ice skates

By Dayna Leader
Diocesan Pre-Cana coordinator

It is an understatement that Guggenheim changed our lives. From our first summer, there, in 1994, with our oldest Zack just turning two years old, it became the "center of our lives," where the center of our lives, our faith in Christ, became alive.

Guggenheim, and the people there, became a physical home that we returned to every year, to refocus and gain strength for the challenges of family life.

And, there were challenges!

When our twins were born, we had a six-year-old, and four children under four years old, four children in diapers.

There were challenges, sleepless nights, messy days, and moments of exasperation.

I would love to be able to say that I handled endless demands of dying to self with grace and gentleness.

I would love to be able to say that I handled endless demands of dying to self with grace and gentleness..

Although grace and gentleness was my goal, many times I fell so far from a mother of virtue, that I would be overcome with shame.

Sometimes the desire to be the mother I was called to be was so impossible that I would surrender in bouts of crying.

One episode of defeat that I will never forget, was preparing our family for a Wadhams Winter Weekend. We were all so excited to be with our Guggenheim families for some winter fun and prayer.

In preparing for the seven of us, I realized that we did not have enough ice skates for each child. The frustration grew as I would find several pairs either too small or too large that fit no one. My determination to be the "perfect mother" led me to tell Henry that I was going out to buy everyone new ice skates.

After trying to stay calm as I raised the stress level in the home, he finally snapped and told me we were not buying brand new ice skates for five children.

I felt like a complete failure, and irrational fear took over. I cried and declared that we were not going to the Wadhams Winter Weekend because our family was a failure!

Yes, I went to my room, slammed the door, sat in a chair and cried. I remember the feelings colliding in my heart; they come at those times when our hurts, ex-

haustion, and failures bring us to our knees.

In those times, I want to give up. I tell God that I cannot take the path to holiness any longer, and I quit!

...but sometimes the desire to be the mother I was called to be was so impossible that I would surrender in bouts of crying

When one spouse is at that place, the other can choose to throw in the towel as well and add fuel to the fire, and have a regrettable episode. Henry chose to love me. He came to me, took my face in his hands, and promised me all would be well. He dried my tears, and made me laugh as we ventured to Wadhams Hall.

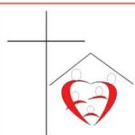
Of course, the peace of God poured out us that weekend. We prayed, made

the Holy Family out of snow, and went on a hay ride. We did go ice skating, and as Henry promised, all was well, when all our friends brought their baskets of mismatched, wrong sized skates to share! We had more than enough.

(We did accidentally leave one child at Wadhams Hall when we drove to the ice rink, but another family brought him before we even realized we had left him! Father Chris Looby rode in our vehicle and it threw the whole head count off!)

It was to this day, one of the most blessed weekends that we have ever had as a family. Those times when we feel we have nothing left, yet risk and reach out, and we choose to love our spouse, God's grace overflows; we trust and we heal, and continue to answer God's call to holiness.

And His grace is always enough.



Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office
Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.

Family Guggenheim

Session 1: August 17-20 Session 2: August 24-27 Session 3: October 6-8



Marriage Preparation Programs

For more information or to download a registration form go to:
www.rcdony.org/familylife
or contact Deacon Henry & Dayna Leader at

dleader@rcdony.org

Natural Family Planning information call
NFP services at 518-483-0459 or
email: apietropaoli@rcdony.org

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE
www.foryourmarriage.org

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

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



FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICE OF NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

NFP: a wonderful wedding gift!

By Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli
Diocesan NFP directors

Congratulations! Perhaps you are newly married, or maybe you are still busy getting ready for the big day. Issues and adjustments of all kinds are keeping you crazy-busy, and it is easy to let some things just slide.

Even so, starting a new life together is an important time for the two of you to

have a heart to heart talk about family planning.

Really? Wasn't that all settled at the doctor's office?

Well, that is the first thing to consider: being a healthy fertile woman is not a disease that needs medical treatment. In fact, any woman can learn to understand her own fertility through easily observable physical signs. This knowledge gives her an entirely safe, highly effective (98-99%), healthy and readily reversible way to plan a

family, simply by abstaining during the fertile time.

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

So, yes: learn all you can, even if you may need a magnifying glass to read the fine print in the package inserts. This information will alert you to some of the immediate medical hazards faced by women using the Pill and

other chemical contraceptives, including Norplant, patches, rings, IUD's, Yaz, and Plan B.

In addition to raising the risk of blood clots, heart attacks, stroke, gallbladder disease, and depression, these chemicals substantially increase the lifetime risk of breast cancer. (See www.bcpinstitute.org for more on the Pill/breast cancer link. Google <http://thepillkills.org> to learn more about the hundreds of side effects associ-

ated with chemical contraceptives.)

It is also important to realize that chemical contraceptives have abortifacient potential, which is even greater with the IUD.

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

FAITHFULLY
YOURS

Celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality.

Discover Natural Family Planning

NFP Program: Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 3211 4th St., NE, Washington, DC 20017; 202-541-3240; www.usccb.org. The phrase, "Celebrate and reverence..." taken from *Humanae Personae*, Dec 9, 1968, USCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities (July 25, 1993). Shigan, Theresa; Notari, PhD. Design: Lisa Toccia, toccia@verizon.net. All rights reserved. © 2016. The persons depicted are models used for illustrative purposes only. 11/16/16

After all, knowing the facts is essential to good decision making.

And there are other things to consider as well—like the effect contraception can have on your relationship, especially in the long term.

When you stand before God at the altar on your wedding day, you promise yourselves to one another in a love that is free, permanent, faithful, and fruitful. This is the kind of love with which God loves us, and it is the unconditional love for which we all long.

It is the love that God intends should be embodied in every act of sexual intercourse, an act that by its nature says: "I love you. I give all of myself to you forever, and I accept all of you."

Contracepted intercourse says something different: "I love you, but I withhold my fertility/I will not accept your fertility."

In this way, married love can become conditional and divisive rather than uniting the couple in complete and joyful acceptance of one another.

Little wonder then, that the Church calls our attention to nature, to the way God made us, to that awesome design that allows us to live in harmony with our fertility.

Natural Family Planning educates couples to recognize, record, and interpret

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Natural Family Planning • Diocese of Ogdensburg
36 First St. • Malone, N.Y. 12953 • Phone 315-483-0459 • email: apietropaoli@rcdony.org
www.rcdony.org/nfp

NFP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

the physical changes that reveal the fertile window in each cycle.

The couple then uses this knowledge to postpone or to achieve pregnancy according to their family planning intention in a way that is safe, healthy, and effective. NFP is a lifestyle that has the potential to enrich couple communication, deepen their love, and strengthen their faith and families.

Modern methods of Natural Family Planning have been developed through more than half a century of careful scientific and statistical research.

A variety of methodologies offer real choices for

couples wanting to learn and live Natural Family Planning. From in-person to online classes, from CyclePro charting software to new apps, NFP is more accessible than ever before. But in any form, NFP remains the option of choice for couples concerned with respecting nature, one another, and the loving plan of the Creator. [To learn more about Natural Family Planning, go to www.rcdony.org/nfp or contact the Diocesan NFP Office: apietropaoli@rcdony.org or (518)483-0459.]

Give them a gift subscription today! It's a gift that will be enjoyed all year.

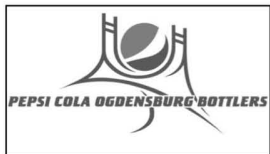
Do you know a newly married couple who would enjoy reading the

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC?

A gift card will be sent.

Send a check for \$27 payable to the NCC, PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Parish _____
 From _____
 Giver's Address _____



GO GREEN!
 Receive the NCC in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.
 E-mail eward@dioogdensburg.org to sign up today.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
 is on
FACEBOOK

- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

Like

1.877.HOPE.4.ME RachelsVineyard.org

"The Rachel's Vineyard retreat continues to be one of the richest blessings in my life!"

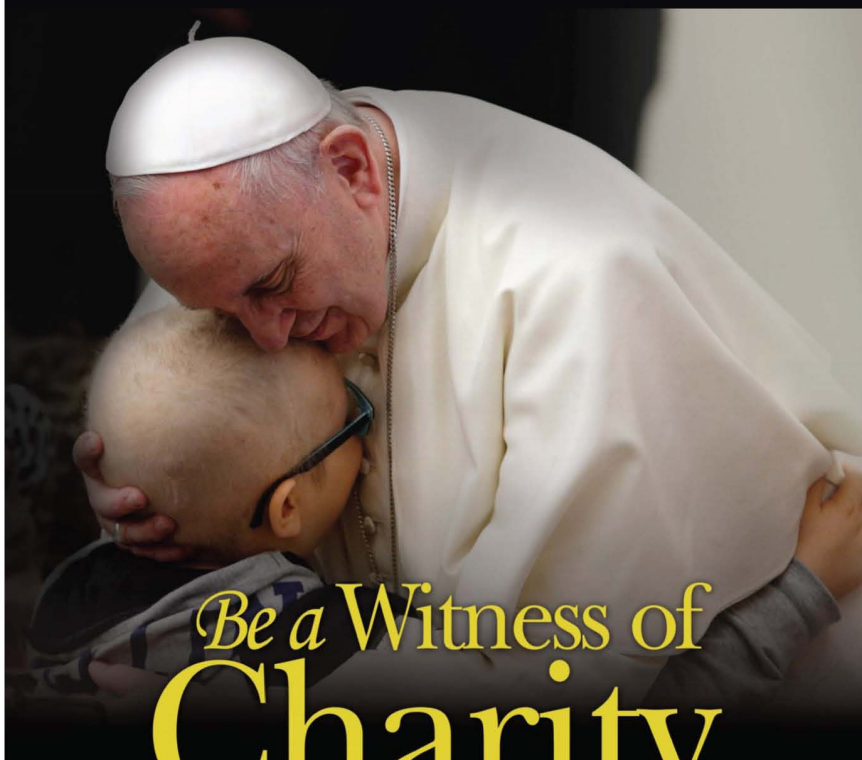
If you are suffering after an abortion, you are not alone.
 Find support, love, hope and healing at Rachel's Vineyard.

June 16-18 and Sept 1-3

Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake.

Confidential registration forms: www.rcdony.org/prolife

2017 Collection for the Works of the Holy Father



Be a Witness of
Charity

SUPPORT THE WORKS OF
THE HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE
Peter's Pence Collection

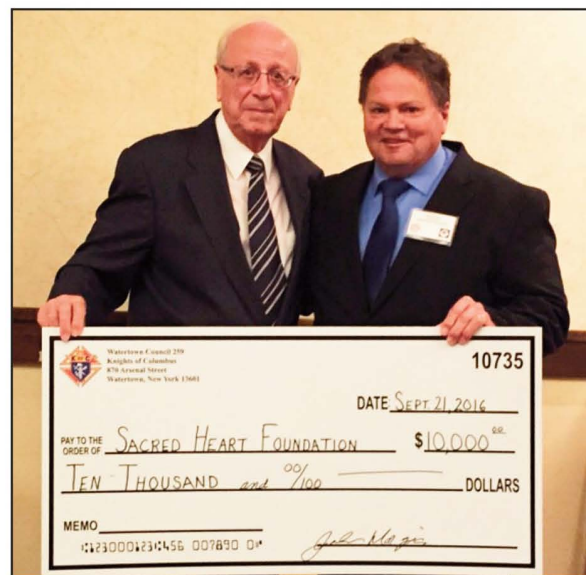


Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photo: © CNS-Paul Haring.



Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters. The purpose of the Peter's Pence Collection is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

Collection Weekend: March 25 & 26



John Morgia, left, Grand Knight of Watertown Council 259 presented Jayme St. Croix, president of the board of directors for the Sacred Heart Foundation, with a check for \$10,000 which establishes a scholarship in the name of the K of C Council #259 to be given yearly for the education of Priests and Brothers throughout the world.

Watertown Knights support seminarians

WATERTOWN - A "Pennies from Heaven" fund has been established by the Watertown Knights of Columbus Council #259 for the support of the education of seminarians.

With 'Pennies from Heaven'

This past September, the council donated \$10,000 to the Sacred Heart Foundation which helps to finance the education of seminarians around the world.

Council members collect the "Pennies from Heaven" funds monthly from the local Watertown parishes. The funds are managed by the Board of Trustees of the Watertown K of C Council and are used when requests are received to aid seminarians in their studies.

The success of this program has resulted in sup-

porting men studying for the priesthood for the Dioceses of Ogdensburg and, with the donation to the Sacred Heart Foundation, support will be given to Missionaries of the Sacred Heart seminarians around the world.

Because of the success of the "Pennies from Heaven" program the Watertown Knights of Columbus have recently partner with the Northern New York Community Foundation to maintain their "Pennies from Heaven" funds and has established a fund for "Catholic Education" in Watertown.

Members of the Watertown Council will continue their monthly collections with one month for the education of seminarians and the next month for education needs in the Catholic elementary school.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Visit our website www.northcountrycatholic.org to subscribe online by clicking on "Subscribe by Credit Card", top right corner or call our office at 315-608-7556 to subscribe by phone

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholic bishops join call to support humanitarian assistance

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Five Catholic prelates were among 106 faith leaders who shared their support for U.S. spending on international humanitarian aid in a letter to congressional leaders. Dated March 16, the letter cited the importance of maintaining support for the humanitarian and development programs through the Department of State "that enable countless people to pull themselves out of poverty and live life with dignity." The letter was sent hours after the White House released a simplified version of its fiscal year 2018 budget that proposed deep cuts in federal spending on discretionary programs in the departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development as well as in the Environmental Protection Agency. Called the "skinny budget," the president's proposal includes a \$54 billion increase in discretionary spending for the military with corresponding cuts in discretionary spending on nonmilitary programs. The budget proposes a 28 percent cut in the programs addressed in the religious leaders' letter. Smaller increases were included for homeland security -- particularly \$2.6 billion for building the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico and implementing border security technology -- and \$1.4 billion for school choice alternatives.

Archdiocese announces beatification date for Oklahoma priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City announced that one of its native sons, Father Stanley Rother, a North American priest who worked in Guatemala and was brutally murdered there in 1981, will be beatified Sept. 23 in Oklahoma. "It's official! Praised be Jesus Christ! Archbishop Coakley received official word this morning from Rome that Servant of God Father Stanley Rother will be beatified in Oklahoma City in September!" the archdiocese announced March 13 on its Web page. Pope Francis recognized Father Rother's martyrdom last December, making him the first martyr born in the United States. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, also tweeted the news about the priest born near Okarche, Oklahoma: "Just received notification of the date for the beatification of Fr. Stanley Rother, Oklahoma priest, missionary and martyr. September 23!"

Pope: shady business deals that threaten employment a 'grave sin'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Employers who make business deals that threaten people's livelihood commit a sin that robs men, women and their families of their dignity, Pope Francis said. "Whoever -- because of economic maneuvering and business dealings that are not all clear -- closes factories and businesses and takes work away from men and women commits a grave sin," the pope said March 15 before concluding his weekly general audience. The pope was speaking to a group of employees from Italy's Sky television; several hundred employees risk losing their jobs after the company announced plans to move their Rome headquarters to Milan. According to Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, Sky Italia claimed the move was due to rising costs and an outdated digital infrastructure in Rome. Local workers' unions have criticized the company's decision that will force 300 workers to transfer from the capital while an estimated 200 employees will be left without a job. Before the audience began, the pope circled St. Peter's Square in the popemobile, stopping along the way to kiss babies and wave to the thousands of pilgrims present.

17 Republicans seek House support for 'conservative environmental stewardship'

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Seventeen Republicans in the House of Representatives are calling on their colleagues to express a commitment to "conservative environmental stewardship."

Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York introduced a resolution in the chamber March 15 with 16 co-sponsors. At least four are Catholic.

A spokesman for the Catholic Climate Covenant expressed support for the measure, saying it could widen the discussion of environmental concerns and climate change in particular.

"We're very encouraged about this as the first step toward bipartisan dialogue," said Jose Aguto, associate director of the organization, which had worked with House Republicans on the measure.

"It is heeding Pope Francis' appeal to dialogue on climate change," he said.

The pope discussed care for creation and the importance of elected leaders working together for the common good on the many issues facing the country during his address to Congress Sept. 24, 2015.

The speech came three months after the release of "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," the pope's encyclical on the environment and human interaction with the earth and its inhabitants.

"We want this to be the foundation stone, to be an expression of Catholic concern about climate change not only to Congress and the administration, but to the nation and to the world that we care about this," Aguto told Catholic News Service.

"We are seeking to lift up the Catholic voice of concern

about climate change in the U.S. community," he added. "We see this as a moral call to Congress."

The resolution's introduction drew support from the chairmen of two committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The resolution is introduced by Rep. Elise Stefanik who represents the 21st Congressional district where the Diocese of Ogdensburg is located

Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, said in a statement that conversation among members of Congress about climate change and the environment is important for the country.

"The Catholic Church has consistently been an advocate for environmental stewardship and Pope Benedict XVI presciently called care for creation a 'sign of the times.' Environmental challenges are not going away and it is a sign of hope to see political leaders rise to meet a challenge that is the common responsibility of all," Bishop Dewane said.

Bishop Cantu said the representatives who introduced the resolution demonstrate that "stewardship of creation is an issue that rises above political partisanship."

"It is in the interest of lawmakers in all parties to recognize the protection of the environment as an important responsibility and to explore the numerous rationales for taking action," he said. "This resolution provides an im-

portant avenue toward answering the appeal in 'Laudato Si' for 'a new dialogue ... that includes everyone.'"

The introduction comes as Congress is bitterly divided on the issue of climate change and its causes. Some members are seeking aggressive action to limit the release of greenhouse gases that get trapped in the atmosphere while others have claimed the science remains under debate.

The resolution calls for the House to commit "to working constructively ... to create and support economically viable and broadly supported private and public solutions to study and address the causes and effects of measured changes to global and regional climates, including mitigating efforts and efforts to balance human activities that have been found to have an impact."

The Catholic Climate Covenant is undertaking a campaign to gain support for the resolution to be adopted, Aguto said.

Outreach is planned to parishes, schools, religious congregations.

A letter supporting the resolution from 12 Catholic organizations was to be sent to Congress after the introduction, Aguto said. The organizations are asking representatives to join the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus and are offering their assistance on the climate change front.

A similar resolution was introduced by Rep. Christopher Gibson, R-New York, in September 2015, days before Pope Francis addressed Congress on a number of topics, including care for the environment. The resolution was referred to the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power where no action was taken.

Nuncio to the United States looks back on Pope Francis' first four years

Evangelization, mercy, encounter

By Beth Griffin
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) - Evangelization, mercy, encounter and accompaniment are the hallmarks of the first four years of Pope Francis' papacy, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, said March 15.

"First and foremost, Pope Francis is committed to the work of evangelization. The main role of the church is to evangelize -- to receive the gospel and offer it to the world," he said in a conversation in New York with Jesuit Father Matthew F. Malone, president and editor-in-chief of America Media.

"The raison d'être of the church is evangelization. It's not a business, it's not an organization or an association for the defense of Jesus, but a group called to announce God's presence to humanity," Archbishop Pierre said.

At a meeting of cardinals before the conclave that elected him pope, then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio reflected on the challenges Pope Benedict's successor should address. Archbishop Pierre said Pope Francis'



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis waves from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica following his election March 13, 2013. March 13 marked the fourth anniversary of the Argentine cardinal's election as pope.

handwritten notes from his talk were a blueprint for his papacy.

In them, Pope Francis underscored the importance of evangelizing with apostolic zeal and going to the peripheries of sin, pain, injustice and misery to reach people.

He warned that when the church does not come out of herself to evangelize, she becomes self-referential and sick. He wrote, "The evils that, over time, happen in ec-

clesiastical institutions have their root in self-reference and a kind of theological narcissism."

Cardinal Bergoglio said the next pope, "must be a man who, from the contemplation and adoration of Jesus Christ, helps the church go out to the existential peripheries, that helps her be the fruitful mother, who gains life from the sweet and comforting joy of evangelizing."

"The church is a continuation of Christ in the world," Archbishop Pierre said. And the pope continues to insist it is time not to rest, but to go to the many peripheries to be God's presence to the people who suffer, he said.

He expanded on the pope's familiar description of the church as a field hospital. "It's very simple. It's a tent where you attend people. Be there. Don't waste time. That's where you meet wounded people."

Father Malone said Jesus, the source of joy in the Gospels, is the medication in the field hospital. Pope Francis pictures himself as a patient in the hospital, not the doctor, he said.

People have rediscovered the sacrament of penance during this papacy because

Pope Francis identifies himself as a sinner and is seen going to confession, Archbishop Pierre said. "Many had abandoned the sacrament of reconciliation, but have rediscovered the necessity of receiving the forgiveness of God and giving it to others," he said.

When the pope speaks of mercy, it is not only a human virtue, but a gift from God, and people are the first target of God's mercy, Archbishop Pierre said. "Our church is a merciful church. We present truth in a respectful way. Mercy means dialogue and walking along the path of the other," he said.

"I'm impressed to see the capacity Pope Francis has to meet people," Archbishop Pierre said. "Politicians want to see the pope, not just for the photo, but for the encounter. I have seen politicians transformed."

He recounted the pope's visit to Sweden to mark the 500th anniversary of Lutheranism. "We've had the idea that Luther is the enemy," the nuncio said. But Pope Francis had an encounter with Lutheran leaders there and said Luther is part of the history of the Catholic Church. The pope

speaks with his actions, Archbishop Pierre said.

The nuncio said Pope Francis approaches dialogue as an important ingredient of public life. People who dialogue successfully must be rooted in their own convictions and faith. In this way, dialogue is "two rooted persons looking for the truth," he said.

The pope is hard on bishops and priests because he wants them to be masters of discernment and help people develop the capacity to choose between good and bad, Archbishop Pierre said. It is not enough to identify right from wrong, he said. If the understanding is not applied to personal actions, life will be a dichotomy.

Archbishop Pierre said Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel") is based on the closing document of the 2007 meeting of the Latin American bishops' council in Aparecida, Brazil. Then-Archbishop Bergoglio led the editing committee for the document. A document intended for the Latin American bishops "became the patrimony of the whole church," Archbishop Pierre said.

He said Pope Francis' experience living in a "peripheral" country helped him elaborate a different kind of option for the poor than the one envisioned three decades earlier at the Medellin, Colombia, meeting of the Latin American bishops. "The reality is the people had been evangelized so deeply that the culture was filled with the Gospel," he said.

Because the church does not play the same role in people's lives it once did, the church today is challenged to help people encounter Christ and rediscover the presence of God in their own lives. It must be missionary and not self-referential, the nuncio said.

THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG AND ST. PETER'S CHURCH OF PLATTSBURGH PRESENT

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

DR. GERRY GACIOCH

CARDIOLOGIST
ROCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL'S HEART INSTITUTE

AND ASSOCIATED WITH THE

CATHOLIC COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**1 PM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017 AT
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CORNELIA ST. IN PLATTSBURGH NY**

His engaging public presentation will include focus on Pope Francis' encyclical on Environmental Stewardship entitled *Laudato Si' - Care of Our Common Home*, plus why we should care about our common home - as individuals and together, as human beings.

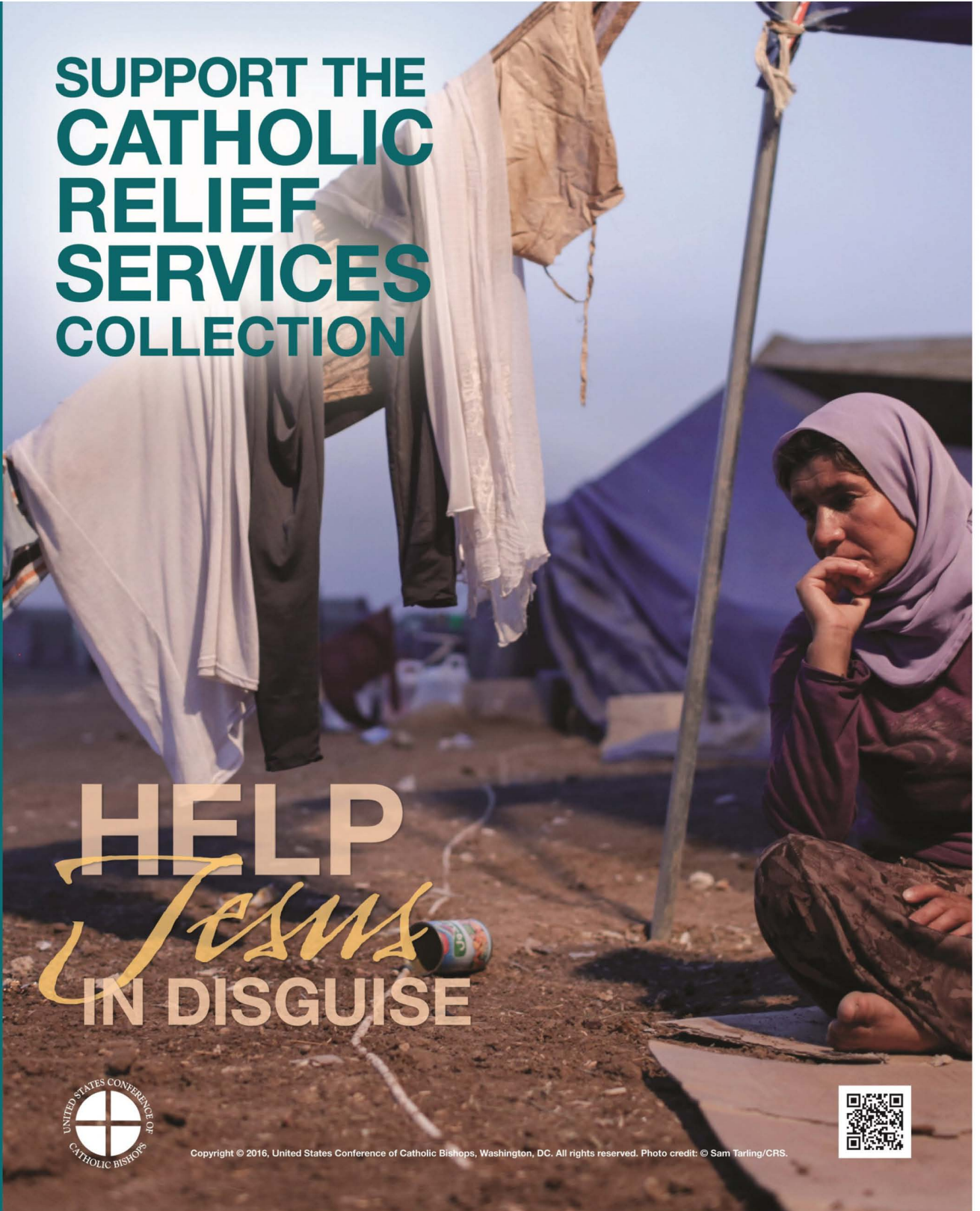
Collection Weekend March 25 & 26, 2017

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

HELP *Jesus* IN DISGUISE



Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photo credit: © Sam Tarling/CRS.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A Lenten Sunday filled with light and joy

The Fourth Sunday in Lent is filled with light and celebrated in joy. In fact, we call it "Laetare Sunday."

At the beginning of the Mass today, the Church commands us: "Re-joice!" (Laetare). If your parish is fortunate enough to own a set of rose-colored vestments, the celebrant will probably wear them at Mass. It's even o.k. to have flowers on the altar today.

Why all this joy?

Because it's break time from the journey, when we take a look at how faithfully we have grown closer God through our Lenten penances.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The readings are all about walking in the light, all about seeing things and people as God sees them.

In the first reading, Samuel is forced to choose a new and better king than Saul.

He visits Jesse, who lines up six stalwart sons. Which one is it, Samuel wonders?

What a puzzle!

Without the help of the Holy Spirit, he would never have chosen the seventh and youngest son, David.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells us to live as "children of the light". Light brings goodness.

Light exposes the shame-

ful works of darkness.

And then comes a very long Gospel which tells the story of the man born blind. After denying that the man is blind because of some terrible sin, Jesus bends over, scoops up a little clay, and smears it on the eyes of the blind man.

You'd think the Pharisees would have been delighted and grateful at this miracle, but because of their own spiritual blindness, they quibble and complain that Jesus has broken the Sabbath rest. Even though they consider themselves enlightened scholars, they're really blind.

They did not see from the heart. The newly-discovered sight of the blind man is also a metaphor for faith that comes when God draws

MARCH 26

Fourth Sunday of Lent
READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

us out of darkness to light.

If Laetare Sunday is a time to rejoice, then we rejoice today that we have light in us which comes from our Baptism and from the lived experience of sharing faith in our families, from having our sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Best of all, we are able to see with the eyes of Jesus our bodies and souls are joined with the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Sometimes we are unaware of the light of our faith, and we slip back into darkness.

We misjudge people, seeing only the exterior. We do not see as Jesus sees.

From this comes rash judgment, a critical spirit, and unforgiveness. In this darkness, we cannot even see ourselves as God sees us. We know now that its time to get ourselves back in the light."

This is a good Sunday to resolve to shun the darkness, and see all things in the light of faith.

After all, as members of His Body, we are the light of the world, that can help adjust the vision of those we live with. Let's rejoice today, and resolve to live always in the light.

RESPECT LIFE

Normalizing abortion for teenage girls

Teen Vogue is a magazine for teen and pre-teen girls that focuses on fashion, makeup, shopping and pop culture. Their on-line magazine contains a slide show titled "What to Get a Friend Post-Abortion." It's essentially a top ten list of best gifts to give a friend after she's had an abortion.

It details the best movie to stream to help with the cramps, the newest under

garments to help soak up the blood, and an "angry uterus" heating pad to ease the pain.

It offers suggestions for hobbies to keep your friend's mind occupied: a sign-up sheet to become an abortion clinic escort, a "we won't go back" needlepoint project, and a Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg coloring book. (I am not making this up.)

The piece is so offensive and insensitive that it's hard to put into words. It is transparent in its attempt to sell abortion to young people, to

market it as a mainstream "good," and to treat it as casually as a manicure.

It's downright celebratory over abortion, ensuring readers who abort that they are smart, strong, powerful, and resilient change-makers. "There is nothing to be ashamed of or feel guilty about" they instruct the children – yes, children – who read this propaganda.

Teen Vogue advises girls that if their BFF chooses the abortion pill, she may experience cramps that feel "like

two throbbing hot balls of lead are trying to escape your body."



Kathleen
Gallagher

No, it's not lead that leaves your body in an abortion, it's a baby. A small, defenseless unborn human baby. There is nothing strong or powerful about destroying an innocent unborn baby, especially when it's yours.

Abortion is not a tooth extraction. It's not like getting your nails done. Even the U.S. Supreme Court, which Lord knows invented the right to abortion all those years ago, has admitted that abortion is unlike other medical procedures, "because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life." (Harris vs. McRae, 1980)

Despite the abortion industry and pop culture denials, abortion is a profound life-altering event. Don't young women deserve to at

least know what abortion is and get all the facts before they make their "choice"? Shouldn't they be informed that at some point post-abortion they may indeed feel sorrow, doubt and shame, and that counseling and other assistance is available to them?

Does modern feminism have so little confidence in women that it has to brainwash teenage girls into believing that abortion is the normal natural choice, and that the choice doesn't matter all that much, it's the post-abortion gifts that really count?

I don't know about you, but this kind of thing just makes me want to cry. Our teenage children are being fed fake news, and it breaks my heart, because at some point in their lives, the reality of their abortion is likely to break theirs.

Kathleen M. Gallagher is the Director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference

Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful wine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me, herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands(3X).

KM

For a New or Used Car

Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

CHEVROLET

The Miraculous Prayer

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

AT THE MOVIES

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Disney's live-action adaptation of its beloved 1991 animated film "Beauty and the Beast" arrives in theaters amid a swirl of controversy over the updating of one of its characters into an openly gay man.

The decision of the studio, director Bill Condon ("Dreamgirls"), and screenwriters Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos to reimagine LeFou (Josh Gad), sidekick of the villainous Gaston (Luke Evans), as Disney's so-called "first gay character" is a regrettable one. A cherished family film has, in essence, been appropriated for an underlying agenda that is firmly at odds with Christian values.

Admittedly, many grown moviegoers will take LeFou's transformation in stride. "Beauty and the Beast," however, is a must-see film intended for children. Given the clear intent to make a statement with the character in question, the restrictive classification assigned below is a caution for view-

ers of faith, especially parents.

The pall cast over "Beauty and the Beast" is unfortunate, as the film is largely an imaginative and engaging work with an arresting visual style. An old-fashioned Hollywood musical at heart, it brims with familiar songs by Alan Menken and whirling dance sequences worthy of Busby Berkeley.

Like the cartoon, this film is loosely based on the 1740 fairy tale by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve. The eponymous lovely, Belle (Emma Watson), is a spirited maiden in a French village who longs for excitement.

"I want adventure in the great-wide somewhere," she warbles. "I want so much more than they've got planned!"

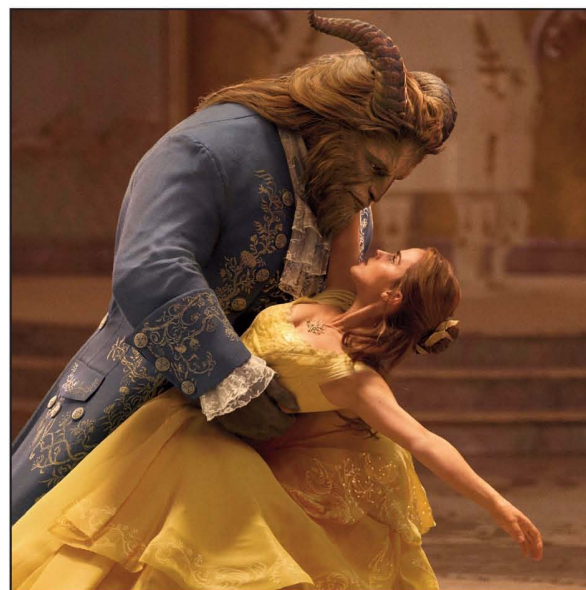
Be careful what you wish for, dearie. No sooner does she spurn the advances of the vain hunter Gaston than Belle winds up imprisoned in a haunted castle, having swapped places with her kidnapped father, Maurice (Kevin Kline).

Enter said Beast (Dan Stevens), aka The Prince. We

learn in an extended prologue that this handsome royal was transferred into a horned (but infinitely more dapper) version of Chewbacca from the "Star Wars" franchise by Agathe (Hattie Morahan), a local enchantress, as punishment for his selfishness.

Agathe's curse extended to The Prince's staff, who became not furry creatures but household objects. These exceedingly loquacious items include Cogsworth (Ian McKellen), a stuffy mantel clock; Lumiere (Ewan McGregor), a dancing candelabra; twirling feather duster Plumette (Gugu Mbatha-Raw); Mrs. Potts (Emma Thompson), a motherly teapot, and her cup of a son, Chip (Nathan Mack); and musical duo Cadenza (Stanley Tucci), a harpsichord, and Garderobe (Audra McDonald), a wardrobe.

Only if Beauty grows to love the Beast will the spell be broken, which seems a very long shot for this odd couple. A courtship ensues - with a nice lesson on looking beyond outward appearances for true love --



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Dan Stevens and Emma Watson star in a scene from "Beauty and the Beast."

until a vengeful Gaston raises an angry mob to kill the Beast, casting doubt on a happy ending.

Even in the absence of the hot-button issue already discussed, young children might be frightened by several dark moments in the movie, including attacks by wolves and Gaston's violent assault on the Beast's castle.

The film contains a few

scenes of peril and action violence, a benign view of homosexual activity, and some sexual innuendo. 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 PG -- parental guidance suggested.

Catholic Heart Workcamp

Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) has announced that it will be coming to Plattsburgh this summer, from June 25 to June 30.

This week-long service camp, being housed at Seton Catholic Central, is open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2017) and college students.

During the week, campers will volunteer at various sites throughout the Plattsburgh area during the day and participate in fun, faith-building programs in the evening. Daily Mass, Adoration, Penance and prayer nourish campers for their work in the community.

The cost is \$375 per person, which includes meals,

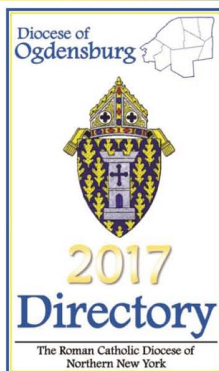
lodging, transportation to the work sites, t-shirts and snacks.

Registration for the Plattsburgh camp may be made through managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786.

Additional information about CHWC can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com



Order your 2017 Diocesan Directory!



The Official 2017 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at www.northcountrycatholic.org for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

Make checks payable to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

**\$15.00
each**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ADIRONDACK

RUMMAGE SALE

Lake Placid – Rummage Sale to be held to benefit St. Agnes School.

Date: March 25

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: Donations may be dropped off during school hours.

CLINTON

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS

West Chazy – Franciscan Mystery Players to present "The Way of the Cross".

Date: April 1

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

PAINT AND SIP

Chazy – Paint and sip party to be sponsored by Sacred Heart Church.

Date: April 5

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Cost: \$30 payable at the door includes all instruction and supplies, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

ERCLMA RETREAT AND WORKSHOP

Plattsburgh - The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers' Association (ERCLMA) is sponsoring a Spring Retreat/Workshop.

Date: April 29

Schedule: The day begins 9:30 a.m. The Keynote Address will be provided by Cathy Russell and will be followed by a light lunch. Afternoon events will offer Break-out Sessions, Eucharistic Adoration and Sacramental Reconciliation and a Corporal 4 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's.

Cost: \$10

Contact: Pre-registration is requested. Register on-line at RCDONY.org. To locate the registration page, go to "Offices", then "Formation for Ministry". On the lower left part of the page you will see the registration link for the Spring Event. For More information, contact Starr Burke at sburke7035@gmail.com.

FISH FRY DINNER

AuSable Forks - Knights of Columbus Council #2301 of Au Sable Forks will hold a fish-fry dinner.

Date: March 31

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

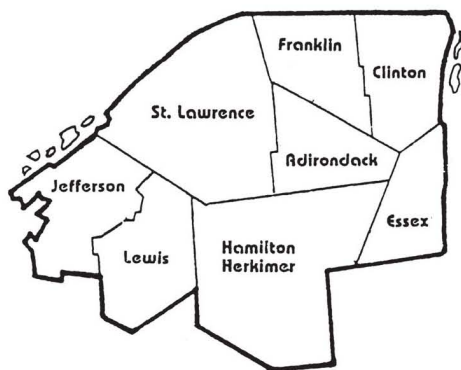
Place: Holy Name Parish Center GYM

Cost: \$10 per person; under 12, \$6

Contact: Jack Dirolf, (518) 578-0360.

FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have their annual Fish Fry.



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.

Date: March 24

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; All

Take-outs, \$10

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Plattsburgh - The Diocese of Ogdensburg and St. Peter's Church to present Climate Ambassador Dr. Gerry Gacjoch.

Date: April 2

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Presentation to focus on Pope Francis' encyclical on Environmental Stewardship entitled Laudato Si, Care of our Common Home, plus why Catholics should care about our the environment
Contact: Denise Tetrault at spchurch-denise@primelink1.net or 563-1692.

PARISH FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart will have its Annual Fish Fry.

Date: March 24

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; All

take-outs, \$10

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold pancake breakfasts.

Dates: April 2 and 23

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Joseph's Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; kids, \$3; under 5, Free

LENTE ADORATION

Plattsburgh - St. Peter's Church will offer

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Features: Concludes on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 11 with Benediction at 7 p.m.

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: March 26; April 9 and 23;

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Bartholomew's Rectory

Features: Reflection, Vespers & dinner.

Juniors in high school and older.

Contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com/ 315-369-3554;

FRANKLIN

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Malone - On Palm Sunday, Saint André Bessette Parish will present "The Seven Last Words of Christ."

Date: April 9

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: Scripture readings from the passion of our Lord are illuminated by meditations from the writings of the Saints and contemporary spiritual writers. A choral reflection and hymn follow each meditation. Begin your Holy Week this year by attending this special presentation. This event is free, and all are invited.

Contact: Inquiries can be made at the parish office at (518) 483-1300.

JEFFERSON

WATER, NUTRITION, HEALTH

Watertown – Special presentation to be held that will focus on water as a key nutrient for human health, an essential for all life, and the challenges in maintaining this resource

Date: March 26

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Center

Features: Panel ists: Cathy Moore MS, RD Agriculture and Fort Drum Program Leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County, Vicky Murphy, City of Watertown, Water Plant Supervisor, and Jay Matteson, Jefferson County Agricultural Coordinator. The Event, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee.

Contact: Space is limited; to reserve a place call 315-782-3460.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT :

Brownville – Immaculate Conception is holding a Lenten retreat for all women.

Date: March 25

Time: 10 a.m. to 2;30

Features: Video presentations "Loved as I am" by Sister Miriam Heidland and "The Special Call and Gift of Women" by Joannette Benkovik

Cost: \$10 includes a Lenten Luncheon.

Contact: preregister by March 18 by calling Linda Pierson 315-639-3701 or Marlene Johnson 315-639-3269

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.

Date: March 27

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthside Hospitality Center

Speaker: Rev. Douglas Ort, Baptist Minister, and Licensed Mental Health Counselor in private practice

Program: Taking a year to say goodbye

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: April 8

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAY

Clayton – Franciscan Mystery players to present "The Way of the Cross".

Date: April 14

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: A dramatic multi-media presentation of the Passion and Death of the Lord..Through the use of special lighting, inspirational music, drama, and soul searching meditations, one is able to get in touch with oneself; one's goodness, struggles and one's sins. Then in a very unique way, it becomes a prayerful vehicle for the Lord's spirit to forgive, heal, and renew. Free to attend, although donations will be accepted to support the Mystery Players ministry.

Contact: 315-686-3398 for more information

BP. BARRON CATHOLICISM STUDY

Evans Mills - Deepen your faith this lent with the Catholicism Adult Study Program.

Date: March 22, 29 and April 5

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$10 donation is suggested for the course workbook.

Features: Bishop Robert Barron Catholicism blends art, architecture, literature, theology, music, and all the treasures of Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the church. Facilitated by Indian River Knights of Columbus

Contact: Laura at 315-629-4678 ext. 0

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

**IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL
MYSTERY PLAYERS**

LENTE 2017: "Jesus Turners Falls Again"

Date	Place		Time
March 24	Holy Family	Watertown	7:30 p.m.
March 26	Notre Dame	Ogdensburg	7:30 p.m.
April 1	St. Joseph's	West Chazy	7:30 p.m.
April 8	First United Methodist	Watertown	7:30 p.m.
April 9	St. Peter's	Lowville	7:30 p.m.
April 14	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 p.m.

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



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

More on prayers and pennies

Part 2

Welcome to National Prayer and Penny Week! This year, the Missionary Childhood Association celebrates National Prayer and Penny Week from March 19-24. This program is a prayer movement that serves as MCA's Lenten prayer and sacrificial program for Grades K-8.

Last week's NCC article featured days one through three of Prayer and Penny Week. This second excerpt below will highlight the prayers for the remaining days of four and five. Prayers are urgently needed for missionaries who have answered the call to spread the Gospel message "to the ends of the earth," for those hearing about Jesus and for those who may be discerning their own missionary vocations.

While MCA depends greatly on the financial sacrifices of students in this country, prayer is of greatest importance. In fact, Pope Francis said that he too counts on the prayers and missionary commitment of children. During National Prayer Week, MCA invites students to remember children in the missions, especially those who are waiting to hear the "Good News" proclaimed as we pray together as a mission family here at home:

Day Four (Thursday)

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

Good News of the Gospel with our lives. Jesus, our Lord, You teach us that all life is sacred. Strengthen us to witness every day to Your love with our words, actions and sacrifices. Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, as missionary disciples you invite us to share the Good News, cooperating with you and one another to walk with our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, loneliness, and despair. In a special way we ask You to bless all the missionaries sharing Your love. We send this prayer across the world in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Day Five (Friday)

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

Good News of the Gospel with our lives. Jesus, our Lord, You teach us that all life is sacred. Strengthen us to witness every day to Your love with our words, actions and sacrifices.

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, as missionary disciples you invite us to share the Good News, cooperating with you and one another to walk with our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, loneliness, and despair. In a special way we ask You to bless all the missionaries sharing Your love. We send this prayer across the world in Jesus' name. AMEN

If you would like to donate to the MCA (Missionary Childhood Association), please forward to PO Bo 369, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or visit our website at www.rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Cape Vincent – Barbara Ann (Troy) Florio, 83; Funeral Services March 18, 2017 at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Carthage – Richard J. Martin, 79; Funeral Services March 22, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Champlain – Linda L. (Clausen) Castine, 67; Funeral Services March 14, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain – Valerie Ann (Scriver) LaBombard, 68; Funeral Services March 17, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – May Lou (Stevenson) Jones, 74; Funeral Services March 14, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chazy – Robert B. Church, 83; Funeral Services March 18, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church.

Lake Placid – Joan (LaCasse) Devitt, 84; Funeral Services March 20, 2017 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid – Jonathan P. MacAbee, 60; Funeral Services March 15, 2017 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Adam Joseph Rhoades, 20; Funeral Services March 13, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Turin Cemetery.

Malone – Isabel Brady, 102; Funeral Services March 16, 2017 at Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone – Tricia May (Barney) Fisher, 75; Funeral March 18, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone – Beverly (Beane) Maguire, 86; Funeral Services March 16, 2017 at Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Norma A. (Wolcott) Paquin, 81; Funeral Services March 17, 2017 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers – Rita A. (Pelkey) Garrand, 87; Funeral Services March 13, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Peru – Napoleon J. Light, 94; Funeral Services March 15, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Doris J. "Dotsie" (Bilodeau) Hynes, 84; Funeral Services March 18, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Divine Mercy Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Plattsburgh – Brian S. Falb, 47; Funeral Services March 20, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Richard A. Golden Sr., 90; Funeral Services March 15, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Port Henry – Josephine "Josie" Wojewodzik, 97; Funeral Services March 17, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Redford – Jerry J. Wood, 64; Funeral

Services March 17, 2017 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Assumption Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Sharon (Catillaz) Gunther, 67; Funeral Services March 12, 2017 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Cameron Joseph Eugene Belden, 26; Funeral Services March 13, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Dean T. Morin, 66; Funeral Services March 14, 2017 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

Watertown – Edward J. Madden, 90; Funeral Services March 14, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.



Fr. Chris Looby of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills *presents...*

Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle

April 11 - 21, 2018



You're Invited!

Special Travel Presentation

Thursday, March 30th @ 6:30pm

St. Mary's Church
8408 S. Main St.
Evans Mills, NY 13637



To RSVP or for more information, call 315.558.6372

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

JEFFERSON

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

Date: March 30

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., bring containers

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Schedule: Beginning Good Friday April 14 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 23 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

Contact: call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Port Leyden – Spaghetti dinner to be held for St. Martin's and St. John's Altar and Rosary Societies.

Date: March 28

Time: 4 p.m. to 6

Place: Port Leyden Fire Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; kids, \$4; under 5, Free

Contact: For deliveries, 315-348-8945

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of April to be held.

Date: April 2

Time: 2:25 p.m. before the monthly devotions we will view Episode 2, Behold this Heart, from the DVD series The Second Greatest Story Ever Told by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

LENTE THURSDAYS

Lowville – Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: March 23, 30

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

ST. LAWRENCE

K OF C GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

Brasher Falls – The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.

Date: March 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Shamrock Club

Cost: \$3; under 12 free

Features: Many dealers will be present with all kinds sporting items. Concession stand open all day, breakfast served until 11 a.m. Come buy, trade or sell all guns must be checked in at door. Plenty of parking.

Contact: Phil Davis at 315-389-4627.

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish and shrimp Fry to be held.

Date: April 14

Time: 4:30 to 6:15 p.m.

Place: St. James School

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

Contact: Take-outs available, phone ahead for fast service and deliveries at 315-287-0130

LENTE ADORATION

Massena – Lenten Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held.

Date: Beginning March 3 every Mon. and Fri during Lent

Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church family room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

OPERATION ANDREW

The Vocations Office announces spring Operation Andrew dinner schedule. The dinners are a great way to learn about the priesthood, chat with the Bishop and have a great meal. Any middle school aged man and above is invited to attend. Parents are welcome as well.

Schedule: March 27, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; March 30, St. Patrick's Church, Watertown; April 3, St. Mary's Church, Massena

Time: Vespers at 5 p.m. then dinner

Contact: Cathy Russell, Vocation Coordinator, crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

LENTE RETREAT FOR YOUTH

Diocesan Youth Council is hosting a peer-led Lenten retreat open to all students in grades 6-12.

Dates: March 25 in Malone; March 26 in Canton

Features: The event is free, but participants must pre-register and bring a

FOR GABRIEL PROJECT



The Msgr. A.D. Charbonneau Knights of Columbus in Ogdensburg recently held a breakfast to raise funds for the newly establish Gabriel Project in Ogdensburg. The Knights raised \$1100 along with donations of baby items at the breakfast. From left are Thomas Woods, deputy grand knight; Clare Murdock, Dorinda Mallette and Brenda Trivillino from the Gabriel Project; and Michael Caughey, a K of C member. The Gabriel Project is a national parish-based program which exists to help pregnant women both materially and spiritually at no cost to the mother.

bagged lunch.

Contact: Details and registration can be found at www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat.

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Registration for 2017 season for Camp Guggenheim is now open through www.rcdony.org/camp.

Features: Weeks one through five are designated for 12-15 year olds, while Week Six is just for 16-18 year olds.

Contact: For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or vlalonde@rcdony.org or visit camp website: rcdony.org/camp/guggy

DOVS MEMBERS SOUGHT

D.O.V.S. (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese is seeking new members. DOVS meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage.

Date: Next meeting is March 15

Contact: Call Connie at 315-265-2762 or Cathy at the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE

Father Chris Looby, pastor of St. Mary's in Evans Mills, will lead a pilgrimage to Greece following in the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle. The trip features a 3-night Greek Islands & Turkey cruise. Highlights include Athens, Taverna Dinner Show, 3-Night Cruise, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Santorini, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Philippi, Meteora, Delphi, Corinth, Acropolis.

Cost: Prices begin at \$4149 for an inside double and \$4299 for outside double.

Features: An information meeting will be held March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Mary's Parish Center in Evans Mills.

Contact: For more information please call Fr. Chris at (315)629-4425 or Mary McIntosh at Watertown AAA at (315)558-6372.

YOUTH RALLY REGISTRATION

Watertown – The 2017 diocesan High School Youth rally to be held.

Date: May 6

Place: IHC

Cost: \$25 before April 1, \$30 after

Features: This full-day event will feature keynote speaker Paul J. Kim, prayer, interactive workshops, games, and Mass presided by Bishop LaValley. Each group attending needs to have one Virtus-trained and background-checked adult for each eight students. Youth leaders can register themselves and youth at www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally.

Contact: Kelly at kdonnelly@rcdony.org



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Welcome Spring!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250
 New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____