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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 42

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 8, 2017

Taking the path towards freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Like the people of Israel freed from the bondage of slavery, Christians are called to experience the path toward hope and new life during the Lenten season, Pope Francis said.

Through his passion, death and resurrection, Jesus "has opened up for us a way that

leads to a full, eternal and blessed life," the pope said at his weekly general audience March 1, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

"Lent lives within this dynamic: Christ precedes us with his exodus and we cross the desert, thanks to him and behind him," he said. On a

warm and sunny morning, the pope held his audience in St. Peter's Square.

Arriving in the popemobile, he immediately spotted a group of children and signaled several of them to come aboard for a ride. One by one, the three girls and one boy climbed into the

popemobile and warmly embraced the pope.

In his main audience talk, the pope said that while Lent is a time of "penance and even mortification," it is also "a time of hope" for Christians awaiting Christ's resurrection to "renew our baptismal identity."

It's time to renew your subscription

The annual subscription campaign for the *North Country Catholic* begins this weekend. During the coming year, a primary focus of the NCC will be an examination of how the diocese is meeting diocesan priorities as the church in the North Country continue to realize its Diocesan Pastoral Vision: "Find Your Home in Christ: Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Love."

This week's paper includes a report about the parishes in Plattsburgh as they work together to "build parishes with living stones," one of the three diocesan priorities.

FULL STORY, PAGES 4 & 6

New principal at Augustinian

Mary Ann Margrey, vice-principal since 1980, to become principal at

Carthage Catholic school

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

VOCATION SELFIE



SCHOOL PHOTO

In what is becoming a tradition, associate vocation director Father Thomas Higman gathers children around him for a "selfie" at the conclusion of his presentations on vocations at diocesan Catholic schools. Above he is shown taking a cell phone photo with students at Holy Family School in Malone Feb. 28.

FROM ASHES TO EASTER

The journey
through Lent



CNS PHOTO

Cardinal Jozef Tomko places ashes on the head of Pope Francis during Ash Wednesday Mass at the Basilica of Santa Sabina in Rome March 1. Catholics across the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined those around the world who gathered to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. This week's *North Country Catholic* features articles and reflections on the 40-day season of penance and preparation.

FULL STORY, PAGES 2, 11, 12

THANKS TO PATRONS: Subscribers give extra support to the NCC... pages 8-9

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USPS 0039-3400**BISHOP TERRY**

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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 andadditional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.Paper is printed each
Monday;
datteline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.**POSTMASTER:**Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Yes, we're preaching to the choir!

My dad loved to tease me after reading my annual "don't forget to renew your subscription" column this time of year, noting rightly that I was preaching to the choir.

But, as a member of various choirs for decades, I know that a little preaching doesn't hurt one bit.

On Sunday, when the 2017 NCC campaign begins, we can look back on 70 years of telling the story of the Catholic faith in northern New York, its people, parishes, presentations and programs.

And we can look ahead with anticipation; there are so many stories that are yet to be told.

At the beginning of each calendar year, we put together a tentative schedule for all the special issues and important events we plan to cover.

Mary Lou
Kilian

This year we will be celebrating 100 years of Catholic Charities and 40 years of the permanent diaconate.

We will rejoice together at ordinations in May and October, at the commissioning of scores of lay ministers and in the growing faith of our young people.

We will also chronicle our progress in "living the vision," how we are meeting the priorities and goals of our "Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled"

diocesan pastoral vision.

It's definitely an important year to be a subscriber.

But don't just take my word for it.

As you are deciding whether to renew or not, give a gift subscription of not, become a patron or not, please take a minute to read the article "The power of the word" on page 10 of this week's paper.

Greg Erlandson, director of Catholic News Service, who spent many years as publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, makes a powerful case for supporting the Catholic press.

Among other points, he suggests that Catholic media including television, radio, digital and print publications may best address the need to form lay Catholics to accept

the leadership roles they will increasingly need to take in the church.

But still, one may wonder, in an age of instant news on the Internet, is there still a place for a diocesan newspaper?

Bishop LaValley answers emphatically:

"Absolutely," he writes. "The *North Country Catholic* continues to be the most efficient and effective way for me to communicate with Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. During these challenging times, it is more important than ever that families welcome into their homes a Catholic perspective on the news of the day."

"Please welcome the NCC into your home," the bishop says.

What a great idea!

FATHER MUENCH SAYS...

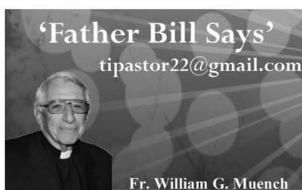
Daily readings provide Lenten retreat

The Scripture readings for the daily Masses during Lent are the very same every year. The Sunday Scriptures do change each year but not the reading at the daily Masses. I think of these Scriptures at the daily Masses as old friends. They are an important part of my Lenten program each year.

Here is a good example of what I mean. The Scriptures for the Masses during the first week of Lent are like the material for a powerful retreat. They give us a splendid message for meditation and inspiration.

- On Monday, the first reading is from the Book of Leviticus, the third Book of the Torah. This reading describes the giving of the commandments by God to Moses. These commandments are a very basic foundation of our Christian faith as it was for the Hebrew people. In direct contrast, the Gospel reading from Matthew describes Jesus' presentation of the works of mercy.

He does this in his parable of the final judgment. In this, Jesus says God will welcome the good into the Kingdom because they did something good



for the needy, for the hungry, for the thirsty, for the stranger, for the naked, for the ill, for those in prison. Jesus goes on to identify himself with those we help – "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

- On Tuesday, the Gospel story is about the time when the apostles ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus teaches them – and also us – the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is one of Jesus' great gift to us.

These sacred words are ours, part of our lives since our youngest years ready to be prayed whenever we need them. I think of numerous times when I needed a prayer, when I wanted to invite others to prayer. It might be a time when I was counseling someone or it might have been at, a hospital bed of someone who

was dying and I wanted a family to join me in prayer. I knew they were ready with me with the Lord's Prayer. It is such a powerful prayer: we praise the Father, and we make a promise to be a forgiving people for we are forgiven by our God.

- On Wednesday, in the first reading, we hear the story of Jonah. It is the second part of the Jonah story not the first part that is about the big fish. God sends Jonah to Nineveh to announce to the people that they must do penance or face destruction.

Jonah preaches one day and they all respond to his message and do penance and are saved. Jesus mentions this Jonah story in a talk to his people; he seeks their response to change their lives and follow him. Jesus reminds them that Jonah changed the Ninevites and now they have Jesus, someone much greater than Jonah. We also have Jesus to guide and lead us when we remain open to the Lord.

- On Thursday, we hear the familiar words of Our Lord. Our God is always open to our pleas when we come with a loving and open heart – "Ask

and it will be given you – seek and you will find – knock and the door will be opened to you."

- On Friday, we are presented with a section of the Sermon on the Mount that we heard just a few Sundays ago at Mass. Jesus reminds us that we must not be literal about the commandments. He mentions the Fifth Commandment, thou shalt not kill, which means much more, especially anger and any form of violence. Anger has destroyed many relationship and has made people very unlikeable and nasty. Anger turns them away from the following of Our Savior. Anger must be healed and transformed.

So, I am certain of how powerful just one week of Scripture readings at Mass during Lent is. This first week of Lent becomes a retreat, a time to place ourselves in a truly Lenten Spirit with readings that leads us and guides us on our Lenten journey.

Each of the weeks of Lent will show us the way if we carefully read and study the Scriptures that are presented to us. This is the path to conversion.

FOLLOW ME

On a journey of faith

Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the Rite of Election March 5 at S. Mary's Cathedral

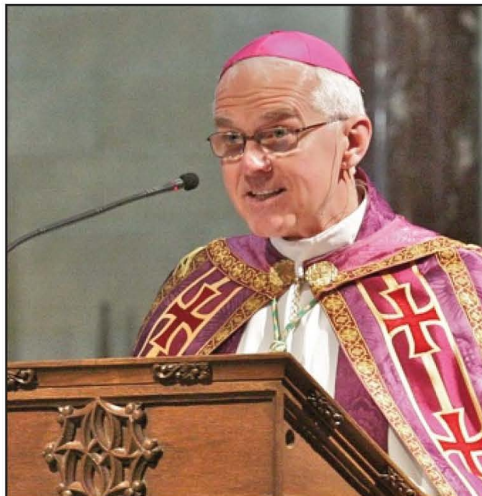
Father Brendan was telling me about a group of students from his seminary who made their way to the Holy Land for a twelve-day sojourn. By chance, their visit overlapped with the Muslim holy season of Ramadan, a period of intense fasting and prayer.

If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great again - no matter how loudly we shout that popular political slogan!

What struck these Catholic pilgrims was this: they knew it was Ramadan practically from the moment that they stepped off the plane. It was in the way the people moved, spoke, and related to one another; it was evident in their business dealings and their family affairs. Ramadan could be seen and visually experienced, almost tasted.

When I heard about their impressed account of this phenomenon, I wondered: were someone from, say, Saudi Arabia, to travel to the largely Christian North Country during our penitential season of Lent, would he or she notice anything, in particular? Would Lent be in our movements, our gestures? Would he or she know, just from watching us, that anything of religious significance was underway? If the answers to these questions are "no," we've got a problem.

In many ways, these modern times of the 21st century, we have made a compromise with Christianity. We will allow our faith to exist, as long as it doesn't show up publicly, as long as it remains ensconced in the privacy of our minds and feelings. In accepting this compromise, we Christians have gutted our faith, rendering it invisible, irrelevant and have cleared the way for the blandly secularized society that surrounds us.



NCC FILE PHOTO

Bishop LaValley delivers his homily at last year's Rite of Election. Photos from this year's service, held on Sunday, will be published in the next issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

We have built a society that crowds any hint of God or religion out of our public sector which has become intolerant and even hostile to those who seek to speak and live our Catholic Christian faith. And we're comfortable with it.

As Satan tempted Jesus in the desert to cower to the magnificence of the world, we, too, are enticed to leave our faith in the closet.

That's why it's so important that this afternoon, that you, our catechumens and candidates, who seek to be received into the Catholic Church do so in a public fashion and that we express our support and gratitude to you and to Almighty God for your response to God's call.

We celebrate publicly your faith journey, our faith journey, here at beautiful St. Mary's Cathedral.

We need a change of heart in our society today. The great French statesman Alexis de Tocqueville admired America greatly. He was convinced that America held the secret for all governments of the future. And so, in the mid 1800's he traveled to America to learn the secret of her genius and greatness.

The French statesman wrote: "I sought for the genius and greatness of America...in her fertile fields and boundless forests—and it was not there. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and matchless Constitution—and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power."

He said that America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great again—no matter how loudly we shout that popular political slogan!

If there is one message that our nation needs to hear and take to heart right now, it is the message of de Tocqueville. The first step in heeding the message is to begin with ourselves. Lent is a season when Jesus invites us to search our hearts and rediscover the secret of our greatness. It's a season when Jesus graces us to a new resolve and new determination to become the kind of persons our Father in heaven created us to be.

We must not be content with being mediocre. In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis wrote that we "must refuse to settle for mediocrity." When we settle for being average, we are just as close to the bottom as we are to the top.

This Lent we are challenged to respond to the Lord's call to become holier. Therein lies our greatness. Therein lies the important Christian witness we must give to our neighbor. Therein lies the hope for our children and the generations that follow.

If we, as Catholic Christians, continue to just roll over and continue our disinterest, evil will prevail and we will become irrelevant.

Augustinian Academy announces new principal

CARTHAGE - Father Donald Robinson and the Education Council of Carthage Augustinian Academy have announced that Mary Ann Margrey will become principal of Augustinian Academy in the 2017 -2018 school year.

Mrs. Margrey joined the faculty of Augustinian in the fall of 1978 and has been the school's vice-principal since 1980. Following the death of St. Joseph Sister John Mary

Brockway, Mrs. Margrey served as interim school principal from January to June 2005. She currently serves as vice-principal, level coordinator for grades 5-8, homeroom teacher grade 8 and teacher of math for grades 5-8

In addition, she serves as coordinator for the school's Math League and Science Olympiad Team. Mrs. Margrey also is a member of the Jeff-Lewis Teacher Center

Policy Board and of the Diocesan Curriculum committee.

She is secretary of Augustinian Academy's Education Council, a member of St. James Parish Council and St. James Ave Maria Circle. For over 20 years Mrs. Margrey has been a math teacher on the summer school faculty of Carthage Central School.

Mrs. Margrey was awarded the Diocese of Ogdensburg Teacher of the Year Award in

1999 and a local Super Teacher Award in 2006.

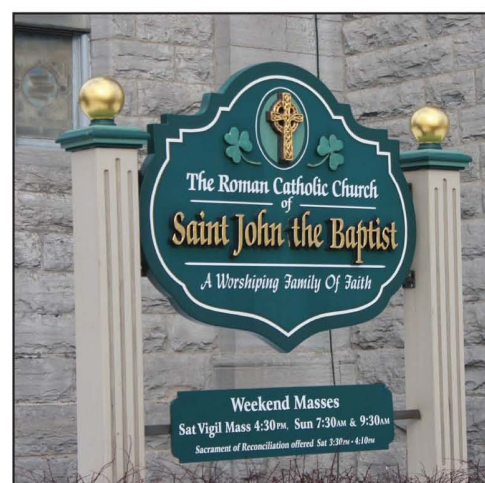
In 2009 Mary Ann Margrey received national recognition at the National Catholic Education Association Meeting in Anaheim, California when along with eleven other Catholic School teachers from around the country she was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award.

When asked to give her philosophy of Catholic education in 2009, Mrs. Margrey

said, "A Catholic education should be rooted in the teachings and traditions of the Church. It should help to foster a desire to continue lifelong growth as Catholics by inspiring students to live as good Christ-like models for others.

"It is essential to teach the whole child - in mind, body and spirit - while recognizing the dignity and uniqueness of each student," she said.

LIVING THE VISION... BUILDING PARISHES WITH LIVING STONES



PHOTOS BY SHAWN RYAN

As part of the diocesan planning process the three parishes of Plattsburgh, Our Lady of Victory, left, St. Peter's

and St. John the Baptist will join to form one parish. A steering committee has been established, with representatives from each parish, to decide the best way to make it happen.

Planning in Plattsburgh

Pastors, parishioners working together to create one vibrant parish

By Shawn Ryan
Staff writer

PLATTSBURGH - There has not been a single year in the past 2,000 that the Catholic Church has not undergone some sort of change.

This past fall, parishioners of the three parishes within the city of Plattsburgh were told that change was coming to their doorstep.

Since at least 1987, under the direction of then Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has begun to prepare for the decline in number of priests that is affecting nearly every diocese in the country.

As part of the most recent iteration of that evolving plan, Bishop Terry LaValley announced in August that Saint John the Baptist, Saint Peter's and Our Lady of Victory will consolidate, as they are weaned down to one full time pastor, one full time parochial vicar, and one part time parochial vicar.

"Parishes, even dioceses, have come into and out of existence throughout the his-

tory of the Church," said Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's. "The great thing about our Church, is that it's always come out of periods of change stronger."

Steering committee

In November Msgr. Duprey was chosen to chair the steering committee which will help decide how that consolidation will take place. The committee is comprised of consists of three members from each parish, along with Msgr. Duprey and Father William G. Reamer, pastor of Our Lady of Victory and Father Timothy G. Canaan, pastor of St. John's.

"It's a foregone conclusion," said Mike Murray, a trustee at St. John's and a member of the steering committee. "With fewer and fewer priests it's pretty cut and dry."

Murray was quick to praise the way Bishop LaValley and the three Plattsburgh pastors are conducting the planning process.

From the start, parishioners have been asked to weigh in on proposed

changes, and the planning has been going on in an open and transparent manner.

Msgr. Duprey and Murray agree that one of the most challenging considerations of the process involves the use of the facilities. Careful thought is being given to which church properties are the most viable, and which may have to be shuttered.

"Oftentimes we don't reflect the communities we're in," Msgr. Duprey said. "Sometimes we keep churches in existence just for old times. We have to look at what do we have, and where do we go from here."

But in a city where rivalries from the two formerly thriving Catholic high schools (which merged to form Seton Catholic in 1989) still exist, change is not always appreciated.

"There are going to be a lot of unhappy people when it happens," said Murray, a proud graduate of the former St. John's Academy.

"None of us want this to happen," he said. "We want to keep our own parishes and priests. But, we also want to



Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's is chair of the steering committee charged with combining the three Plattsburgh parishes into one.

keep a strong Catholic presence in the area."

Living Stones plans

That is exactly what the Diocese, under the direction of the Living Stones Planning Committee, hopes to do.

The Living Stones Committee was created in 2014 as a part of the pastoral vision of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The LSPC developed a plan,

with strategies for implementation, that intends to:

a) Strengthen church vibrancy, including but not limited to realignment and restructuring of parishes;

b) Activate greater participation of the laity in leadership roles; and

c) Assess the parish demographics in relation to economic and spiritual resources available in each parish and those of neighboring parishes.

Over the next 10 to 18 months, parishes in every Deanery in the Diocese will be touched by some sort of change or consolidation.

This fact both Msgr. Duprey and Murray agree, is a call for parishioners to step up, and step into lay ministry as never before.

"Ministry itself isn't about a building, Msgr. Duprey said, "but about people and God."

As many throughout the Diocese look on, the parishes of Plattsburgh are well on their way down the road that will lead us through that change, and on to a stronger presence in Plattsburgh's Catholic community.

Classes to begin in September in Lake Placid, Canton and Carthage

Formation for Ministry announces new sites

By Deacon Patrick Donahue

Program Coordinator, Formation for Ministry

As changes continue in our parishes throughout the diocese, the need for well-trained commissioned lay ministers has perhaps never been greater.

The official kick off of the next program cycle for the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Formation for Ministry program began March 1.

The two-year program will begin in September with classes at the following sites: St Mary's in Canton, St Agnes in Lake Placid and St James in Carthage. Application materials have been distributed to all parishes in the diocese and are available on our diocesan web site at www.rcdony.org/formation.

With the more recent decline in the number of priests and religious providing ministry in the diocese, the need for commissioned lay ministers has steadily increased.

The Formation for Ministry program is a two-year commitment that requires all candidates to complete coursework in theology, ministry and spirituality as well as complete six workshops and two annual retreats during the course of the program.

Candidates who successfully complete the next Formation for Ministry program will be commissioned in June 2019.

The Formation for Ministry program is adding an online component for the next cycle through a partnership with

the STEP program at the University of Notre Dame.

More recently the diocesan's "envisioning process has placed a special emphasis on "building parishes with living stones."

Bishop LaValley believes that commissioned lay ministers are important contributors to this initiative as lay Catholics answer the call to a more active ministry role in the life and the mission of the church.

The bishop said, "By virtue of our baptism, each of us has the responsibility of proclaiming what our God has done for us.... The Church is so enriched through the ministry that our commissioned lay ministers offer to their local parishes."

The Formation for Ministry program has a rich legacy in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and was initiated by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana in 1990. Since that time nearly 1200 laypersons have discerned their call to ministry and completed the program.

The two-year program includes eight courses of study in Church, Sacraments, Christology, Moral Theology, Social Justice, Spirituality and Scripture are also required courses.

Areas of ministry include Catechetical ministry, Parish Outreach ministry, Liturgical and Youth Ministry. All candidates will receive training and supervision in parish ministry during their participation in the program.

All Formation for Ministry classes are held weekly, and in the evening at selected

sites.

Those interested in applying for the program should first meet with their pastors. Application forms are available in all parishes.

Bishop LaValley said, "This is an excellent means of gaining personal knowledge of our faith and of preparing to participate more fully in the

faith life of the parish family.

We must, no matter our age, learn more about our faith. Let us pray that more women and men will step forward and enjoy learning about the richness of our Catholic faith and commit to fuller participation in their parish through their enrollment in the Formation for Ministry

Program."

Further information about the Formation for Ministry Program is available from Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, Program Director at: 315-393-2920 Ext. 1412, or by email: pdonahue@rcdony.org. The website is: www.rcdony.org/formation.



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For more information
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Is there still a place for a diocesan newspaper? Bishop says: absolutely!

By Bishop Terry LaValley

When Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart, the fifth bishop of our diocese, launched the *North Country Catholic* in 1946, he understood the important role that newspapers played in the lives of Americans at that time. Everyone listened to their radios and pored over newspapers to learn about what was happening in the world.

It would be another decade before families brought televisions into their homes and no one could have predicted the changes in communication that we have seen here in the 21st century. We now have instant access to news through the internet on websites, Facebook and Twitter.

So, we wonder, is there still a place for a diocesan newspaper? Absolutely. The *North Country Catholic* continues to be the most efficient and effective way for me to communicate with Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. During these challenging times, it is more important than ever that families welcome into their homes a Catholic perspective on the news of the day.

For the New Evangelization, we must reach out to Catholics who are less than fully active in our faith, who don't worship with us on a regular basis. We must go to them. The *North Country Catholic* delivered into homes does this, maintaining some

connection with them to the Church, perhaps encouraging them to a deeper practice of their faith.

Since the publication of its first issue, the *North Country Catholic* has remained a critical source of communication for our local Church which covers such an expansive area. During the coming year, a primary focus of the NCC will be an examination of how we are meeting our diocesan priorities as we continue to realize our Diocesan Pastoral Vision: "Find Your Home in Christ: Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Love."

This weekend, the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins in all our parishes. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to the paper. Those who read the *North Country Catholic* enjoy timely and relevant articles on prayer, scripture, Church and religious news that are featured every week.

If you are a current subscriber to our diocesan newspaper, please renew your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who don't currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the *North Country Catholic* into your home.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Protecting God's Children

The **Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information: 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions:
March 11 - 9:30 a.m., Immaculate Heart Central H. S., Watertown

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

 Find us on Facebook!



Bishop's Schedule

March 9 - 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 10 - 12 p.m., Lenten Staff Day of Prayer at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 11 - 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at the Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

March 12 - 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid
10:30 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Church in Waddington

March 13 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

March 14 - 6 p.m., Recognition Dinner for the Immaculate Heart Central National Honor Society at the Italian American Club in Watertown

March 15 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral 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 8 - Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

March 10 - Rev. Hector Mauriot, O.M.I., 1895

March 11 - Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 - Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 - Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

March 14 - Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

Environmental Stewardship

What kind of air do you want your grandchild to breathe?

It goes without saying, of course, we want the cleanest air possible for our grandchildren. However, we know that our air is becoming more polluted every day, especially by carbon dioxide (CO2).

What better time than the graced-filled Lenten season to become more aware of how our daily activities are contributing to the quality of air, so that we can make better choices to protect it?

This week's suggestion for a lower carb/on diet or fast is taken from David Gershon's book, *A Low Carb/on Diet: How to Lose 5,000 Pounds*, is entitled, "Think Before You Go, Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled" "For a car that gets 20mpg, each mile driven is equivalent to a pound of CO2..Learning how to reduce the amount of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is one of the high-leverage actions you can take." (p. 17-19)

Some suggestions of ways to do it: #1 Keep a trip diary for one week and notice the destination and the mileage for each trip. Ask yourself if the trip could be combined with another trip? Could I use other means of transportation, walking, biking, or carpooling?

#2 Calculate the fuel efficiency of your vehicle. Fill your car with gas and record the car's odometer reading. When you refill it, write down the odometer reading again. Subtract the first reading from the second one, and then divide the number of gallons of gas used onto the number of the miles traveled. This will give you the average miles per gallon. If your household has more than one vehicle, consider using the one with the better mileage for longer trips.

"Thinking before we go" may enable us to lose some CO2 and be better stewards of the gift that God has entrusted us with for generations to come.

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A VOICE OF FAITH

A celebration of life and faith

By Deacon Anthony Pastizzo
Deacon assistant, St. Mary's Cathedral

(Excerpts from homily for funeral Mass for Deacon David Wells held Feb. 17 at St. Mary's Cathedral)

A little over three years ago David and I along with the rest of our "Deacon Class" stood here at this Cathedral and were ordained into the permanent diaconate. Those of us who are married were accompanied by our wives.

Some may not realize married deacons do not become deacons without the written permission and witness of their wives. So Dorothy stood here with Deacon David as he committed himself to a life of service in our Church. Dorothy loved and supported Deacon David, and as all of us who are married may know, cared for David with that special love, that only a woman can give.

And to attest the fact husbands and wives become one, Dorothy accompanied and shared in many of Deacon David's ministries, especially to the infirm, and lonely.

God has taught us of the goodness of all creation, and in a special way the sacredness of all human life, teaching us we are created in God's own image. Human life then, possesses a dignity, rooted in who we are.

When we gather together for a celebration of life and faith, we all begin to focus on the depth of our being. We are emotionally and psychologically stirred.

When those most near and dear to us begin to fail and die, life can lose some of its flavor. We may even get caught up in the "would have," "should have," or "could have's." But what is important now is we loved him, and he loved us.

Life is holy, deserving of respect and reverence. Life is the foundation of all other goods: friendship, love, prayer and all the many ways we serve God and neighbor. Deacon David Wells, knew and understood this.

I reflected on the readings Deacon David's family chose for this celebration of David's life and I noticed how they connect with love, life, dying, rising, and hope.

In our first reading from Wisdom we hear, "For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time," "nor can it be measured in terms of years."

Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,

Classes for new deacons

The Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, headed by Deacon John White of Ogdensburg, is currently offering informational sessions for pastors and all interested parties in anticipation of the start of a new deacon formation class. The first session was held Feb. 22 in Norfolk. Other gatherings are set for March 8, 6:30 p.m. at Sister of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown and March 15, 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Church (Emmaus Room) in Plattsburgh. Further information is available from Deacon White at jwhite@rcdony.org.



Deacon Anthony Pastizzo, left, delivered the homily at the funeral for his classmate and friend Deacon David Wells Feb. 17 at St. Mary's Cathedral. In his homily Deacon Pastizzo reflected on the role of the deacon and the deacon's wife in the life of a parish. The two men, along with 10 others including, Deacon Brian Neureuther and Deacon Paul White, also pictured, were ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Oct. 5, 2013.

(David did have a nice head of gray hair!) and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age. "Having become perfect in a short while he reached the fullness of a long career, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord...."

Deacon David called me one evening this past year. He said, "Tony can you show me how, and help me preside at a Holy Hour?"

I said, "Sure Dave, I have done that all of one time!"

And I have been blessed to have Deacon John White, and Deacon Francis Bateman to teach me so much.

So Dave and I met at St. Raphael's one evening to practice. We spent the first half hour attempting to place the "empty" luna into the monstrance. We managed to get it jammed in there, if you were there you would have heard, "Ok, we do not want to pry on it!" "Any WD-40 around?"

We did manage to figure out the proper way and we were doing it quite gracefully by the end of the evening.

We were taught all of these things, however being taught and remembering are two different things.

David and I both had anxiety issues, and we just wanted to do things right. I know I can speak for many of my classmates when I say Deacon David kept us grounded.

In our second reading from Romans, we heard

in Paul's letter to the Romans, "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" "Anguish, distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness, or peril of the sword?"

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

Paul is emphasizing God's desire to embrace us. Paul outlines all the terrors Christians face on earth. None of these can separate us from God in Christ, he assures us. Through Christ we will find God nothing but gracious and merciful, kind and compassionate, seeking only to fulfill our lives.

Over the years Deacon David had other titles, to name a few, sailor, soldier, police officer, caregiver, nurse, husband, father, grandfather, coach, school bus driver, 4th degree knight, our brother. Through all of the good times and bad he remained gracious, kind, compassionate, and I believe his life was fulfilled.

I know I can speak for my brother deacons, studying for the diaconate was a joy, for and with David. We will all remember his kind, warm, compassionate and loving ways. Again a reflection of Him who loved us.

In our Gospel we heard that the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. "Amen, amen unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies it produces much fruit."

I can only imagine how the disciples felt hearing this. They were probably waiting to witness another miracle but instead Jesus is speaking in a parable, about farming! They don't know what he means, and maybe we don't either.

However like a teacher teaching a child he explains a grain of wheat has to die, and even I can see it is the only way we are going get amber waves of grain.

This is true for you and I, and Jesus has taught us the implications of our lives. Now it is Jesus' hour that has come; he is the son of man who will be glorified. He is the grain of wheat that must fall to the ground and die in order to bear much fruit.

Sacred scripture teaches us that death marks the transformation to new and eternal life in the kingdom of God. This belief does not deny the reality of death, or its suffering and separation. Yet life is changed not ended. Our belief is rooted in the transforming experience of the resurrection of Jesus, and we trust in God's loving faithfulness. And God's kingdom on earth exists wherever God's will is at work wherever people are faithful to the command that we love one another as God first loved us.

Certainly the Kingdom of God was present on earth when we focus on the life of Deacon David Wells, and his family.

Today we commend Deacon David Wells into God's loving hands, we will pray for David, his family, and friends, and reflecting on last Sunday's reading from St. Paul, with this we need only trust. St. Paul assured us "eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, what God has prepared for those who love him."

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Says Catholic media may be remedy for the three greatest challenges church faces

The power of the word

By Matthew Gambino
Catholic News Service

WYNNWOOD, PA. (CNS) -- Catholic news media might be the remedy for three of the greatest challenges facing the church in the United States today, according to a leading Catholic journalist who spoke Jan. 30 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in suburban Philadelphia.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, delivered the Cardinal John Foley Lecture for about 50 attendees at the seminary, including Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

CNS was founded by the U.S. bishops in 1920. The international news service is based in Washington, with offices at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' headquarters.

In his talk, Erlandson offered context to his talk titled

"The Power of the Word: Catholic News Media and Spiritual Formation" by describing three crises in the church today.

"My conversations with Catholics around the country suggest that they are unaware ... of the challenges we face now and will face in extremes in the near future," Erlandson said.

First, an aging priesthood faces a "demographic cliff" that in coming years will not have enough active priests to sustain parish life in the United States as it is structured today.

"Each year an average of about 400 new priests are ordained nationwide, while an average of 1,500 retire or die," Erlandson said.

He also cited the decline in sacramental marriage as well as baptism and the reception of other sacraments, driven largely by divorce and remarriage outside the church.

Lastly, Erlandson described

the dearth of Catholic faith formation for children and especially of adults. Citing a statistic that only 15 percent of Catholic school-age children attend a Catholic school and despite valiant efforts of volunteer religious educators in parish programs, "nearly everyone agrees that many Catholic parents are too distracted, undereducated in the faith or broken to assume their role as 'primary educators' of their children," he said.

Putting it bluntly, Erlandson said two generations of parents "have been educated primarily in, at best, 40-minute class sessions 20 or so weeks a year from first through eighth grades or until confirmation, whichever comes first. Too many of them are, in terms of their religious IQ, children inhabiting adult bodies."

It has been said that Catholics today are the best educated in the history of the

church, but "in this country, this applies to their MDs and their MBAs, not religious education," Erlandson said.

If Catholic families are the building blocks of parishes that are stressed by a gap in clergy resources, then a "parish- and family-centered religious education system" is sorely needed, he said. "At this point the greatest strategic need facing the church may be in the area of adult faith formation and education."

Erlandson suggested Catholic media including television, radio, digital and print publications may best address the need to form lay Catholics to accept the leadership roles they will increasingly need to take in the church.

Catholic news and commentary can inform Catholics on the issues of the day by "helping them to see reality through Catholic eyes," Erlandson said, adding

the church "needs a voice to tell the stories that are not being told, or not being told well, and it needs a voice to mobilize Catholics."

Secular media might not present issues such as the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, health care reform, immigration reform or the Christian diaspora in the Middle East with the Catholic perspective that offers not propaganda but the truth of the Gospel.

"The regular appearance of a Catholic publication with news, analysis, columns and features in a virtual or actual mailbox does more to help form more adult Catholics than any other method or tool," Erlandson said.

Catholic news media's stories of ordinary people striving in extraordinary ways for holiness have the power "to show that what God asks of us, what the church teaches, can be lived out in the real world," he said. "It is being done. And the lesson is that we can do it too."

Just as secular media are experiencing seismic changes in their business model and even in their quality, the Catholic press is also under great stress "but it remains a vital and valuable tool in service to the church," Erlandson said.

"It needs the resources to flourish and to fulfill its role to inform, to form and to inspire, particularly at this time when other institutions of the church, especially the parish, are facing equally daunting challenges and are in need of a well-formed laity."

And while he pointed out "print is not dead" and delivering a publication into homes remains "the ultimate push technology," he also acknowledged social media, video, print and digital all are tools the church can use to preach the Gospel "and to reach modern men and women effectively."

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishops: Congress must consider budget's moral, human dimensions

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairmen of six U.S. bishops' policy committees March 3 told members of the House and Senate that every decision they will make on the federal budget "should be assessed by whether it protects or threatens human life and dignity. A central moral measure of any budget proposal is how it affects 'the least of these' (Matthew 25). The needs of those who are hungry and homeless, vulnerable and at risk, without work or in poverty should come first," the six chairmen said. They pointed out that the government and other institutions have "a shared responsibility to promote the common good of all, especially ordinary workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult economic times." The letter said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supports the goal of reducing future unsustainable deficits and believes the country has an obligation to address their impact on the health of the economy but that a "just framework for the federal budget cannot rely on disproportionate cuts in essential services to poor and vulnerable persons."

Trump visits Catholic school in Florida to show school choice support

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) -- President Donald Trump visited St. Andrew Catholic School in Orlando March 3 to show his support for school choice. The president was joined by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, and Florida Gov. Rick Scott in a tour of the school that started with a visit to a fourth-grade class. The visit, which was private, was dubbed as a listening session. One of the tour guests was Denisha Merriweather, who attended a private high school through Florida's voucher program, which she credits with turning her life around. "We want millions more to have the same chance to achieve the great success that you're achieving," Trump said. The president also told school administrators that "the love you have for what you do is really fantastic." The Associated Press reported. In his address to Congress Feb. 28, Trump said that education was the "civil rights issue of our time" and urged Congress to pass legislation to fund school choice for disadvantaged young people, but he did not offer any details.

Pope: Don't worry how it's spent, always give homeless a handout

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- People who don't give money to the homeless because they think it will be spent on alcohol and not food should ask themselves what guilty pleasures they are secretly spending money on, Pope Francis said. "There are many excuses" to justify why one doesn't lend a hand when asked by a person begging on the street, he said in an interview published the day before the beginning of Lent. But giving something to someone in need "is always right," and it should be done with respect and compassion because "tossing money and not looking in (their) eyes is not a Christian" way of behaving, he said. The interview, published Feb. 28, was conducted by the monthly magazine, "Scarp de' Tennis" (Tennis Shoes), which serves homeless and marginalized people in Milan and is run by the local and national Caritas branches. The pope was scheduled to visit Milan March 25. Of the several questions the pope was asked, one focused on whether he thought giving money to people begging on the street was the right thing to do.

Fasting:

Lent's spiritual practice creates space for prayer

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - There is no getting around fasting during Lent.

Not only is it one of the three pillars of spiritual practice along with prayer and almsgiving, but it also bookends the period of preparation for Easter.

Fasting and abstinence is required of adult Catholics, ages 18-59, at the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and at its end on Good Friday. This means eating only one full meal and two small meals that equal one meal as well as no snacks in between meals and no meat.

Creighton University's On-line Ministries program, "Praying Lent 2017," says the purpose of fasting is to "experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice for the purpose of strengthening us."

"When we get hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness," it adds, noting that the practice helps people to clarify their thoughts. "It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply," the resource from Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, points out.

In addition to the two days of fasting, Catholics 14 and older are obligated to abstain from eating meat during Fridays in Lent.

The Friday practice is a sacrifice meant "to help Catholics make much bigger sacrifices," the Creighton resource says, pointing out that not eating meat doesn't give someone permission to eat a fancy fish meal. And for vegetarians, it could mean abstaining from a favorite meal.

Fasting, which has deep roots in many religious tradi-

tions, is meant to draw participants into deeper prayer and also link them with those in need.

For Christians, the tradition has roots in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples how they should look when they are fasting -- not gloomy, not neglecting their appearance and with their faces washed so they do not appear to be fasting.

"Jesus says when we fast, not if," said Father John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Michigan.

He said the key to fasting is to attach an intention to the practice "rather than seeing it as a flexing of our self-discipline muscles." It makes the practice "not about me but someone else," he told Catholic News Service March 1.

"Fasting is heavy artillery," he added because the person doing it is denying themselves something and trusting that God will use it.

Although fasting is technically not eating food, giving something up can also be a form of fasting.

Msgr. Charles Murphy, author of the 2010 book: "The Spirituality of Fasting: Rediscovering a Christian Practice" said there are two forms of fasting -- total and partial. A total fast is eating nothing and drinking nothing for a designated period of time where a partial fast involves giving up certain things for a specific period of time.

Partial fasting is a popular part of Lent where people choose to give up something such as soda, candy, beer, television or more increasingly, social media.

The top things people said they were going to give up this Lent, according to OpenBible.info, a Web search engine that examined Twitter

posts during the week of Feb. 26, included a mix of social media and food and one wishful thinking: school. The only other top 10 mention that wasn't a food or drink was to give up swearing.

Partial fasting, just like a full fast, shouldn't be done to benefit the person doing it. "It's not to make us more narcissistic, which it can do," said Paulist Father Jack Collins, who helped Busted Halo, the Paulist website, with videos like "You don't know Jack about Lent" a few years ago.

"We don't fast to feel good, but to remind ourselves that half the world goes to bed hungry," he said, adding that it's a way of reminding us "we are our brother's keeper."

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, is not keen on people looking for a loophole in their fasting practices, for example saying that Sundays don't count and they can have whatever they gave up that day.

"I get that people want a pressure relief valve," he said, "but when I open my missal it says the First Sunday of Lent" meaning Sunday counts.

Father Rice, who is giving up riding elevators for Lent, said the Catholic college students he works with typically give up a food or social media. "They won't give up texting. That would be like giving up breathing," he added.

This age group, and Catholics at large, could take a small step toward a phone fast by following the initiative of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, which urged Catholics to not use their phones on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday this year "as a way to reflect on God and the meaning of the Easter season."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Climbing a mountain with Jesus & his disciples

During these six weeks of Lent, we're on a spiritual journey, hoping to be better persons by Easter.

Before Lent, we spent some weeks with Jesus on the Mount of the Beatitudes. Today, we climb a mountain with Jesus and His disciples...a very special mountain traditionally called Mt. Tabor.

How God loved mountains!

Remember, it was on Mt. Sinai that God had treated Moses like a friend, and had given him the ten commandments.

Before that, he had tested Abraham's faith on Mt. Moria, as he was preparing

to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

Today's first reading is about God's call to Abraham to found a great dynasty of believers.

In our second reading this week, Timothy reminds us that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has saved us and has "called us to a holy life...according to His own design."

But back to Mt. Tabor. Here, Peter, James and John, will catch a glimpse of the glory of God. As they approach the summit, the three suddenly notice a change in the garments Jesus is wearing.

From a dusty brown and gray of a carpenter's garb,

they become a dazzling white. The disciples then see two famous figures appear. They recognize Moses the Lawgiver, and Elijah the Prophet.

They are both discussing something with Jesus. Perhaps they were talking about his coming Passion. Peter is so overjoyed that he proposes that they stay here on this blessed spot.

Peter himself with build them tents! Then suddenly a cloud comes between them and the sun, and a Voice thunders out, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!". No more talk of tents!

In fear the disciples fall to the ground. Jesus calms them, and tells them not to be afraid.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MARCH 12

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

The glory has faded, and they proceed down the mountain. Jesus warns them to keep quiet about all this until after His Resurrection. They proceed on their journey...a journey that will end on Mt. Calvary.

What does all this mean for us on our spiritual journey? As the Church has taught for centuries in both the Western and Eastern Church, this event points to our own "transfiguration"

and to the glorification of all of nature that surrounds us!

Just as Jesus will shine in heaven for all eternity, so we who are faithful to the sharing in the Passion of Jesus, will also shine in glory with Him for all eternity!

As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to listen to all of Jesus' teaching, and follow it as closely as we can.

We have the advantage of knowing and believing in the Resurrection.

As Timothy tells us today, "Beloved: bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." For us, it's a gradual day-by-day process that should bring us closer and closer to Jesus.

A VOICE OF FAITH

Winter: a time to 'wait upon the Lord'

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing writer

This time of year can be really difficult for our sense of optimism and maintenance of a generally good mood. We are eagerly waiting for our clocks to move ahead, for warmth to once again tease us with its presence, and Lent defines the church calendar, which, with surprising accuracy, seems to mark the 40 days until Spring weather arrives.

We must continue to "wait upon the Lord".

And this waiting doesn't always look the best for us. Many people suffer from seasonal depression and this can be a very challenging cross to bear. It is a true test of patience to live

with very low energy, to not sleep well for long periods of time, to lose interest in your favorite things, to lose your appetite, and all for no particular reason.

What is worse is feeling like you are not yourself for months on end, struggling greatly to live your normal life all year round. Seasonal depression is in fact very depressing. But it is a suffering that can bring us so close to the heart of Jesus.

The Agony in the Garden is a very difficult moment for us to understand. Christ begs his father to relieve him of the unspeakable torture and suffering he is about to endure, all while obediently following his will, regardless of what the Father decides to do with his son.

Christ is in agony because he is carrying the weight of our sins, looking forward to a gruesome death that will be brought on by those who He is trying to save.

Christ ultimately "dies" to

his own will when he says to his father "Not my will, but yours be done," accepting the death he so greatly feared.

It is either a time of year when we retreat and complain, or a time when we ask the Lord to be with us, deeply and intimately

This is the greatest example of "waiting upon the Lord" in the history of civilization. It is also only the beginning of the story, as we all know.

While the next 24 hours allowed for the horrendous torturing and death of our Savior, only a few days later, he did the impossible and rose from the dead. Christ trusted in his father and God's will was ultimately accomplished through his son.

In our own small sufferings, we can do the same.

We can either see the win-

ter months as a time where we will just bury our noses in senseless Netflix series, sleeping unnecessarily long hours, and being generally miserable because of the lack of UV light or we can see January, February, and March as sort of a three month expression of the Easter Triduum.

It is either a time of year when we retreat and complain, or a time when we ask the Lord to be with us, deeply and intimately, to ask him to bring his light into our crushing personal darkness, and to allow him to be with us as we bear our cross. In offering up our prayer to the Father, we too can follow the great obedience of Christ in the garden and continually allow God's mighty work to be done through us.

And if we wait faithfully upon the Lord, then there is no question that our suffering will not only help others in the end, but will in fact be the way of our salvation.

OUR READERS WRITE

Idea for Lent

At Thousand Islands Council 350, Knights of Columbus meeting last night, we welcomed two guest speakers from Samaritan Summit Village, Sandi Baril and Barb Morrow.

They gave a brief presentation about Summit, what it's all about and how it operates. They then had a questions and answers session. Now, you might wonder why I am sharing this with you.

Our local council has three members currently staying there along with numerous other friends and neighbors from our area. We (council 350) are discussing how we can spend some time with those who have served our council and area faithfully for many years on a rotating basis.

So, I'm sharing this so maybe instead of you (my fellow readers) giving something up this Lenten season. You might consider going out and sharing a little bit of your time with your friends, neighbors who might be at Summit or any other housing for the aged or sick. I have already been up to Summit and will be going back again. A short visit from you can make a huge difference in their day.

May your Lenten journey bring you Inspiration, Passion and Peace

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AT THE MOVIES

MOONLIGHT

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Considered as an exploration of the African-American experience in contemporary society, writer-director Barry Jenkins' powerfully understated drama "Moonlight" (A24) makes a compelling statement.

**The Oscar goes to:
2017 Academy Award
winner for Best Picture**

As the film chronicles three stages in the life of an inner-city Miami youth, however, aspects of its main character's personal story raise complications for viewers of faith.

As a bullied and withdrawn 10-year-old, burdened with a crack-addicted mother (Naomie Harris), Chiron (Alex Hibbert), derisively nicknamed Little, comes under the surprisingly positive influence of local drug dealer Juan (Mahershala Ali). Juan's gentle girlfriend, Teresa (Janelle Monae), becomes a more predictable mentor, taking on the role of a second mom.

One of the few other bright spots in Chiron's bleak existence is his friendship with schoolmate Kevin (Jaden Piner) who proves much more accepting of Chiron than the lad's other peers.

Reaching his teens, Chiron (now Ashton Sanders) falls for Kevin (now Jharrel Jerome). Although Kevin boasts (apparently truthfully) of his prowess with women, he willingly participates in a single sexual act with Chiron. But circumstances soon set them cruelly at odds with each other.

Once grown -- and now played by Trevante Rhodes -- Chiron has himself become a pusher with a grim persona symbolized by his latest moniker, Black. He lives an isolated and shady life until an unexpected reunion opens up emotional possibilities for him.

The relationship at the heart of the film is dealt with in a restrained and thoughtful way, with spiritual affinity far outweighing eroticism and fidelity leading to sexual reserve. Yet the physical expression of the bond is presented as acceptable, making it impossible to endorse "Moonlight" for any age group.

In fact, the temptation to let sympathy blur moral borders is all the more potent here because immensely likable, terribly downtrodden Chiron has the audience rooting for him all the way. So, too, does compassionate Kevin. Yet commiseration needs to be clear-eyed where ethical truths, especially those taught both by Scripture and tradition, are at stake.

The film contains tacit endorsement of homosexual acts, mature themes, including narcotics use and prostitution, a graphic heterosexual and a semi-graphic same-sex encounter, several mild oaths, frequent rough and crude language and some vulgar sex talk.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



CNS PHOTO/A24
Alex Hibbert and Mahershala Ali star in a scene from "Moonlight." The film received the Oscar for Best Picture at the 89th Academy Awards Feb. 26



North Country Catholic has gone Green



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To sign up to receive the NCC in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2017: "Jesus Turners Falls Again"

Date	Place		Time
March 10	St. James	Gouverneur	7:00 p.m.
March 12	St. Cecilia's	Adams	7:30 p.m.
March 16	St. Bartholomew's	Old Forge	7:30 p.m.
March 17	Our Lady of Peace	Turners Falls, MA	7:30 p.m.
March 18	Christ the King	Albany	7:30 p.m.
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



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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.

Contact: Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771.

CLINTON

FISH FRY DINNER

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

Date: March 10, 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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Plattsburgh – Spaghetti dinner is set

Date: March 18

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

Place: Seton Academy

Cost: Adults, \$8; children under 12, \$5

Features: All profits go to Seton Catholic's "40 Days of Hope" project.

UNLOCKING MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

Rouses Point – Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible to be held during Lent.

Date: Thursday of Lent

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Parish

Features: Eight-part study with Jeff Cavins. With DVD presentations and small group discussions questions, the program helps uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand what it is all about.

Contact: Call the Rectory for details: 518-297-7361

CATHOLICISM-PIVOTAL PLAYERS

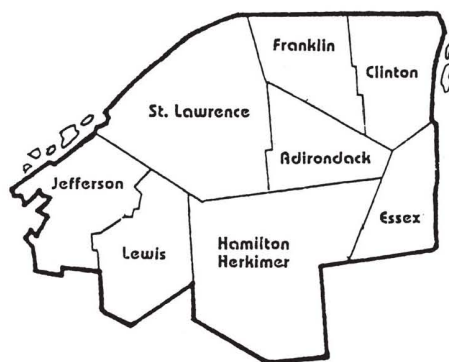
Rouses Point – Fr. Stitt will be hosting a video series on Sundays of Lent.

Date: March 5 to April 9

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Champlain Catholic Men's Club

Features: The videos are from Bishop Robert Barron's new program, CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players, a multi-part film series that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization. Bishop Barron was the keynote speaker at the Lake Placid "Inspire" event last fall, and is now on a new journey to unlock



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.

the truth behind the Catholic Church's most influential people, including St. Francis of Assisi, Michelangelo, and St. Catherine of Siena. Refreshments will be served.

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

K OF FISH FRY DINNERS

Au Sable Forks – Knights of Columbus Council #2301 of Au Sable Forks will hold fish-fry dinners,

Date: March 10 and 31

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

Place: Holy Name Parish Center Gym

Cost: \$10 adults; Children under 12, \$6

BREAKFAST SET

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's–St. Edmund's Parishes to have a Buffet Style breakfast.

Date: March 19

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; 5 and under, Free

Features: Proceeds to benefit both parishes. 50/50 tickets will be available.

Contact: For more information please call 593-2052 or 594-3907

K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Plattsburgh – K of C to have a pancake

breakfast.

Date: March 12

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of Victory Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6 to 12, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: 50/50 chances available.

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

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

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 spchurchdenise@primelink1.net or at 518-563-1692.

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; children, \$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 with Benediction at 7 p.m.

ESSEX

LENTE JOURNEY

Olmstedville – Lenten Journey on Beginning Apologetics to be held.

Date: March 8

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish House

Features: A light meal will be served

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's Parish is planning its annual St. Patrick's Dinner.

Date: March 12

Time: 2 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children under 12, \$5

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; May 7 & 21

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;

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 Heartside Center

Features: Panel includes: 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 Consultant. 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 LENTE RETREAT :

Brownville – Immaculate Conception Church 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

Joanette 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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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 Chapel 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

LENTE THURSDAYS

Lowville – Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: March 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

ST. LAWRENCE

ACIES CEREMONY

Ogdensburg – Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony to be held.

Date: March 19

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Exposition and Benediction as well as an Individual and Collective Consecration to Mary. Refreshments will be served in the Brzana Hall following.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk – Brunch to be held sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Date: March 12

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Family of 4, \$20; every additional person add \$3, Omelets, \$3 extra



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

Thank you to the NCC

The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. The Pontifical Mission Societies' primary initiative is the promotion of a universal missionary spirit, of prayer and sacrifice that we are called upon through our baptism. Additionally, this Diocese promotes a special project called "The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Four of the five components mentioned are local fundraising efforts of the Church where the Mission lands and Missionaries alike directly benefit from the prayers and resources of people like you and me, who live, work and raise families in the North Country.

The promotion of our appeals, campaigns, and efforts would be almost impossible were it not for the *North Country Catholic*.

Thanks to the diligent work and efforts of the North Country Catholic and its staff Mary Lou Killian, Editor and associate Christine Ward. They enable our purpose of promoting the missionary spirit easy week after week.

Each week, the *North Country Catholic* exhibits our column and photos in an effort to help publicize and promote the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by educating the faithful with awareness of the Church's universal mission. Our columns teach of sacrifice, encourage prayer and support of any on-going appeals. Occasionally, our columns tell of a story from a far away land where our funds made a difference.

Raising awareness helps our appeals and collections which consist of Christmas/Advent, Lent, St. Peter the Apostle, Missionary Projects of the Diocese, Missionary Cooperation and World Mission Sunday.

In addition to these efforts, the children in Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association programs for on-going support and prayers for children in developing nations.

Through the years, the *North Country Catholic* has always been there to aid in our mission's goal of promoting education and awareness.

Additionally, the NCC each Fall showcases our financial statement for the year prior. They are a gateway for us to show our gratitude to each of you.

The Mission office is so grateful for the support and publicity the NCC gives us each issue. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith proudly joins the *North Country Catholic* on the path of making both the Diocese and the World a better place through the promotion of prayer and personal sacrifices the Missions encourage each day.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.rcdony.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls — Arnold W. Leggue, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Canton — Linda Joan Boise; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Canton — Myrna A. Jordan, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Annette Ann (Decosse) Trombley, 87; Funeral Services March 4, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

Gouverneur — Dianne M. Calvani, 56; Funeral Services March 3, 2017 at St. James Church.

Gouverneur — Jake Thomas Ferrick, 8; Funeral Services March 4, 2017 at St. James Church.

Harrisville — Martin R. Luther, Sr., 89; Funeral Services March 1, 2017 at the Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in Harrisville Community Cemetery.

Lowville — Richard Thomas Graves, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at the Iseneker Funeral Home Inc.

Lyon Mountain — Elizabeth "Betty" J. (Palmer) Rissetto, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church.

Malone — Letty N. (Benney) Andrews, 90; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in Old Cedar Grove Cemetery, Chaumont.

Malone — David W. Jandreau, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2017 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor

Malone — Clayton H. Muller, Jr., 73; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena — Paul Robert Calnon, 64; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Walter L. Wood, 72; Funeral Services March 4, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Dana R. Dintaman, 76; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Nancy K. (LaRocque) Gar-rant, 65; Funeral Services March 3, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh — Donna (McMillan) Os-borne, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Dannemora.

Plattsburgh — Geraldine Mary (Racette) Ryan, 81; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Ralph P. Howard, 78; Funeral Services March 5, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church.

Saranac Lake — Walsh "Murph" D. Moody, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Mt. View Cemetery.

Watertown — Joseph N. Rizzo, 80; Funeral Services March 3, 2017 at St. Anthony's Church.

Watertown — Kathleen A. Schneider, 70; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

LENTEN 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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's parish offers a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction.

Time: Thursdays, immediately following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's

ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

Heuvelton – St. Raphael's Food Pantry will be open every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. to 11

Place: Parish Center

Contact: Father O'Brien at 315-393-2920 or 315-344-2383.

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: April 2 and 23, May 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Features: Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who

are Juniors in high school and older.

Contact: Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Stephen Rocker, pastormsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

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

DEACON FORMATION INFORMATION

The Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg is offering Informational Sessions for Pastors and all interested parties.

ACOLYTES ARE INSTALLED



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the Installation of the Ministry of Acolyte Feb. 28 for 16 men preparing for ordination as permanent deacons in October. Front, from left are Brent Charland, St. Andre Bessette Parish, Malone, Bishop LaValley and Nicholas Haas, St. Andre Bessette Parish in Malone; second row, John Felner, St. Brendan's, Keene; Randal Smith, St. Peter's, Plattsburgh; and David Demers, Notre Dame, Ogdensburg; third row, Timothy Foley, St. Bartholomew's, Old Forge; James Crowley, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg; Lawrence Morse, St. James, Gouverneur; and Ron Gingerich, St. Peter's, Lowville; back William O'Brien, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg; Richard Burns, St. Mary's, Potsdam; Neil Fuller, St. Mary's, Clayton; David Clark, St. John's, Plattsburgh; Thomas Yousey, St. Peter's, Lowville; and Philip Regan, St. Andrew's, Norwood.

Schedule: March 8, 6:30 p.m., Sister of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown
March 15, 6:30p.m. St. Peter's Church (Emmaus Room), Plattsburgh
Contact: Deacon John White at jwhite@rcdony.org.

LENTEN 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 bagged lunch.

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315-393-5899



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

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 vvalonde@rcdony.org or visit camp website: rcdony.org/camp/guggy

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

COLLEGE WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT

Long Lake – A retreat day for college women is set

Date: March 11

Contact: Amanda at aconklin@stlawu.edu or conklina@canton.edu for information or to register.

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 the Vocations Office at 315-393-2920

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