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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 2

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 12, 2017

'Make room for kindness'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Hope cannot remain hidden within but must break free to overcome vengeful, mafia-like mentalities with mercy and humility, Pope Francis said.

Christians must give witness to hope through their lives as Jesus did and make room for him in their hearts

to fight evil by doing good to others, even their enemies, the pope said at his weekly general audience April 5.

"The mafiosi think that evil can be overcome by evil. They take revenge; they do so many things that we all know. But they do not know what humility, mercy and

meekness are. And why? Because the mafiosi have no hope," he said.

Arriving in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis made his way through the crowd of 15,000 people, greeting individuals and even making a quick stop to sip some mate tea offered by a group of pil-

grims from his native Argentina.

Arriving at the stage, the pope spotted a familiar face among the Argentine pilgrims, and warmly embraced an elderly woman and spoke to her while other people in the group reached out to touch him.

Solidarity in Faith with Syria

In his homily at the April 6 Chrism Mass, Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is setting out on a "twinning relationship" with the Diocese of Latakia, located in Syria. This "Solidarity in Faith is our practical diocesan response to the Holy Father's call to assist these suffering families and communities," the bishop said.

He appointed Father Steven Murray as chair of an advisory committee for the initiative.

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INSPIRE update



FULL STORY, PAGE 4

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop LaValley prepares the sacred chrism during the annual Chrism Mass held April 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral. See page 3 for the bishop's homily and page 5 for more photos.

HAPPY EASTER: Bishop LaValley shares his ALLELUIA message... p. 6

75 YEARS OF ST. DISMAS

Anniversary Mass held at prison church



PHOTO BY SHAWN RYAN

The stained glass window depicting St. Dismas on the cross next to Jesus was on full display during the 75th anniversary Mass at St. Dismas Church of the Good Thief at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the April 1 Mass with assistance from priests and deacons who have served as prison chaplains at Clinton and other facilities.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In solidarity with Syria

Bishop LaValley's announcement that our diocese would be undertaking a twinning project with the Diocese of Latakia in Syria couldn't have been timed any better.

The bishop talked about this new effort towards "Solidarity of Faith" in his homily at the Chrism Mass on the day *after* we learned of the horrific chemical attack in that country and the day *before* President Trump authorized a missile strike in response.

Catholic News Service reported that the images of dead men, women and children lying on the streets provoked international outrage; the president noted rightly that "no child of God should ever suffer such horror."



Mary Lou
Kilian

We all know that the horrors in Syria started long before last week.

In the seven years of a civil war, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed and millions have been displaced. They have been seek-

ing safe refuge and basic necessities wherever they can find it, including Lattakia.

Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Lattakia sent Bishop LaValley a long email outlining the pastoral and material needs he has been trying to meet for his tormented flock. Bishop LaValley immediately sent him a check as a down payment for the prayerful and generous support he expects from the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The bishop knows that this effort will make a difference in the people of the North Country as well as for the people in Lattakia. He charged an advi-

sory committee to "provide concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about the richness of the culture of the Diocese of Latakia and the gift of the strong faith of those who suffer so much."

When we see the images from this war torn part of the world it's easy for our shock and disgust to descend into feelings of helplessness. There's nothing we can do to stop the inhumanity we see.

But there will be plenty we can do to make a difference for one or two or 22 people in one corner of this region. And that's enough. Stay tuned.

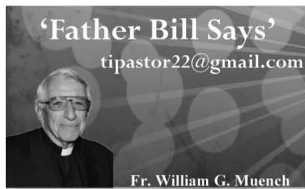
FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Easter and the story of Emmaus

Easter is a time of great happiness for all time, a joyful time for all people. Each Sunday, the Sunday Mass is a celebration of Easter, another celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. The message of Easter is a message of life; because of the Resurrection whenever we speak of Jesus, the message is "Jesus lives." This is always a present tense message. Jesus is always new and always alive. The Resurrection of Jesus strengthens our faith and gives us hope in the events we celebrate during Holy Week.

One of the many gifts of my own priesthood has been to be involved in the program that was named Emmaus. I was able to visit several dioceses to explain the program to priests. Central to this program was the resurrection story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. So even now, when I begin to prepare myself for Easter I think first of the Emmaus Gospel. I have never visited the village of Emmaus but I imagine it is much like the other villages within walking distance of Jerusalem.

I know that you all know the story of Emmaus from Luke's Gospel. St. Luke teaches us so much in this story about Jesus



Fr. William G. Muench

and his Resurrection. I would like to begin our celebration of Easter by revisiting with you this Emmaus story.

The story begins on that first Easter. Jesus had died three days ago, the day of the crucifixion and he was buried.

There is all sorts of confusion on this day because there are some who have discovered that his tomb is empty.

In our story, there are two disciples of Jesus, walking home to Emmaus. We are told that one is named Cleopas. I like to think that the other was his wife. There is a wonderful painting of the Emmaus story in the Cathedral of St. Mel in Ireland, in the city of Longford, that imagines them as a man and woman.

As they walk along they are trying to make sense of all that they have experienced.

The story tells us that Jesus comes along and walks with them. However, we are told that they do not recognize

him; he is just a stranger to them. He mentions that they seem very unhappy and the tell him the whole story.

They had great faith in Jesus and his message but now everything seems to have fallen apart. The crucifixion of Jesus has broken their hearts. They had such high hopes for the future but now there was just too much confusion.

Jesus – remember they still do not recognize him – begins to break open the Scriptures for them. He shows them all the way back to Moses that these writers were writing about the promised Messiah. This Messiah would have to suffer much to enter his glory.

Can you imagine this even for a moment as happening to you or me?

Jesus presents a Scripture lesson. I would have loved to have been there. Actually, every time we read and study and pray over the Scriptures it is Jesus who teaches and guides us and who shows us the way. When they arrive at Emmaus, the couple invites him to stay a time with them (continue to remember that they still have no idea who this stranger is.) They invite him into their home.

Then we are told in the story

that this person, who we know to be Jesus, took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. At that moment, they recognize that this is Jesus who was with them on the road and taught them about Scripture and was now with them. Then Jesus leaves their presence.

We are told that their first response to each other was "weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us about Scripture?" They immediately returned to Jerusalem to inform the others that they have seen Jesus.

The Emmaus story is our story every time we participate in Holy Mass. We come to Mass with our cares and concerns, our hopes and dreams, longing for the presence of our Savior and his guidance.

In the first part of the Mass, we are led through Scripture; each time at Mass I have discovered so often that the Scriptures chosen for that Mass have been exactly what I needed. It was the perfect message for that day.

Then the Eucharist helps me to recognize the presence of Jesus who is truly present with us all, bringing us another experience of God's great love for us.

FOLLOW ME

Solidarity in Faith

Bishop LaValley's homily for the 2017 Chrism Mass held April 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral

Isaiah's words are familiar to us: "*The Lord anointed me and sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly...to heal the broken-hearted...to comfort all who mourn...to give them oil of gladness in place of mourning...*" (Is.61:1-3)

This is an endeavor to heighten awareness of Christians in the Middle East and a tangible means for us to offer prayerful support and material assistance...

This day in which I will bless oils that bring strength, soothe and heal, oils that can be a source of Christian gladness and hope to all those anointed, is an opportune time for me to share with you an endeavor our diocese is beginning that, I believe, will be a source of strength, comfort, healing and of gladness for others and for ourselves. This initiative will be one of *Solidarity in Faith*.

The Lord has anointed me and sent me... As members of the universal Church, we are called to live in global solidarity with all our Christian sisters and brothers. So many are hurting and we are untouched by their suffering. Yes, we see the news and feel badly, but then go about our daily routine. It all seems so overwhelming. We feel helpless. We shrug our shoulders and wonder: "What can I do?" It all seems so far away.

Particularly in the Middle East, the birthplace of our Savior and home to the beginnings of our Church, Christians are experiencing an 'ecumenism of blood'

where our sisters and brothers in faith are under constant pressure to abandon their land, even their faith—or die. The decrease in the Christian population in the Middle East is staggering. If nothing changes, soon there will be no Christians left residing in the most ancient of Christian places. Genocide is happening in our midst.

Pope Francis wrote: "The persecution of Christians and ethnic and religious minorities in many parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, are a great trial not only for the Church but also the entire international community. Every effort should be encouraged, even in a practical way, to assist families and Christian communities to remain in their native lands." (*The Joy of Love*, #46)

Solidarity in Faith is our practical diocesan response to the Holy Father's call to assist these suffering families and communities.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is setting out on a "twinning relationship" with the Diocese of Latakia, located in Syria. I have been in contact with Bishop Antoine Chbeir who shepherds this Maronite Catholic Diocese of about 45,000

Catholics that has thirty parishes, 27 priests and 27 consecrated religious. You, perhaps, recall that our much-loved Fr. George Maroun was also of the Maronite Rite.

In my email to him, I told Bishop Antoine of my desire to lead the faithful of Ogdensburg to a deeper appreciation of the remarkable faith of people who suffer so much for giving witness to the same faith as ours. The media does not and cannot tell the whole story. This is an endeavor to heighten awareness among the faithful of our diocese of the plight of Christians in the Middle East and a tangi-



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE
Bishop LaValley delivers his homily at the Chrism Mass.

ble means for us to offer prayerful support and material assistance, while learning about the richness of the Syrian culture and of their strong, inspiring faith.

Bishop Antoine wrote me back in December: "Here is the situation of the diocese. We are doing whatever it takes to keep Syrians in their land and the Church afloat, to witness to the Lord...transmitting the Christian faith and maybe contributing to diminish terrorism."

The diocese is composed of five provinces and is five times as big as the country of Lebanon. The Bishop wrote that the Church's pastoral activities include: 1. Catechism for children, youth and adults; 2. Formation for catechists; 3. Biblical formation for families; 4. Preparative conferences for marriages; 5. Education programs for refugees; 6. Psychological rehabilitation programs for children and youth, women and for men traumatized by horrible scenes of war; and 7. Dialogue between different confessions of Syrian society: Catholic, Orthodox, Alouites, Moslem--Sunnis, Shias, Yazidis, Druz...

War has wreaked havoc there. Bishop Antoine wrote, "we...had two car

bombs and three suicide attacks for the last seven months or so." Many displaced families have sought safe refuge. There are hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrians. Some arrive with nothing but their pajamas. This Syrian diocese has set up relief programs that try to provide them with clothes, shelter, shoes, mattresses, covers, assistance for medications, food, sanitary items, milk and diapers. Bishop Antoine says that he could narrate hundreds of stories of truly desperate and terrified families approaching him and the Church for assistance.

Bishop told me of his commitment to the spiritual, pastoral, cultural and financial support of his priests. They are very poor. Without the meagre money they get for celebrating Mass intentions they receive from outside Syria, they nearly have nothing on which to live. He said that the Church of Syria has lost about 1/3 of its priests. Bishop Antoine wrote me: "We are a small and rural diocese like yours. I myself do gardening at least one hour every day. Those who practice it know it gives serenity and peace of mind and heart."

I have asked Father Steve Murray to chair an advisory committee that has been established which will provide concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about the richness of the culture of the Diocese of Latakia and the gift of the strong faith of those who suffer so much. We hope to share the story of the Syrian people with the students in our Catholic schools, Christian Formation classes, and Youth Ministry groups, as well as our parishioners. We will rely on various social media to help us grow in our knowledge of the Church of Latakia and their inspiring faith story as our

relationship grows.

"*The Lord has anointed me and sent me...*" Partnering with the Diocese of Latakia is certainly a new venture for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It is, of course, only one means in which this local Church, this anointed People of God, go out to our sisters and brothers in need.

...while learning about the richness of the Syrian culture and of their strong, inspiring faith

As Pope Francis wrote: "Forced migration of families, resulting from situations of war, persecution, poverty and injustice, and marked by the vicissitudes of a journey that often puts lives at risk, traumatizes people and destabilizes families." (*The Joy of Love*, 46) As you know, our local Catholic Charities has been a lifeline of assistance to the stranger in our midst—the immigrant and refugee, the materially poor, the frightened, the hopeless. Our continuing prayers and welcoming hearts provide the spiritual comfort and help with the healing for which so many yearn.

As we prepare for Easter, our sense of communion in the suffering and risen Christ moves us to pray for this new initiative, *Solidarity in Faith*. Each of us shares in a unique way in the consecration of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One. I am so grateful to you, my brother priests, who will now renew your priestly commitment at this Mass. Your pastoral leadership, love for God's people, and zeal for souls serves to inspire us all to be instruments of healing, comfort, of gladness, peace, and hope for all God's children. May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

Bills were paid because of generosity of parishioners, organizations

God's providence and the cost of *INSPIRE*

By Father Garry Giroux
Chair, INSPIRE planning committee

In the early stages of planning for the Vocations Summit, INSPIRE: Called to Love, Bishop LaValley decided there would be no registration fee for any of the participants at the event; he also decided there would be no cost for the midday meal or for childcare during the event. Bishop LaValley did not want cost to be an obstacle to people taking part in INSPIRE.

To be sure, there were some who had misgivings about the choice to offer INSPIRE free of charge. But, both Bishop LaValley and the members of the Vocations Summit Planning Team were confident that God would provide.

God's providence did not disappoint!

Aside from planning and executing the arrangements

for INSPIRE: Called to Love, the Planning Team was also tasked by Bishop LaValley with raising \$125,000 towards the cost of the event.

God marvelously inspired generosity in the hearts and minds of many people and organizations; the total revenue realized by the fundraising efforts for INSPIRE was \$142,679.

The first phase of the fundraising strategy for INSPIRE was a special second collection; this collection took place in all the churches of the diocese on the weekend of April 16 & 17, 2016. Parishioners and pastors demonstrated a wonderful spirit of generosity and cooperation in their support of this special collection. The collection realized a total of \$92,490.

The second phase of the fundraising efforts involved individual solicitation of businesses throughout the North Country, the Knights



of Columbus on the national, state and local levels, parish societies, individual donors, the Catholic Daughters and vendors who hosted displays during the Vocations Summit.

The second phase of fundraising efforts realized a total of \$50,189.

The total cost for INSPIRE was \$127,965. Expenses for the Vocations Summit included: the rental of the Olympic Center Complex and the Lake Placid High School, the mid-day meal,

the fees and travel expenses for the speakers, lodging and meals for speakers and bishops, printing of programs, materials for registration and signage, audio-visual equipment and staff, decorations for the various venues at the Olympic Center, fees for musicians and music, supplies, crafts and materials for childcare, advertising and fees for a PR consultant.

After all the expenses of INSPIRE were paid, there was a surplus of \$14,714.

With Bishop LaValley's approval, the excess contributions were given in three equal shares of \$4,904.67 to the diocesan Offices of: Vocations, Youth Ministry and Evangelization; these funds have been distributed to these ministries with the intention that they continue the goals and work of the Vocations Summit.

The members of the INSPIRE Planning Team were: Father Scott Belina, liturgical planning; Deacon Mark Bennett, fundraising; Marcia Bugbee, childcare; Marika Donders, publicity; Kelly Donnelly, youth rally; John Fehlner, logistics and volunteers; Carol Gonthier, graphics and program designer; St. Joseph Sister Marie Cordata Kelly, registration; Hon. Robert Main, Jr., decoration; Dominican Sister Elizabeth Menard, registration; Patrick Murnane, fundraising coordinator; Father Bryan Stitt, liturgical planning; Michelle Watkins, logistics and volunteers; and Father Garry Giroux, general coordinator.

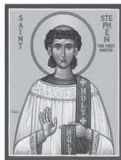
We extend special thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Watertown Motherhouse, the Diocesan Fiscal Office personnel, Linda Ross, Valerie Mathews, Gidget Kimble, and Ian Fawcett for their invaluable assistance with INSPIRE: Called to Love.



Design a holy card for the ordination of the permanent deacons!

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) will copy and use the winning holy card to congratulate the new class of deacons when they are ordained!!

St. Stephen is considered to be the first deacon and the stole worn over the shoulder is the symbol of a deacon's ministry



Size: no larger than 5X7; no smaller than 3X4

Be creative with your own designs! Prizes will be awarded!!

All entries are to be sent electronically to:

Cathy Russell, Vocation Coordinator, crussell@rcdony.org by May 8th

For CCHD grant applications

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant process for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The criteria to be used for submitting a proposal is:

1. Project must be aimed at alleviating the causes of poverty.
2. Project must be a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.
3. Sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization.
4. Project must have the potential to be funded after the CCHD funds have been expended.
5. Projects must be consistent with the

teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. (Applicants do not have to be Catholic.)

This year two grants for \$4,000 each are available. Applications can be requested from Catholic Charities by mail, phone or e-mail.

If you have any questions or to receive an application, please write to: Catholic Charities, 6866 State Hwy. 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, or call: (315)393-2255 or e-mail a request and mailing address to: ccdirect@wadhams.edu

Grant applications are due back to Catholic Charities by May 1. Grants will be awarded by the end of June 2017.

OILS ARE BLESSED.... PRIESTLY VOWS ARE RENEWED

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTOS BY BETTY STEELE, JESSE SOVIE AND MARY LOU KILIAN

All the priests of the diocese joined the bishop for the Eucharistic prayer at the Chrism Mass held April 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Earlier in the liturgy, the priests renewed their commitment to priestly service.



Bishop LaValley breathes over the vessel of chrism oil symbolizing the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the oil.



Children from Catholic schools and religious education programs across the diocese took part in the Chrism Mass including fifth graders from Trinity Catholic in Massena. From left are Louis LaRose, Isaiah Lawrence, Brandon Barnes and Alex Guevara.



Deacons of the diocese presented the vessels of oils to the bishop. From left are deacons Joel E. Walentuk of Alexandria Bay, Bryan T. Dwyer, Chateaugay; James W. Chaufy, Port Leyden; Michael J. Allan, Watertown; and Kevin T. Mastellon, Watertown.

BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

These days, the human family appears to be in a struggle for inner peace and contentment as various worries often latch onto our minds and into our hearts. In a world darkened by sin, steeped in uncertainty, and saturated with suffering, it can be difficult for many of us to experience Easter joy.

The Easter Vigil liturgy begins with the faithful gathered in darkness. Into this darkness, a spark ignites the Easter fire, the source of light for the Paschal candle that will be held high as the procession enters the Church. In the face of this light, "Christ, our Light", darkness has no option but to retreat.

The Gospel of John in its opening verses announces that in the Word "life came to be...and this life was the light of the human race" (1:4-5). The evangelist then continues that this "light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (1:5). The blessing of the new fire at Easter challenges you and me to be the spark that forces the darkness we encounter in our lives to retreat.

At this moment, it might seem like nothing's changed in our world, but hopefully our Lenten pilgrimage has changed us. We have journeyed, sometimes faithfully, other times not so, in our resolve to follow Jesus more closely. It is His light, shining through us, that brings a newness to those

we meet. Our love of God is evidenced in our earnest attempts to love our neighbor in more concrete ways, both the neighbor next door and the neighbor who lives at a distance.

"...for if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (6:5). Here, in his letter to the Romans that we hear at the Easter Vigil, Paul writes of our mission on this earth and tells of the fruits of such a journey of faith: union with Jesus on earth leads to union with Him in heaven...ah...there's the hope, the source of our joy every day—Christ has risen! It's that simple. It's that difficult!

Christ-led, Christ-fed, and hope-filled, let each of us resolve to be the spark that lights the candle instead of cursing the darkness as we await a new Pentecost when fresh tongues of fire are loosed in the world. May the light of Christ, illuminating our lives, dispel the darkness. A very happy and Blessed Easter to you and your loved ones!

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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: terriannyanulavich@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 is available from Atone-ment Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions: **April 23** - 5:30 p.m., St. Anthony's, Inlet

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**

April 12 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 13 – Holy Thursday

9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral
10 p.m., Night Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 14 – Good Friday

9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
3 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

April 15 – Holy Saturday

9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
8 p.m., Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 16 – Easter Sunday

8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 17 – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 19 – 10:50 a.m., Mass 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

April 13 – Rev. Emil Krancewicz, O.F.M.Conv., 1974
April 14 – Msgr. Richard F. Pierce, 1935; Rev. A. Valiquette, O.S.A., 1949
April 15 – Msgr. Peter O. LaRose, 1918; Rev. Alfred J. Chevalier, 1996
April 16 – Deacon Vernon J. Chamberlain, 1993
April 17 – Rev. Peter J. Devlin, 1915; Rev. Vernon L. Doe, 1975; Rev. C. Albert Richardson, 1988; Msgr. Joseph G. Bailey, 2000

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

 #Pontifex

Environmental Stewardship**Let There Be Light**

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil the priest lights the fire and then lights the Easter candle from it and prays: "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

During the chanting of the Ex-sultet, we hear "May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from the death's domain, has shed his peaceful lights on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever." It is this promise of Christ's light in our lives that fills us with joy, hope and peace.

Jesus uses this symbol of light during his Sermon on the Mount, when he says: "You are the light of the world." (Mt. 5:12)

During this Easter Season we are called not only to celebrate the light of His love, but we are called to bring light to the world and like Jesus "shed his peaceful lights on humanity."

The Saranac Lake High School's Green Storm environmental club found one way to use God's gift of sunlight to make our Common Home a cleaner and healthier place for all of humanity in the future.

They teamed up with Apex Solar for their annual Suninitiative. If a homeowner agrees to a free solar presentation the Club is given \$25 from Apex Solar. If the homeowner buys a solar panel system, the Club will be given an additional \$200. The Suninitiative is in effect from now until May 31, 2017.

This project benefits the students, the company and future generations with the option for cleaner, healthier air quality. If you are interested in more information about solar, contact Jeff Gray at 518-578-9036, or contact your own local solar company.

Lord, come be our light, and illuminate our hearts and minds that we may commit to one action this week that will bring your Light to others.



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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
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GOOD FRIDAY

SUPPORT
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IN THE
HOLY LAND
NOW

Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Commissaries of the Holy Land in the United States

1400 Quincy Street N.E., Washington D.C. 20017 • MyFranciscan.org
3140 Meramec Street, St. Louis, MO 63118 | 4050 Mission Ave, Oceanside, CA 92057

Collection April 14, 2017



PHOTOS BY SHAWN RYAN

Bishop Terry R. LaValley was joined by four clergymen April 1 in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of St. Dismas Church at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. From left are Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh and a former prison chaplain; Father Robert Weber of the Diocese of Syracuse who serves as ministerial program coordinator for the New York State Department of Corrections; Deacon Frank A. Bushey, chaplain at Clinton Correctional; and Father Guy F. Edwards of Plattsburgh, a former chaplain at Clinton Correctional.



The bishop is shown with some of the inmates who took part in the anniversary Mass.

Celebrating 75 years at St. Dismas

By Shawn Ryan
Staff writer

DANNEMORA - One of the North Country's most reclusive jewels had a rare chance to show herself off on April 1. Normally seen only by a chosen few, St. Dismas Church, the Church of the Good Thief at Clinton Correctional Institute, opened its doors to some special guests to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its dedication.

Bishop Terry LaValley officiated at an anniversary Mass organized by Deacon Frank Bushey, chaplain at Clinton Correctional.

The congregants included Clinton inmates, corrections officials including the Acting Commissioner of Corrections, and a who's-who of local citizens and politicians alike.

The first free-standing church built entirely behind prison walls in this country, St. Dismas was the idea and passion of Father Ambrose Hyland, the chaplain at then Dannemora prison from 1937 to 1953.

After lengthy efforts to raise funds, construction began on the church in 1939, and was completed in 1941. Massive even by "civilian"

church standards, the building stands 150 feet long, 52 feet wide and its tower rivals the surrounding prison wall at 106 feet high.

If this church is about anything, it is about hope

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

The Mass itself focused on the theme of 75 years of redemption, and the ability to follow the example of Jesus not just after an inmate is released, but within the institution as well.

"For 75 years individuals have been coming into this sacred space to find hope, to find peace, to know God," Bishop LaValley said before the Mass, addressing inmates and civilians alike.

"Too often we see too little hope in our world," he said. "I'm sure that at times you too struggle to find hope in your personal world. Nothing humankind can do will stop God's promise. It's never too late to return to him."

The bishop also touched on the vision that Father Hyland had in the 1930's when he undertook the monumental task of turning what was then prison-owned farmland and a dilapidated barn into one of the most strikingly

beautiful churches in the North Country.

With inmates clothed in varying shades of "prison green" filling the first four rows on either side of the church, and ringed with a phalanx of corrections officers, the first two readings were given in Spanish, as is the tradition at St. Dismas, and afterwards in English.

In a very hope-filled sermon aimed primarily at the church's regular parishioner, Bishop LaValley stressed the need to look forward to the "hope in life that Christ brings," rather than looking backwards at past failings.

At random points throughout the homily, the surreal voice of prison yard loud-speaker could be heard drifting in through the massive stained glass windows along with rays of early spring sunlight.

"If I only pay attention to past mistakes, to the wrongs I've suffered and the deeds I've done, I end up in the ditch of life," Bishop LaValley said. "I end up in darkness."

"Think, and pray about the possibilities eternal life brings," he said. "On the cross Jesus said to Dismas 'today you will be with me in paradise.' Can you imagine more hope-filled words?"



The first free-standing church built entirely behind prison walls in this country, St. Dismas Church at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora was the idea and passion of Father Ambrose Hyland. Father Hyland was a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg who served as chaplain of the Dannemora prison from 1937 to 1953.

"If this church is about anything, it is about hope," the bishop said.

After the service, inmates were led out of the church first, with several thanking the guests for coming to help them celebrate St. Dismas' anniversary.

After they were gone, guests were encouraged to walk around the church, and view the numerous pieces of prisoner-produced spiritual artwork, including the much revered "Magellan Altar," two large angels carved into large pieces of dark wood mounted into the wall behind the altar.

After leaving through the prison's 15 foot high double-

gates, topped by coils of razor-wire, Bishop LaValley commented on the meaning of the Mass to him.

"It was a very powerful expression for us to get together 75 years later, and celebrate the same Eucharist that Father Hyland celebrated at the first Mass held here," he said.

On the bumpy ride back on the caged prison bus, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Dean of Clinton County, summed up the overarching message of the day.

"The truth is, God is everywhere," he said. "He's just as much in there, as he is out here with us."

A VOICE OF FAITH

The grace of friendship

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing writer

During my weekly visit with my great-aunt Lena, she brought up the conversation of her friendship with my grandmother, who was her sister-in-law who passed away about six years ago.

It became evident to me when I saw the tear in her eye as she spoke of my grandmother that a relationship that reveals Christ is one of the few things in life that truly matters

My great-aunt and uncle never had children of their own and so they felt particularly close to their godchildren, my father and two aunts. They acted somewhat like a second set of parents for my dad and aunts and this brought my great-aunt very close to my grandmother.

Their friendship with each other began with family but extended beyond the children and became one of the great blessings of her life, one that my great-aunt cherishes so deeply today.

My grandmother and Aunt Lena lived only a few minutes away from each other and spent much of their lives together, both in and outside of family life. Both were quite involved with the parish and the Altar Rosary Society, were active with the Catholic War Veterans group, and eventually both would become very active with the senior citizens group.

They were also highly competitive card players. I remember being very young and listening to them playing cards in the room next to where I was playing. They agreed and disagreed

very loudly, as only a pair of competitive Italians could!

I have many memories of them hosting members of my extended family for cards and remember how much they enjoyed spending that time together.

My grandmother and great-aunt not only argued about cards and yet still played regularly for decades, but they also constantly disagreed about recipes, and we grandchildren were the benefactors of this tremendously satisfying culinary duel.

One of them would argue that sauce has to be sweet while the other said it had to have at least three kinds of meat and then there was this whole disagreement about how to properly cook onions, and so on and so on.

They were from different parts of Italy so they were always trying to sell their particular culinary point of view. But they both loved to cook for their families and they became better at it because of their loving rivalry; both would look to the other when planning a large holiday meal.

In the end, they were a team and their family ate very well because of it.

During this recent visit, my great-aunt said "You know, when your grandmother died, I felt like I lost my right arm. We did so many things together." She paused, reflected and said "I never had to worry where I stood when she was around because she kept me in line. She wasn't ever mean or judgmental; she had this way, she just knew me."

These words struck me. Their 77 years of friendship began when she married my grandmother's brother in 1934 but grew into an unforeseen gift of companionship for both of them as they went through life together.

God blessed them with a depth of friendship that only He can provide, the type of relationship that allows us to see Christ in and be Christ for the other.

They both became better people because of this grace. It became evident to

me when I saw the tear in her eye as she spoke of my grandmother that a relationship that reveals Christ is one of the few things in life that truly matters.

It is one of those lessons in life that only time can teach to an open heart. And

now when Aunt Lena speaks of wanting to be in heaven, I have a better idea of what she really means, of who she longs to be with.

I just hope God is prepared for how loud it is going to be in his kitchen when she finally arrives.

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In the Words of the Roman Missal, the Easter Vigil is described as...

The 'mother of all vigils'

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church pulls out all the stops for the Easter Vigil, the Mass celebrated on Holy Saturday.

The Roman Missal, which spells out specifics of how the vigil is to be celebrated, describes it as the "mother of all vigils" and says it is the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities and it is to be unique in every single church."

That quote, "mother of all vigils" comes from St. Augustine's Sermon 209, which is pretty old, since the saint died in the year 430.

In other words, the tradition of the Easter Vigil and support for it, goes way back in the church. But there was a falling out over this tradition for a long time and only in the 20th century did the church recover what "got lost in the Middle Ages," said Jesuit Father Bruce Morrill, the Edward A. Malloy professor of Catholic studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee.

The priest said the vigil's origins were in the early fourth century, but by the late Middle Ages, the celebration moved from a nighttime vigil to a Saturday morning Mass. Also around this time, the church also placed more emphasis on infant baptism than adult baptism. It became the norm until the liturgical and sacramental renewal of the Second Vatican Council led to a revival of the ancient catechumenate with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

But even before Vatican II, the move to revive the Easter Vigil began with Pope Pius XII in the 1950s restoring the celebration to the Saturday night before Easter and making additional changes.

Father Morrill said documentation of the ancient

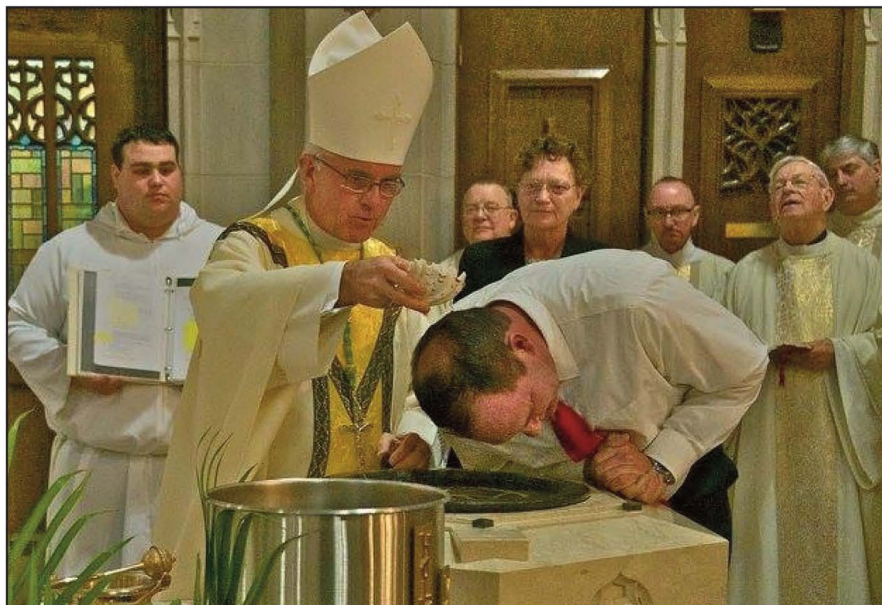


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley baptizes Michael Caughey at the 2016 Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. The Roman Missal, which spells out specifics of how the vigil is to be celebrated, describes it as the "mother of all vigils."

church celebrating the Easter Vigil in Syria and North Africa notes that the sacraments of initiation -- baptism, confirmation and first Communion -- took place in a separate area while the congregation listened to words from Scripture and then the newly baptized were brought out to the congregation.

"It was very elaborate," Father Morrill said. "If you wanted to see the risen Christ, you saw him in the newly baptized." And that symbolism continued after Easter. For the next eight days, the newly baptized were required to wear their white baptismal gowns to daily Mass where the bishop would give instructions about the meaning of baptism.

And even though the newly initiated no longer wear their baptismal gowns for a week, baptisms remain a very key part of the Easter Vigil.

"In fact, a vigil where no

one is going to be initiated kind of falls flat," the priest told Catholic News Service April 5, noting that all the readings lead up to it.

The Easter Vigil is loaded with symbolism. It must take place after dark and begins with the lighting of the fire outside and the inside lighting of the Paschal candle, whose light is passed on to individual candles. There are eight Old Testament readings telling the salvation history, sung responses between readings and a sung proclamation called an Exsultet.

The Mass also includes the baptism, confirmation and first Communion of catechumens who are joining the church, having prepared for this moment through the RCIA. Candidates, who are already baptized, receive confirmation and first Communion at the vigil to enter full communion with the church.

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University

Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, said the idea of the Easter Vigil, by its nature, means "staying up through the night waiting and watching for the Lord's resurrection."

He said the first part of the vigil, gathering around the outdoor fire, is reminiscent of being around a campfire, telling stories, which in this case are the stories of salvation history. The congregation is "not waiting, shivering cold in dark" but is reminded by the fire that "God has always come to our aid." And then during the Mass, the readings continue this story, from creation to the Israelites' flight from Egypt and the message of a messiah from the Old Testament prophets.

When Father Rice hears people say the Easter Vigil is just too long, he says it doesn't matter if it's two or three hours because it is so rich.

Part of the reason so many people love the vigil, he told

CNS April 6, is that it "hits us on a primal level." Today, people rarely keep watch through the night, nor do they tell stories. He also said the vigil is a sensory experience with the smell and the crackling of the fire, the music between readings and the stark images of darkness and light.

Father Morrill said the congregation at the Easter Vigil tends not to be "dressed in Easter finery" and is not the same as the packed church on Easter Sunday. Father Rice had a similar view, noting the Mass "doesn't draw an enormous crowd," but he said once people have experienced it, they usually want to come back because Easter Mass in comparison can "feel like the after party, not the actual party."

Father Morrill's most profound Easter Vigil experience came from a student.

When he was teaching at Boston College, the priest assigned his students to attend and write about two Sunday Masses or one Easter Vigil. One student wrote a 10-page paper about his experience at the vigil where he felt his broken life was renewed and he was given new hope.

The student was moved right from the start with the symbolism of the fire lighting the darkness. Then he felt the readings were not just about what God had done but was still doing today.

Father Morrill saved the paper and has kept in touch with the student. He said if no one else got anything from the experience, he would still "thank God for the privilege" of leading one person there that night.

Catholics who attend the Easter Vigil "with an open mind and with a basic understanding" of what's going on, will get it, he said, because the "deep symbolic meaning and the ritual come together."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope horrified by 'unacceptable massacre' in Syria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis strongly condemned a shocking chemical attack in Syria that left some 70 people, including at least 10 children, dead. "We are horrified by the latest events in Syria. I strongly deplore the unacceptable massacre that took place yesterday in the Idlib province, where dozens of civilians, including many children, were killed," the pope said April 5 before concluding his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square. Images of dead men, women and children lying on the streets provoked international outrage following the attack April 4 in a rebel-held area. Western leaders have accused Syrian President Bashar Assad and the country's military of perpetrating the attack, based on reports that warplanes dropped chemical bombs in the early morning. According to The New York Times, the Syrian military denied attacking the town and said the attack was caused by insurgents who blame the Syrian government for similar attacks "every time they fail to achieve the goals of their sponsors."

Cupich: Church will do everything it can 'to end scourge of violence'

CHICAGO (CNS) -- Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich April 4 announced a new initiative to increase the work of current anti-violence programs in parishes and schools and those run by Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Catholic Charities and Kolbe House, the archdiocese's jail ministry. The Chicago Archdiocese also will seek out partnerships to increase programs that will help break the cycle of violence. The cardinal announced the initiatives on the 49th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With a \$250,000 personal donation, Cardinal Cupich said the archdiocese will create the Instruments of Peace Venture Philanthropy Fund that will provide funds for both new and existing neighborhood-based anti-violence programs. The money comes from donations he's received to aid his personal charitable efforts. In 2018, the archdiocese also will hold the first U.S. meeting of Scholas Occurrentes, a program active in 100 countries that brings young people together to meet and problem-solve. The gathering will involve young people from Cook and Lake counties.

Senate confirms court nominee Gorsuch in 54-45 vote

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. Senate April 7 confirmed Judge Neil Gorsuch for the seat on the Supreme Court left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last year. The vote was 54-45 and came after lawmakers in a 52-48 party line vote a day earlier approved a rules change introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, to cut off debate and allow confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee by a simple majority, rather than the 60 votes needed. Gorsuch will be sworn in as the nation's 113th justice April 10. The Associated Press reported that there will be two ceremonies -- one at the court and one at the White House. Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the constitutional oath to Gorsuch in a private morning ceremony at the court. Later in the day, he will take the second oath in a public ceremony at the White House. The three Democratic senators who joined the Senate's 51 GOP members to vote for confirmation were Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

Bishops say Syria peace can only come through 'dialogue, reconciliation'

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops April 7 urged renewed peace efforts for Syria, echoing Pope Francis' call for "dialogue and reconciliation" as the only way to attain peace in a country rocked by an ongoing civil war.

"The long-standing position of our conference of bishops is that the Syrian people urgently need a political solution," said a joint statement from Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, and Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico, chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace.

"We ask the United States to work tirelessly with other governments to obtain a cease-fire, initiate serious negotiations, provide impartial humanitarian assistance, and encourage efforts to build an inclusive society in Syria that protects the rights of all its citizens, including Christians and other minorities," they said.

The U.S. launched 59 missiles from the USS Ross and USS Porter in the Mediterranean early April 7 local time. U.S. officials said they targeted Shayrat Air Base's airstrips, hangars, control tower and ammunition areas.

The United States was criticized for carrying out the missile strikes against Syria before investigations into the origins of chemical attacks reported April 4.

But U.S. President Donald Trump said Syrian President Bashar Assad "launched a horrible chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians" and "choked out the lives of helpless men, women and children."

"No child of God should ever suffer such horror," he said April 6, announcing that he had ordered the strike

against the air base from which he said the chemical weapons attack was launched.

"The use of internationally banned indiscriminate weapons is morally reprehensible," said Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Cantu, reiterating an April 5 statement that like Pope Francis, the U.S. bishops condemned the use of such weapons. "At the same time, our confer-

ence affirmed the call of Pope Francis to attain peace in Syria 'through dialogue and reconciliation.'"

They said that again they make the pope's call their own, that the international community "make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace in that country without further delay, a peace based on dialogue and negotiation, for the good of the entire Syrian people."



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus gives us cause to sing Alleluia!

The Resurrection of Jesus from a tomb of solid rock is a pivotal event in world history.

It took many days and multiple appearances for Jesus to convince his skeptical apostles that He was not a ghost, but a real flesh and blood person with all the wounds of his brutal death quite visible.

Even though he had warned them of how it would all end, they had only half-listened.

On Saturday night, as they had huddled in fear in that same place where Jesus had celebrated with them on

Thursday, all they could think of was the soldiers coming to the garden and hustling him away. They had run in the other direction, all except John who had stood firmly to the end at the foot of the cross.

And now, in the early hours before dawn, Mary Magdalene comes to the locked door with the wild story of an empty tomb.

When Peter and John went to the tomb with her, only John really believed.

Peter must have gone back to bed, until again some women reported see-

ing a "young man" at the tomb with news that He was risen and had gone to Galilee.

Today's first Easter reading is from the preaching of Peter now filled with the Holy Spirit who tells a crowd that he has seen the risen Christ with his own eyes and eaten with him.

He gives firm and unquestionable testimony to the central belief of Christian faith.

The second Easter reading is from St. Paul who, after being knocked from his horse and instructed by the risen Christ Himself, tells the Colossians what it's all about.

And that we must think of what's above, live as though

APRIL 16

Easter Sunday

READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

Mark 16:1-7

disciples was to go out and tell the whole world the good news that Jesus had won for them forgiveness of sin and freedom from eternal death.

What does the Resurrection mean for us?

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, urges us to break open our own tombs in which we have buried ourselves through sin and fear, so that Jesus can come in to clear away all that prevents us from Easter joy.

Despite the confusion and moral breakdown of our times, He comes to give us hope and courage. It can truly change our lives. In that conviction, let Jesus transform us, and give us cause to sing ALLELUIA!



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

PURSUING JUSTICE

Showing support for... fair wages

This is the third in a series of articles on issues of Catholic social teaching as explained by the New York State Catholic Conference.

The conference was founded to translate Catholic teachings into action in the public policy arena.

These teachings, which

are centered on the innate dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God, form the basis of the Conference's legislative agenda.

This week's issue is support for fair wages

The Gospel and our social teaching require special

concern and attention toward people who are struggling to lift themselves out of poverty. Every day, our neighbors show courage, resourcefulness and determination to fulfill the potential of their lives, often against great odds.

While some are economically able to thrive in our state's economy, many others remain challenged. Many individuals and families are being left behind because they lack education and job skills. Despite their hard work in agriculture, restaurants, healthcare and

other sectors, the working poor and middle class are often unable to support their families and obtain adequate housing.

We must ensure that those trying to lift themselves out of poverty are not forgotten. It is the obligation of New York State to ensure appropriate supports, and the strains upon the safety net and its community providers require renewed commitment in the budgeting process.

One area to assist the low-wage worker is to offer a better hourly wage. This can be attained through a higher minimum wage and an across-the-board COLA.

Conference position

The Council of Catholic Charities Directors supports an increase in the minimum wage, if additional resources are added to our state contracts/state-authorized payments/state payment rates to pay our

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lowest paid employees a more livable wage and to provide increases to the remaining more experienced member of our workforce who haven't seen adequate increases in their pay in the past several years.

Rationale

Using nonprofit organizations to provide services results in a cost-effective delivery system that helps meet the needs of New Yorkers, including many of the state's most vulnerable populations. Many of the services that nonprofits provide on behalf of the state result in long-term cost avoidance and savings by intervening to help avoid crisis situations.

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CHEVROLET

AT THE MOVIES

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

If you've always wondered, "Just what is a Smurfette?" then "Smurfs: The Lost Village" (Columbia) may be the film for you.

Moviegoers not consumed by curiosity about that question, on the other hand, are likely to find this children's cartoon colorful but less than engaging.

Those familiar with the lore surrounding the blue-skinned, white-capped elves of the title will know that luxuriantly coiffed but vaguely enigmatic Smurfette (voiced by Demi Lovato) is the sole female in their community. They will also remember that she was originally created by the evil human wizard Gargamel (voice of Rainn Wilson).

He planned to use Smurfette as an infiltrator to entrap the male Smurfs -- whose youth-restoring, power-bestowing "essence" he has long sought to extract and make his own. But, as flashbacks show, the

kindness of Papa Smurf (Mandy Patinkin) converted the newcomer into a cheerful and dedicated ally.

Now, however, Smurfette is suffering an identity crisis. Neither she nor anyone around her seems able to answer the query cited above.

Smurfette's restlessness turns out to have positive consequences, though, since it leads -- indirectly, at least -- to a journey of discovery. She's joined on this quest by a trio of her male counterparts: vain body-builder Hefty (voice of Joe Manganiello), good-hearted but uncoordinated Clumsy (voiced by Jack McBrayer) and book-smart nerd Brainy (voice of Danny Pudi).

Feminists put off by Smurfette's origin story and the gender imbalance in Smurf world will be pleased with what this quartet of travelers uncovers when they venture beyond their usual confines.

In helming the third in a series of feature-length outings for the creatures first dreamed up by Belgian car-

toonist Peyo (Pierre Culliford, 1928-1992) in the 1950s, director Kelly Asbury eschews the mix of animation and live action used in the two previous films. The result is visually pleasing but lacking in substance.

Screenwriters Stacey Harman and Pamela Ribon's script does promote teamwork and good moral choices while avoiding the use of the word Smurf to mask adult terms and down-playing potty gags. But the story they tell will likely satisfy only the least demanding youngsters.

Adults nostalgic for the Hanna-Barbera produced TV series that aired on NBC in the 1980s -- and first made the Smurfs a hit in this country -- may also be willing to settle for what's on offer in a movie that hovers at the level of a Saturday morning kids' show.

The film contains occasional peril and some mild scatological humor. The

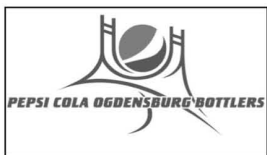


CNS PHOTO/SONY

Papa Smurf, voiced by Mandy Patinkin, and Smurfwillow, voiced by Julia Roberts, appear in the animated movie "Smurfs: The Lost Village."

Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of Amer-

ica rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children. - -



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ADIRONDACK

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Lake Placid—Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Dates: May 2 and May 9

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30

Features: Both mornings are required. Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake help their elder neighbors stay connected to communities and make their lives a little easier.

Contact: Training Program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. Contact Jenn Grisi at Mercy Care by calling 523-5583 or by e-mail at jgrisi@adkmercy.org.

CLINTON

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh—Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 23

Place: St. Peter's Church

Schedule: Exposition begins at 12:15 p.m. in the Church; Sacrament of Reconciliation Chapel from: 1:15 p.m. to 2:15; Lecture Series: 12:45 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. in the Emmaus Room; Divine Mercy Chaplet and Prayer Service begins at 2:30 p.m. and concludes with Procession to St. John's Church; Closing Benediction

Features: Sponsored by St. Peter's, St. John's and OLV Churches

HEALING MASS

Redford—A Healing Mass will be held.

Date: April 25

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Assumption of Mary Church

Features: Celebrate the Healing Presence of God In the Holy Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick. Prayer teams will be available after Mass for those who would like additional private prayer. All are welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY PRO-LIFE PRAYER

Plattsburgh—Good Friday Prayer service to be held.

Date: April 14

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: In front of Planned Parenthood

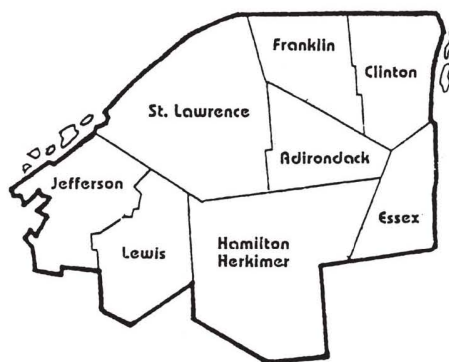
Features: All are welcome to join in peaceful prayer for the sanctity of life.

ERCLMA RETREAT AND WORKSHOP

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

Date: April 29

Schedule: begins 9:30 a.m. Keynote



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.

FRANKLIN

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone—St. Andre Bessette Parish will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Date: April 23

Schedule: Opens with 11 a.m. Mass at Notre Dame Church; From noon to 3 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1 p.m. and continue up until 2:50 p.m. At 3 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung and there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Background: On April 30, 2000 Pope John Paul II stated that henceforth in the Universal Church the 2nd Sunday of Easter will be called Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast is intended to celebrate and proclaim God's tender mercy, which is available to all who turn to Him with trust. The floodgates of God's mercy are open. God in His great mercy is giving us all the chance to start again.

Contact: Father Joseph Giroux, at the St. André's Parish Office, (518) 483-1300.

FAMILY IMPROV COMEDY SHOW

Chateaugay—Live Family Improv Comedy show to be held to benefit the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay.

Date: April 29

Time: Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show starts at 6:30

Place: Chateaugay Town Hall

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

Features: Starring Completely Stranded, the North Country's premiere improv comedy troupe. Tickets on sale at Alix's Chateaugay, Wendy's Quickstop, St. Patrick's Church or call 518-353-2370

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: April 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;

HOLY WEEK, EASTER

Wells—Church services for Holy Week and Easter have been announced

Holy Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m., St.

James Major Church, Lake Pleasant; Mass of the Lord's Supper with feet washing and ½ hour Adoration

Good Friday, April 14, 3 p.m., St. Ann's, Wells; The Passion Narration, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.

Easter Vigil, April 15, 8 p.m., St. Ann's Church, Wells. Vigil Mass with Blessing of New Fire, Easter Candle, Holy Water and Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 8 a.m., St. James' Major Church, Lake Pleasant.

VIRTUS TRAINING

Inlet—The Diocese of Ogdensburg requires and offers safe-environment training for all employees and volunteers in our parishes and institutions. A session has been scheduled

Date: April 23

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's

Contact: Those planning to attend should contact Fr. Venette at 315 369 3554 or stbarts@roadrunner.com.

JEFFERSON

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

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, 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

ADORATION IS SET

Sackets Harbor—St. Joseph Cupertino fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will hold adoration.

Date: April 22

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Parish

Features: Pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: April 27

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

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

LEWIS

LEGACY GALA

Watertown—A celebration of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Immaculate Heart Academy and Immaculate Heart Central school will take place at IHC's annual Legacy Gala.

Date: April 29

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

Place: Savory downtown

Cost: \$75 per person, includes One Treasure Chest Key

Features: Tuition Angel sponsorship opportunities, treasure chest key raffles, cocktails, dinner and awards, live music and dancing, semiformal attire. Special room rates offered by Best Western Hotel

Contact: For more information and to purchase tickets please call 315-221-3785 or e-mail madeleine.keller@ihc-school.org Please rsvp by April 19

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Holy Week reflection

A Holy Week Reflection for the Missions

Dear Lord,
You know what it is to be alone.
Alone in the midst of a jeering crowd,
You carried Your Cross to Calvary.
Alone, You hung on the Cross,
hot hour after hour,
thirsty, growing weaker.
But there at the Cross was Mary;
There were the holy women and John.
And You were not – not quite – alone.
Help me to stand by the Cross
of Your suffering poor in the Missions.
With my prayers, with my sacrifices,
let me reach to them and tell them:
“You are not alone.
You are my sister, my brother.

And I am with you.”
Help me, Lord, to be Your missionary,
here, today, right where I am.

The road which Jesus walked from Jerusalem to Calvary is called “The Way of the Cross,” or Via Crucis. It is a privilege to follow the steps of Jesus who gave His life for the world.

In praying the Way of the Cross, we see and experience the suffering of Christ and reflect upon the suffering in our own world, especially among the most vulnerable – our brothers and sisters in the Missions. His Holy Week, as we take time to reflect, pray and sacrifice, remember the Missions in your words, deed and possibly even with a gift to the Mission.

Through your sacrifice, you are sharing your love with the poor, reminding them of Jesus’ great sacrifice for us and giving them a glimpse of the hope of His Resurrection!



CNS/BRIDGEMAN IMAGES

Jesus is depicted during his crucifixion in this 19th-century painting by an unknown artist. Good Friday, April 14, in the Latin Catholic Church this year, commemorates the passion and death of Christ.

OBITUARIES

Rachel R. Moureau, 88

SOMERSWORTH, N.H. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Rachel R. (Fournier) Moreau, 88, mother of Father Raymond Moreau, pastor in Brushton and North Bangor, was held April 6 at St. Martin Church. She died March 31 at the Gafney Home in Rochester, N.H., where she had been a resident since 2015.

Mrs. Moreau was born on April 29, 1928, in Somersworth, the daughter of Alexandre Fournier and Eva (Vanasse) Fournier. She married Raymond J. Moreau, Sr. of Dover in 1947 and they lived in Dover, N.H. and Lacomia, N.H. most of their life together. Mr. and Mrs. Moreau were former owners of Busy Hill Market in Dover before retiring and moving to Rochester.

During her retirement, she enjoyed working as a volunteer making quilts for The Missionary Servants of Pope John Paul I out of Gilford, N.H. She was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling.

In addition to Father Moreau, she is survived by three other sons and four daughters, Robert Moreau of Rochester, N.H., Ronald Moreau of Wakefield, N.H., and Roland Moreau and his wife Diana of Middleton, N.H., JoAnn Rohde of Dover, N.H., Veronica Rudzinski of Weirs Beach, N.H., Marguerite Doucette and her husband Lester of Northfield, N.H., Mary Henry and her husband Matt of Rochester, N.H. She is survived by many grandchildren and great grandchildren and her sister Lorraine Giguere of Rochester and sister-in-law Rollande Fortin of Dover.

She was predeceased by her husband who died Oct. 27, 1994 and siblings, Robert

Fournier, Louis Fournier, Norman Fournier, Donald Fournier, Madeline Gagne and Pauline Bisson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gafney Home, 90 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH 03867.

Cadyville – Jean E. (Darrah) Tamer, 84; Funeral Services April 5, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Canon – Pauline Marie (Seymour) Proulx, 88; Funeral Services April 4, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Carthage – Kathryn A. (Kempney) Cassoni, 75; Funeral Services April 7, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Clayton – Nicole S. (Berry) Garnsey, 40; Funeral Services April 7, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church.

Clayton – Ina E. (Countryman) Maloney, 91; Funeral Services April 8, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Rosiere.

Colton – Joan Kilroy, 72; Memorial Services in the spring at St. Patrick’s Church.

Dannemora – Zoey L. Light, 9 months; Funeral Services April 10, 2017 at St. Joseph’s Church.

Keeseville – Wanda J. (Bartlett) Baraby, 78; Funeral April 5, 2017 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. John’s Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Donald Lockhart, 88; Funeral Services April 6, 2017 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Margaret Ann Sears, 78; Funeral Services April 21, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame

Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Eleni (Guelli) Mistic, 95; Funeral Services April 5, 2017 at St. John’s Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Doris Anita (Bertell) Walsh, 93; Funeral Services April 7, 2017 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Dannemora.

Potsdam – Barbara Dodds, 82; Funeral Services April 5, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Potsdam – Raymond J. “RJ” Hassett, 17; Funeral Services April 1, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church.

Raymondville – Ann T. McGee; Funeral Services April 8, 2017 at St. Raymond’s Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Saranak Lake – Ginger Lee (Gowan) Hughes, 79; Funeral Services April 3, 2017 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery, Lake Placid.

Topper Lake – Carol A. (Ryan) Becker, 81; Funeral Services April 5, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in spring.

Watertown – Diana M. (Preston) Sacco, 76; Funeral Services April 10, 2017 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Virginia J. (Geglia) Schofield, 90; Funeral Services April 1, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Ruth M. Shaw, 66; Memorial Services April 7, 2017 at the Hart & Bruce Funeral Home.

Watertown – Jeanette K. (Sexsmith) Stumpf, 89; Funeral Services April 7, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



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Around

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LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated.

Date: April 23

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: Reconciliation between 2 p.m. to 3 upstairs. Downstairs, the DVD, "The Face of Mercy" will also be shown between 2 p.m. and 3, followed by Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration Program

Features: The Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image and Holy Cards and Pictures, the Presentation of Petitions, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Homily and Benediction. Father Thomas J. Ward of Christ Our Hope Parishes– St. Joseph's in Boonville; St. Patrick's in Forestport, and Our Lady of the Snows in Otter Lake will be the Guest Celebrant. A cover dish reception will follow in the church hall.

Contact: 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: April 20

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to an holy hour of exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction.

RUMMAGE SALE

Lowville – St. Peter's Rosary and Altar Society is holding its annual spring rummage sale with bag sale and luncheon.

Date: April 20, 12 p.m. to 5 and April 21 (Bag sale), 12 p.m. to 2, Luncheon buffet, 11:30 a.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

DOVS PRESENTATION

Norfolk – The D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is sponsoring a special vocation presentation.

Date: April 19

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Speaker: Sr. Patty Urbinelli, SSJ, will present "My Journey Toward Final Vows – On Becoming a Sister of St. Joseph"

Features: The program is free and open to anyone interested. Lunch provided.

Contact: RSVP by April 17 to Connie at 315-265-2762 or the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920

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

Date	Place	Time
April 14	St. Patrick's	7:30 p.m.
	Watertown	

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

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ST JOSEPH'S TABLE



St. Joseph's Parish in West Chazy celebrated St. Joseph's Day with a Mass followed by a covered dish supper featuring a traditional St. Joseph's Table.

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish and shrimp Fry set

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

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: April 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, pastorsmsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MASS OF HEALING

Ogdensburg – Bishop LaValley will preside at a Mass of Healing for all those hurt by the church.

Date: April 23

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This celebration on Divine Mercy Sunday has been planned to acknowledge the pain caused by some pastoral leaders or workers in the Church and to apologize for the conduct that caused such grief

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 on the theme "You Were Meant to Live for More, 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

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Registration for 2017 season for Camp Guggenheim is now open **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.

Contact: Call Connie at 315-265-2762

or Cathy at the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920

RACHEL VINEYARD RETREATS

Saranac Lake – Two Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreats will be offered in the diocese in 2017.

Dates: The spring retreat will be June 16-18. The fall retreat will be Sept. 1-3.

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Fr. Thomas Higman will serve as the chaplain for the spring retreat and Father Mark Riley in the fall.

Contact: For more information and a confidential registration form visit www.rcdony.org/prolife. Dates and locations of retreats outside the diocese are available at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

Potsdam – The Offices of New Evangelization and Formation for Ministry are sponsoring a practical one day workshop on creating hospitable parishes.

Date: June 3

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: SUNY Potsdam

Cost: \$35, includes materials and lunch

Features: A hospitable community doesn't "just happen." Hospitality takes effort and intentionality and work. It isn't just the responsibility of a select few on a hospitality committee. It requires each and every parishioner.

Contact: For details, information and to register, see <http://rcdony.org/hospitality> or contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org