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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 19, 2017

CHRIST HAS RISEN



Love: the engine driving hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The cross, loving service and humble sacrifice are the only way to overcome evil and give hope to the world, Pope Francis said.

Those who love their own lives and always hunger for more are the losers, the pope said at his weekly general audience April 12.

Rather, those who readily serve others and "live God's way" are the winners, who "save themselves and others, becoming seeds of hope for the world," he said. This seemingly illogical process is

the source and strength of Christian hope, Pope Francis said, continuing his series of talks on the unique nature of this hope.

Jesus explains the new kind of hope he offers in a verse from the Gospel according to St. John when he says, "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. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Bishop: Diocese is continuing its strong efforts to create and maintain a climate of safety and joy for all the youth entrusted to our pastoral care

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-8

Ogdensburg connecting with Lattakia

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is taking the first steps in the the twinning initiative with the Diocese of Lattakia in Syria.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced the plan called "Solidarity in Faith" at the 2017 Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral April 6.

He appointed Father Steven Murray, pastor of Holy Family Church, to chair an advisory committee. Current members of the committee all have ties to Syria or Lebanon.

In addition to offering financial support, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will work to build a relationship marked by "mutuality and equality, seeking to give and receive, learn and teach."

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

ABOUT THE PHOTO

CNS/BRIDGEMAN IMAGES

The "Risen Christ" is depicted in a 15th-century painting by Sandro Botticelli. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead. Bishop LaValley's homily for Easter Sunday appears on page 3.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Protecting the children of God

As we prayerfully and joyfully move through Easter Week, with our focus on new life, it's appropriate that we pay attention to some of the most vulnerable lives in our midst.

In the centerfold of this week's *NCC*, we present the annual report from the Office of Safe Environment. "Promise to Protect... Pledge to Heal" is always published in April, designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

This year, the report is espe-

cially timely since the diocese has planned a special Mass of Healing this coming Sunday.



Mary Lou
Kilian

As Bishop LaValley said, "This Eucharist, held on Divine Mercy Sunday, is a fitting means of acknowledging the pain caused by some pastoral leaders or workers in the Church, seeking forgiveness for the wounds inflicted and praying for the grace to be instruments of healing and reconciliation for those who suffer so deeply."

FATHER MUENCH SAYS...

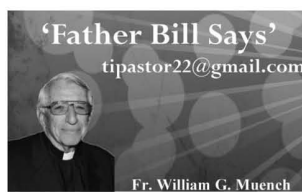
A celebration of confidence in the future

Easter – a celebration of new life, a celebration of hope and confidence in the future, a time to celebrate our salvation, our time to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

During Holy Week, we spend time in prayer and mortification as we remember and celebrate the sufferings of Jesus, his death that led to his Resurrection. It's a week of special ceremonies that reminds us of our own share in the Resurrection of the Lord.

This Resurrection of Jesus transforms us. Our celebration of Easter each year is another time to allow Jesus to bring new life to us through his Church. This celebration of Easter is best prepared for by our celebration of the feast days of Holy Week.

On Holy Thursday, as we celebrate the Lord's Last Supper, we again experience the institution of one of Jesus' greatest gifts, the magnificent gift of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of new life. At each celebration of the Holy Eucharist, each Holy Mass, we are beginning our celebration of Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus entered into new life in his resurrection so that each one of us will find



Fr. William G. Muench

new life each time, we celebrate Mass and receive Holy Communion.

In addition, on Holy Thursday, we commemorate Jesus' ordination of his first priests, the apostles. "Do this in memory of me."

For all time, Jesus, through his Bishops ordains priests to bring new life to all people through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Each time a priest celebrates Mass people are lead to new life, a share in the Resurrection of Jesus.

The events that we remember on Good Friday each year continue to lead us all to our celebration of Easter. Easter Masses will continue to remind us that Jesus suffered and died for us leading to the Lord's Resurrection.

Good Friday gives us a more intense understanding of how horrific were his sufferings; this helps us to realize the

Of course, the prayer is joined by ongoing efforts to maintain a "a climate of safety and joy for all the youth entrusted to our pastoral care," the bishop said.

With the diligent work of Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue and Elaine Seymour, the Diocese of Ogdensburg complies with national and diocesan policies established to ensure such safety. With continued vigilance we can have hope that the heartbreaking stories from our church's past will not be part of our future.

The diocese is also reaching out to protect God's beloved children in our new Solidarity

in Faith initiative. As we take the initial steps in twinning with the Syrian diocese of Latakia we are starting to learn about people on the other side of the world who face each day with unimaginable distress and with incredible courage.

It won't be easy to see the pictures and hear the stories that will be shared with us as we move forward with this process. For me, every four-year-old will be my Patrick or Anna, every one-year-old will be Caroline or Tommy. But God knows that every Amira and Adnan, Liliane and Elyas are just as loved. They deserve just as much protection.

magnificence of the Resurrection, even now, each time Mass is offered.

The liturgy brings us from Good Friday to Easter.

The Resurrection of Jesus brings us all new hope and confidence. This hope is empowered by all that we celebrate during these days of Holy Week. We find new strength of faith through all that Jesus did for us – his sufferings, his death – all that leads us to hope and confidence through his Resurrection. We are ready for whatever will come. We have hope and faith in our future through the Resurrection of Jesus. We are ready for whatever will come.

On Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil, as we solemnly celebrate Christ's Resurrection with such powerful ceremonies, we build important and unforgettable memories. For this reason, the Easter Vigil is the perfect time for the Baptism of the Catechumens and the reception of new Catholics into full communion with the Catholic Church. It is a ceremony to remember.

As a priest, I have so many memories of Easter Vigils at which I was celebrant. So it

truly has become the perfect way to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Easter is about Baptism. At the Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday, all present are asked to renew their Baptismal promises. We are asked to acknowledge our faith in God and our readiness to follow Jesus, to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In Baptism, we were born again to a new life with the Lord. We are members of the Body of Christ – sons and daughters of our God – friends of Jesus. We are more completely united to the Lord through the new life through his Resurrection.

God's love is stronger than death. The Resurrection of Jesus must never be separated from our own Resurrection, our destiny of new life with the Lord as saved by him. Jesus has become a brother and Savior of us all.

This morning I was at the pharmacy picking up a prescription. As I was checking out – Bob said to me, "I love Easter. There is something special about this celebration of Jesus' Resurrection."

I agreed. Happy Easter, Bob.

FOLLOW ME

Let us joyfully celebrate Christ's victory

Bishop LaValley's homily for Easter Sunday

An editor of a Catholic newspaper (not ours!) recently wrote that there is a kind of masochistic delight that more than a few Christians seem to take in retelling the failings of the Church and the triumphs of the world.

It is a kind of vanity, this belief that we must live in the worst of times, when the Church's witness has never seemed so weak and uncertain.

The odds are pretty good that wherever two or more are gathered in His Name, it is likely that someone is complaining about our vocations shortage, low Mass attendance, the religious indifference of many, the scandals, the folly of our Church leaders, or some other symptom of our secu-



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

lar age.

This kind of glass-half-empty approach to our Catholic lives seems oddly consoling to those who choose to linger on such symptoms, the implication being that they are above all that. They are the worthy remnant.

The irony is that when Catholics, myself included, bemoan the horrors of this age, we, too often, provide a singularly unappealing face of Catholicism: pinched and worried, more eager to talk about the sins of others than the salvation won for them. Such a sentiment is the Church without Easter.

This mentality betrays a heart unchanged by the great sacrifice of Good Friday and the redemption confirmed for us today, Easter Sunday.

This is a heart untouched by the joy of salvation, untransformed by the sacrifici-

cial love of the sinless Lamb who died for our sins.

What is lacking in so much of our Christian witness today is hope and joy. And we lack this joy if we have not allowed ourselves to be truly transformed by our Redeemer God.

This doesn't minimize the terrible evil, injustice and suffering that remain in our world and all the real issues that we need to be serious about addressing. But it does place them in the proper context.

Think of one of the most powerful witnesses of the faith in our era. Think of Saint Mother Teresa. What characterized her was not a message of condemnation. She did not waste time recounting all the ways that people were failing. Instead, she who was personally transformed by an intimate encounter with Christ, ministered to the most hurting and despised of humanity with joy.

She attracted people of every faith, or no faith at all,

because she radiated God's love for them. One doesn't hear of any vocations shortage in her religious order.

Easter 2017, let us kneel before our Risen Lord and ask Him to transform our hearts, so that all who see us, see Him in us

People saw the Easter promise in her. Other saints were similarly transformed. They accepted hardship, they accepted even martyrdom with this same sense of joy.

Do we radiate a trust in God that others can see? In our most difficult moments, are we an Easter people?

After the Risen Lord encountered the Apostles in Jerusalem and asked them why they were troubled, He showed them His hands and feet.

He affirmed the reality of His resurrection, and they became "incredulous for joy

and were amazed."

Joy is a hallmark of our encounter with the Risen Christ, for we who were lost have been found. Our age is not so different from every other age. The sins are not new. The shortcomings are not original. The suffering is no more painful than in times gone by.

And our responsibility as Catholics is no different either. We are to live in the Truth, to care for the weak, bring aid to the sick, visit the prisoners, comfort the dying.

We are to bring solace to the despairing, friendship to the lonely. And we are to do all of this with joy because we are Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled.

Easter 2017, let us kneel before our Risen Lord and ask Him to transform our hearts, so that all who see us, see Him in us.

Let us joyfully celebrate Christ's final victory over death, and let us share this joy with our troubled world.

Blessed Easter everybody!

Mass of Healing set for Sunday

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at a special Mass of Healing for those hurt by the Catholic Church in any way April 23 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.

"This celebration on Divine Mercy Sunday is a fitting means of acknowledging the pain caused by some pastoral leaders or workers in the Church and to apologize for the conduct that caused such grief," Bishop LaValley said. "This crisis has impacted all of us in the church, and we need to ask God's help for continued healing."

"The entire diocesan fam-

ily, clergy, religious, and laity, is invited to participate in this Eucharistic celebration to continue to ask God's help for healing and reconciliation," he said.

"The sex abuse scandal leaves many still suffering and looking for closure," the bishop said. "Many victims are in pain and looking for more compassion from the church."

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Special Mass of Healing

for those hurt by the Church

April 23, 2017 at 3:00 pm

St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg



Diocese begins twinning initiative with Diocese of Lattakia in Syria

Solidarity in Faith: the first steps

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

As Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that the Diocese of Ogdensburg would undertake a twinning initiative with the Diocese of Lattakia, Syria, at the April 6 Chrism Mass, early efforts were underway to insure its success.

These are the oldest Christians on earth; their strength of faith and courage in face of persecution ought to inspire all of us

The bishop had appointed Father Steven Murray, pastor of Holy Family Church in Watertown, to chair an advisory committee for Solidarity in Faith “to provide concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about the richness of the culture of Lattakia and the gift of the strong faith of those who suffer so much.”

The first people Father Murray invited to join the committee have roots in Syria and Lebanon.

Dr. Nidal Makhoul of Plattsburgh and four members from the Watertown area: Dr. Marlene and Cyril Mouaikel, Dr. Marylene Duah and Christine Palumbo, will be working to promote the twinning process throughout the diocese.

Father Murray’s initial research took him to a Parish Partnership Manual provided by Catholic Relief Services. “While the information con-



CNS PHOTO/YOUSSEF BADAWI, EPA

Germeyn throw olive branches April 9 during Palm Sunday celebrations outside Our Lady of Fatima Church in Damascus, Syria. Among the goals of the twinning initiative between the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Syrian Diocese of Lattakia is to help make it easier for Syrian Christians to stay in their own country.

cerns ‘parish twinning’ rather than ‘diocesan twinning’ I believe the same principles would apply,” Father Murray said. (See box)

At the Chrism Mass, Bishop LaValley quoted from an email he received from Bishop Antoine Chbeir, his counterpart in Lattakia.

Located on the Mediterranean Sea in the northeastern part of Syria, parts of Lattakia are relatively calm. That means that there has been a large influx of Christians and Muslim refugees from Damascus, Aleppo and all parts of the country.

“This is why so many displaced families have already sought refuge in it, fleeing zones of conflict” Bishop Chbeir wrote, “and for this reason the relief efforts and pastor work doubled, with the same very thin and poor

means and tools.”

Many of the pastoral goals in the diocese of Lattakia match those of Ogdensburg: catechism for children and adults, formation of catechists, biblical formation of families and marriage preparation.

But the Syrian bishop must also provide education for refugees, oversee psychological rehabilitation for people traumatized by war and dia-

logue between different faith groups of Syrian society.

However, Bishop Chbeir, emphasized, “there is a French saying ‘starved stomachs have no ears.’ For this reason my first and foremost preoccupation is displaced people, those who arrive in the diocese out of the blue, especially Christians who refuse to settle in refugee camps.”

As Bishop LaValley said,

“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 LaValley immediately sent a check to Bishop Chbeir and fundraising discussions have begun in the diocese.

But writing a series of checks will not be the only focus of the new relationship with Lattakia. Following the direction of Catholic Relief Services, Father Murray expects that the Diocese of Ogdensburg will emphasize relationships as well as resources and work towards mutuality and equality, “seeking to give and receive, learn and teach.”

Voicing the consensus of his committee, he said, “These are the oldest Christians on earth; their strength of faith and courage in face of persecution ought to inspire all of us.”

Guidelines for ‘twinning’

Catholic Relief Services offers a Parish Partnership Manual with guidelines for twinning relationships.

Father Steven Murray, chair of the Solidarity of Faith advisory committee, has embraced these points as the foundation for the committee’s work.

A summary of the principles follows:

- *Emphasizing relationships over resources.* A true partnership implies the building and nurturing of a relationship over a period of time that transcends sending a series of checks

- *Practicing mutuality and equality.* This allows each partner to function from a place of strength with each acknowledging the valued role of the other

- *Seeking to give and receive, learn and teach.* We all bring something to the table and we all have poverties that need to be addressed.

- *Working to change unjust systems and structures.* Partnerships can enable local partners to participate in their own country’s decision-making, and to enable those in other parts of the world to participate in donor government policy-making in ways that promote the best interests of the people in their partner’s country and meet their needs most effectively

- *Deepening our faith by experiencing the Universal Catholic Church.* Our partnership calls us more fully into St. Paul’s image of the Church as one Body of Christ, with many unique parts offering different gifts, but possessing unity in Christ. We are challenged by our partner’s witness of faith amidst adversity. As we come to know brothers and sisters of faith from a culture other than our own, we learn new ways of understanding the Scriptures and we see new models of parish communities.

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YOUNG FAITH

Teens are 'reawakened' at diocesan Lenten retreats

By Kelly Donnelly
Diocesan director of youth ministry

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." Pope Francis' comment served as the theme for Youth Lenten Retreat, Reawaken.

Thirty-four youth gathered in Malone on March 25 and 60 youth gathered in Canton on March 26 for a day of prayer, reflection, workshops, and fun.

After taking part in an opening prayer reflection, teens took part in several workshops focused on the theme. They took part in a blindfolded taste-test and discussed ways we are blind to God's will and how to reawaken ourselves to the truth of God's love.

Another workshop focused on teens reading, re-enacting, and discussing the Matthew's account of the blind men healed.

The third workshop involved teens playing a version of The Price is Right and discussing how society assigns value, compared with the inherent dignity of each person that we understand from Scripture.

During break times, a variety of games were offered, as well as a table run by Vocations Office Coordinator, Cathy Russell.

Teens enjoyed the chance to spend time with new and old friends alike, playing Frisbee, Jenga, and a basketball headband game, among others.

The teens took part in several prayers throughout the day. One of the prayer experiences youth took part



PHOTO BY KELLY DONNELLY

Diocesan Youth Council member Maureen Pierce of Heuvelton led a workshop during the youth Lenten retreats held May 25 in Malone and March 26 in Canton.

in was the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Youth meditated on Scripture and reflections from Catholic Relief Services while viewing a variety of depictions of the Sorrows. The concluding prayer for the day gave youth a chance to prayerfully consider a quote from Scripture or a saint and offer up prayer intentions. The retreat concluded with Mass with the parish communities.

Not only did Diocesan Youth Council members take part in planning parts of the workshops that were conducted, but they also took part in facilitating various aspects of the retreat. DYC members prepared brief testimonies about their personal lives or a saint that they admire that related to the theme.

Additionally, members helped in leading small group discussions, as well as the set-up and clean-up of materials.

The responses from participants and DYC members was positive.

Olivia Ellis, a sixth-grader in Tupper Lake, was a participant of the Malone retreat. She commented that the retreat was "really fun and interesting" and that the retreat "made Lent understandable." Her favorite parts of the day were "the games and things we did and praying the Seven Sorrows of Mary while we looked at the pictures -- I hadn't ever heard of the Seven Sorrows of Mary before."

Hans Xu, a member of Diocesan Youth Council and a senior at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, commented, "The Lenten retreat went just as planned! It was nice to see so many young Catholics from the diocese take this wonderful opportunity and dedicate their day to God. After all, that's what Lent is!"

For the 100 youth who attended the Lenten youth retreats, they had an opportunity to be reawakened to the reality of God's love for us through this day of reflection.

From Kelly's desk:

By Kelly Donnelly
Diocesan director of youth ministry



This Lent has been an exciting time in the Department of Youth Ministry! The Lenten retreats held in Canton and Malone each had an incredibly positive response.

Personally, I found it inspiring to have over 100 youth and over 20 adult chaperones present for the retreats. They not only came to the retreats, but they entered into the retreats with such a joyful, prayerful attitude, which helped all the attendees get the most out of the day.

We are just about a month away from the youth rally, so as registrations come in and final preparations are made, I am greatly looking forward to the rally. From our keynote speaker, Paul J. Kim, to the many talented workshop presenters, to the exciting games and activities offered at the interactive park, to the closing Mass presided by Bishop LaValley, the day promises to be exciting and transformative.

As more adults attend Youth Minister Certification workshops and parishes continue to grow their youth ministry programming, there is a lot of momentum regarding youth ministry. Feel free to contact the Youth Department with any questions or concerns at any point!

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events

- May 6: Youth Rally. Open to all students in grades 6-12, the youth rally will be held at IHC in Watertown. Featuring renowned speaker Paul J. Kim, a variety of workshops, prayer, an interactive park (including the exciting game 9-Square), and closing Mass with Bishop LaValley. Youth ministers can register chaperones and youth at www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally. The Registration deadline is April 28 -- don't miss out on this incredible day!
- May 13: Youth Minister Certification Courses 1 & 2. Course 1 (Overview of Current USCCB Document on Youth) and Course 2 (Evangelizing in Today's Culture) will be offered in Plattsburgh from 9:00-12:00 on May 13. Email Vicky at vlalonde@rcdony.org to register.
- June 25-30: Catholic Heart Work Camp in Plattsburgh. Register by emailing chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com.
- July 2-August 11: Camp Guggenheim. Weeks 1-5 are for 12-15 year-olds, and Week 6 is for 16-18 year-olds. Register at www.rcdony.org/camp.
- August 15: Diocesan Youth Council Applications due for '17-'18 Academic Year. Check out details and applications at www.rcdony.org/youth.
- September 29-October 1: Leadership Weekend. Grades 9-12. Mark your calendars! Registrations will be available soon.

Annual Family Rosary Crusade focuses on Fatima

CARTHAGE – The 15th annual Family Rosary Crusade at St. James Church will be held May 12, marking the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Mary to the three shepherd children in Fatima May 13, 1917.

The crusade opens with Mass at 5:15 p.m. with Father Donald A. Robinson, pastor, presiding. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will fol-

low at 5:55.

Seven hours of praying the rosary will take place from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Three complete rosaries are prayed each hour for a total of 21 Rosaries, in honor of the Blessed Mother's Seven Sorrows.

Each hour is for specific intentions ending with the last hour of thanksgiving

Carthage artist Robert Ren-

naud, who has organized the annual crusade, is painting "Our Lady of the Rosary" for this year's event. A print will be given to each person who prays at St. James for at least three hours

Further information is available at Renaud's website, bobrenaudart.com or the parish website catholicsofcarthagecopenhagen.org.

OUR READERS WRITE

Farewell, dear friends

When one loses a friend, one loses a gift from God. Over the last few months, I have lost several. One was Father George Maroun and now Father Victor Lamore.

These two gentle, quiet, but tall giants in God's Army blessed my life by their ex-

ample of calmness, strong faith, and yet down to earth way of living their lives.

I had the pleasure of being an adult altar server for funeral and burials they conducted. That they walked and talked with God was so vivid and surely helped dry tears and bless a sad time.

To go to confession with Father Victor

was an event, for he confessed right along with me, wiped my tears, gave me a hug and shared a "Funny thing happened to me on the way to church" story.

And, he even blest my stone and resting place, saying with a twinkle in his eye, "Just so God knows where to find you when it's time."

Rest in peace and love, my dear friends. You will be so missed, but, now God knows where you are.

LOVINGLY,
PATTY FRANCISCO
TUPPER LAKE

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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Bishop's Schedule

April 19 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

April 21 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 22 - 10:45 a.m., Mass for Watertown Special Education Class at IHC Intermediate School

April 23 - Divine Mercy Sunday
3 p.m., Healing Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 24-25 - Pontifical College Josephinum Board Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

Rest in Peace

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

April 19 – Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Laramee, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961

April 20 – Rev. James Igo, 2007

April 21 – Msgr. Michael E. Fogarty, 1936

April 22 – Rev. Daniel M. Sullivan, 1933

April 23 – Rev. L. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921
April 24 – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., 1994

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

Environmental Stewardship

How does your garden grow?

We are welcoming another spring. As we pour through the seed catalogs, perhaps it would be a good time to consider planting and tending our gardens in a new way that helps us become better stewards of God's Creation.

The earth is an interdependent ecosystem and the garden we plant is part of that community. Making "eco-friendly" garden choices will go a long way in preserving biodiversity.

As the Holy Father reminds us in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, "Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species. These are species that give glory to God by their very existence." [33]

Adopting eco-friendly practices in our gardens may require us to change some of our preconceived ideas about the ideal way to garden.

Basically the traditional method of gardening that most of us learned was change the place to accommodate the plant.

Eco-gardening or "nature-scaping" chooses plants that grow naturally at the site. It is a matter of working with nature rather than against it.

In this way we all benefit—man and planet.

One choice to consider is planting native non-invasive plants that grow naturally in your location. There are several reasons for this. Native plants do not require as much water, they do not need synthetic fertilizers, and they are not prone to the diseases of "industrial plants" and therefore do not require the pesticides that the "industrial plants" do.

In addition, these are the plants that birds, insects, and other wildlife rely upon for food. While we may garden as a hobby, for creatures who share our habitat, it is a matter of survival.

For example, the common milkweed that grows in our area is needed for the survival of the Monarch Butterfly. People, through increased awareness about this relationship, are now growing it in their yards along with other butterfly friendly plants.

(To be continued next week)

Submitted by a member of the diocesan Faith and Ecology Group

Annual diocesan collegiate spring retreat held at Wadhams Hall

'Fearfully and wonderfully made'

By Amanda Conklin
Campus Minister, Canton

OGDENSBURG - Eighteen college students from Jefferson Community College, St. Lawrence University, SUNY Canton, Clarkson University, and SUNY Potsdam gathered at Wadhams Hall Feb. 10-12 to consider how they have been "fearfully and wonderfully made."

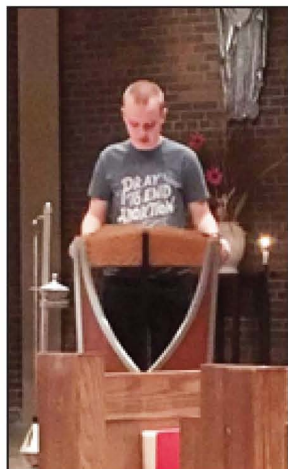
The phrase from Psalm 139 was the theme for the annual collegiate spring retreat.

Students gathered after dinner on Friday for a selfie scavenger hunt in teams, which was followed by adoration and confession.

Priests who joined the group for prayer and were available for confession were Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor in Massena; Father Stephen Rocker, pastor in Potsdam and Colton; Father Thomas J. Higman, administrator in Ellettsburg and Lyon Mountain and associate vocation director; and Father Scott A Belina, parochial vicar in Malone.

Allie Withee, a sophomore at St. Lawrence University connected with the theme:

"I found that this year's topic that we are fearfully and wonderfully made was a great reminder as we started



Conner Cummings, a student at Jefferson Community College, read from the scriptures during a Mass at the Lenten collegiate retreat held in February at Wadhams Hall. In photo at right, Amanda Conklin, campus minister in Canton, is pictured, front left, with the retreatants from St. Lawrence University, SUNY Canton, SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson and JCC.

off the semester," she said. "It shed light on the value of everyone's lives as well as our own which was certainly relatable as a college student."

On Saturday, three workshops and a movie/discussion were offered. The workshops and movie, tying in with the theme, reflected on human dignity and worth with topics such as fetal development/pro-life apologetics, coping with anxiety as a Catholic, cloning, and identity in Christ.

"This yearly retreat was a



great way to recharge and collect ourselves before we jumped into the Spring Semester," said Conner Cummings, a student at JCC in Watertown.

"Being with others who share the same faith really makes living the faith so much easier," he said. "The various talks and discussions that were offered were enlightening and helpful in showing how we can defend the faith in our often overly secularized world."

The students all received a Magnificat, a prayer journal,

and a miraculous medal to help them in their prayer life when they returned to campus. Students were also ran-

domly assigned a verse from scripture on their door tag to reflect on.

There were many opportunities for prayer with morning and night prayer every day of the retreat, led by Patrick Reinhart, campus minister for Potsdam. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was chanted in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and Father Belina presided at Mass. The music for the weekend was provided by attending college students from the Crane School of Music of SUNY Potsdam.

Luke Nolan, a sophomore at SUNY Canton found the opportunity for prayer and rest to be most helpful.

"It was definitely refreshing, a good opportunity to "recharge," he said. "The opportunity to go to adoration and confession really helped spiritually and mentally."



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www.rcdony.org/formation

PROMISE TO
PROTECTPLEDGE TO
HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ:

The month of April has been designated as *Child Abuse Prevention Month*. This provides us with an opportunity to highlight our awareness of child sexual abuse and to call attention to our ongoing responsibility to provide safe, healthy environments for our children and young people. It also affords me the opportunity to assure you that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is continuing our strong efforts to create and maintain a climate of safety and of joy for all the youth entrusted to our pastoral care.

I am grateful to Sr. Ellen Donahue, SA, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator who directs our efforts to ensure that the national and diocesan policies established to provide safe environments for our children are implemented fully. Since 2003, independent audits have been conducted in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to determine how well we comply with national and our own diocesan policies. With the coordinating efforts of Mrs. Elaine Seymour, our Charter Compliance Coordinator, we have been found to be compliant every year. The strong support and cooperation of our pastors and their pastoral staffs enable our Church to be a safe place in which we can all grow in love of God and neighbor.

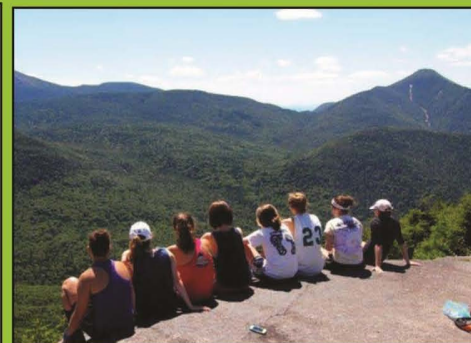
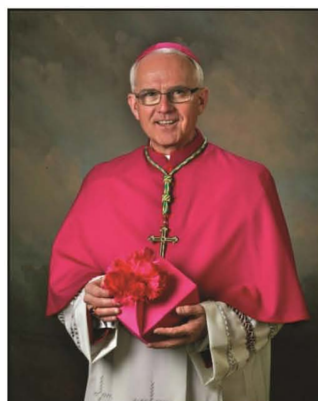
On Sunday, April 23rd, a special *Mass of Healing* will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral at 3:00pm. This Eucharist, held on Divine Mercy Sunday, is a fitting means of: acknowledging the pain caused by some pastoral leaders or workers in the Church; seeking forgiveness for the wounds inflicted; and praying for the grace to be instruments of healing and reconciliation for those who suffer so deeply.

All in the North Country are invited, on Divine Mercy Sunday, to join our family of faith in prayerful support and in humble supplication for forgiveness. We know that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, so tenderly loves and accompanies all those who are hurt in His Church. We are a Church of the hurting, indeed, as Pope Francis says, a *field hospital*. We remain vigilant in providing a safe environment for all within the Church and sorrowful when we have failed our sisters and brothers and caused such hurt and suffering.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



A PRAYER FOR HEALING
Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering the pain
of all who have been hurt in body,
mind, and spirit by those who be-
trayed the trust placed in them.

... Grant them justice for their
cause, enlightened by your truth.

Healing Mass
April 23, 3:00 pm
St. Mary's Cathedral



WHAT HAS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

Our Commitment to Children's Safety:

- Safe Environment Policies & Procedures
- Mandatory Background Checks / References
- Annual Training for Staff, Parents and Children
- Reporting Procedures Implemented
- Children's Activities Supervised
- One-on-one Instruction Monitored



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Ogdensburg

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DIOCESAN STATISTICS NATIONAL AUDIT JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

- 4,210 students attended Christian Formation
- 1,916 students attended Catholic schools
- 334 youth attended Guggenheim Summer Camp
- 195 adults and children attended Family Guggenheim
- 42 Safe Environment training sessions were held
- 945 Background checks on clerics, employees/volunteers

Provision of Diocesan Assistance in reporting abuse Victims' assistance coordinator: Terrienne Yanulavich 518-483-3261 ext. 2267

WHAT HAS THE CHURCH DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN NATIONALLY?

The Church has done more to protect children than almost any other organization in the U.S. 195 U.S. dioceses/eparchies have a victim assistance coordinator to support abused.

- 2,400,627 adults trained to prevent abuse
- 4,483,609 children trained to recognize abuse
- 2,390,956 cleric, employees and volunteers background checked.

CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS

- 6 Million children nationally *
 - 4 children die in U.S. daily from abuse
- ***Child protective Services:** <https://www.safehorizon.org>
- 320,602 served by Child Alliance*
 - 215,594 abused
 - 63,559 Sexually abused
- *National Child Alliance
- 1 in 4 girls
 - 1 in 6 boys will be abused before 18

Report Abuse of Vulnerable Adults

Local: 518-402-6513

NYS Only (Adult Protection Services): 844-697-3505

We are grateful to all the facilitators who have continued conducting Safe Environment sessions

HERALDS OF HEALING AND PROTECTION



New Facilitators of Eastern Region



New Facilitators of Western Region

*The Church has worked hard to protect children,
but more needs to be done.*

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- **YOU can be trained in safe environment practices.** Free Virtus safe environment training dates are printed in the North Country Catholic weekly with locations across the Diocese. Or, go to www.rcdony.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on Safe Environment Office, then click on Virtus trainings.
- PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO REGISTER.
- **YOU can monitor the computer use in your home.**

YouTube www.youtube.com/user/childluresprevent

Use an internet filter and/ or parental control software:

www.netnanny.com or www.1.k9webprotection.com (free)

Protect any device connected to a single home network: www.opendns.com

Most importantly, spend time with your children, helping them to know safe places on the Internet.

**IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS
BEEN HARMED OR IS AT RISK:**

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

**Mandated Reporters
1-800-635-1522**

**Non-Mandated Reporters
(can remain anonymous)
1-800-342-3720**

How do I sign up to
receive AMBER Alerts?



www.missingkids.com/AmberSignUp

For information about how AMBER alerts are distributed to cell phones, visit:

www.missingkids.com/AMBER/wea

Human Trafficking

INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND FLYERS: www.usccb.org/about/human-trafficking

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE HOTLINE: **1-888-373-7888**

Letters need humble response, say survivors of clergy abuse

Message in a bottle

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Acknowledging correspondence and treating victims with respect is the very least church officials can offer, said survivors of clergy sex abuse.

In every situation the thing that hurt most was the fundamental lack of respect for me as a human being whose childhood was taken away

Declan Murphy, abuse victim

Never letting a letter or email languish unanswered was such a key "best practice" of showing care and concern for victims of sexual abuse by clergy and religious that Marie Collins, an Irish survivor, stepped down from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors over the issue.

When it comes to whether an office should respond to a victim, "There's an amazing ability to take whatever is simple" and make it sound "as if it's highly complex," said Declan Murphy, who was abused as an adolescent by two Christian Brothers in Dublin in the 1960s.

It's a "basic courtesy" to respond, even if it is just a brief acknowledgment of receiving the letter with a general time frame of intended follow-up. "That's the way



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, reviews documents before entering a seminar on safeguarding children at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome March 23.

most people work when they value and respect a person," he said.

However, "if your starting point is not wanting to do it, you will drag in lots of reasons" to justify why writing back cannot or should not be done, he said.

After 38 years of keeping his abuse hidden from everyone and "coping on my own," Murphy said he was back to relying on his own resilience, with the support of family, to make sure his voice was heard with repeated calls and arranging meetings with church leaders after he came forward in 2006.

The most hurtful response he got, he said, was telling a high-level church representative about being raped for three years by two religious priests and "he looked at me in the eye and said, 'I can't help you,'" in "a cold and callous" way.

That kind of dismissal only made sense, Murphy said, for someone who looks at the issue from a legal or organizational point of view, in which different people are responsible for their own separate jurisdictions - and the problem gets volleyed back and forth over ecclesial lines.

In every situation, he said, the thing that hurt most "was the fundamental lack of respect for me as a human being whose childhood was taken away."

"No one can go back and fix what happened to me," Murphy said, and "I try to remain fair, articulate and balanced. But what I've seen is horrendous" when it comes to how people have responded to his coming forward.

Murphy said he had three objectives in all of his efforts to reach out to the church: "Somebody to listen to my story; I wanted them to believe me and say 'I'm sorry'; and I wanted my costs back," meaning medical and legal costs incurred since 2006, the year his health broke down and he revealed the past abuse.

The best responses he received, he said, were when someone said he was going to do something and then actually did it. Another time, the same person "sent a Christmas card. It was a small gesture, but it showed a human side."

Church leaders and personnel should not be driven by legal concerns, fears of litigation or self-interest, he said, but by a pastoral com-

passion that asks, "What can we do to help you? Tell us what you need."

Helen McGonigle, a lawyer living in western Connecticut, told CNS in a series of emails that she faced so many "obstructionist tactics at the local level in the secular legal system, what choice do we have but to turn to the Vatican, canon law and natural law," since the sexual violence against children is a crime against nature.

McGonigle and her sister, who later died from a prescription drug overdose in 2005, were victims of late-Norbertine Father Brendan Smyth when he was assigned to Rhode Island.

He was ordained and assigned to ministry in Northern Ireland, Ireland, Rhode Island, North Dakota and other places, despite the knowledge and complaints by other religious that he had molested children, as found in an independent Northern Ireland Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. He died in prison one month after starting his sentence for 117 counts of children molestation in Ireland and Northern Ireland over four decades.

Because Father Smyth was

a member a religious order, based out of an abbey in Ireland and was sent to multiple dioceses, McGonigle wrote to numerous jurisdictional bodies in her efforts to gain information and help.

"I tried the local route in every imaginable way and felt the need to circumvent" the appropriate channels after letters went unanswered and questions and requests went unaddressed. Her civil suit was dismissed because of the statute of limitations.

However, when recipient offices at the Vatican denied having "competence" in the matter and redirected her to other authorities, McGonigle said she felt "that an internal strategy of leaving survivors twisting in the wind seems to have been adopted by the Vatican."

There is no way to know how many survivors are ever able to bring themselves to write or even bother, she said, which is why "those who do choose to write should be acknowledged in some way and provided some measure of assurance that their concerns are being listened to. After having been raped and our rights trampled upon, it is the very least these people could do. Are they beyond compassion?"

McGonigle said she wrote to church leaders, not to be "listened to," but to do "the right thing. I did feel it was right to make an attempt to do my part in exposing Smyth's crimes and requesting honesty and transparency" in her right to know the truth.

The very heart of the correspondence, however, is not just about eliciting a reply letter, she said: "What survivors want to see is action, child protection, perpetrators prosecuted and removed."

"Action goes a lot farther than any one letter," McGonigle said.

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CHEVROLET

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Trump signs bill to redirect funds away from abortion clinics

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- President Donald Trump signed a bill into law April 13 that allows states to redirect Title X family planning funding away from clinics that perform abortions and to community clinics that provide comprehensive health care for women and children. The new law overrides a rule change made in the last days of the Obama administration that prevented states from doing so. "The clear purpose of this Title X rule change was to benefit abortion providers like Planned Parenthood," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "Congress has done well to reverse this very bad public policy, and to restore the ability of states to stop one stream of our tax dollars going to Planned Parenthood and redirect it to community health centers that provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care," he said in a March 31 statement a day after the Senate voted for the measure. Vice President Mike Pence, as president of the Senate, cast a tiebreaking vote March 30 allowing passage of a joint resolution to block the Obama-era regulation that went into effect Jan. 18, just two days before Trump was sworn in.

Fatima seers are holy because of virtue, not visions, cardinal says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As extraordinary as the apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, nearly 100 years ago were, the sanctity of the shepherd children did not hinge on their having seen Mary, a cardinal said. "The apparition of the Virgin Mary was an occasion, but it has nothing to do with or has not influenced the reason" Blessed Francis and Jacinta Marto will be declared saints, Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, told Catholic News Service. "It was the children's heroism in their lives, their life of prayer, their turning to God that was truly holy," he said. The Vatican announced April 11 that Pope Francis has convened cardinals living in Rome for a consistory April 20 to approve the canonizations of the two Fatima children. With the approval of a miracle attributed to their intercession and the announcement of the consistory, many people are hoping Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony during his visit to Fatima May 12-13.

Pope to priests: Never separate truth, joy, mercy from the Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Always preach the whole truth of the Gospel with humility and respect and never be afraid to offer that truth just "one sip at a time," Pope Francis told the world's priests. The Gospel is truth, "brimming with joy and mercy. We should never attempt to separate these three graces of the Gospel: its truth, which is non-negotiable; its mercy, which is unconditional and offered to all sinners; and its joy, which is personal and open to everyone," he said April 13 during the chrisem Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Presiding over the first of two Holy Thursday liturgies, Pope Francis blessed the oils that will be used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, ordination and the anointing of the sick. With Holy Thursday commemorating the day Jesus shared his priesthood with the apostles, Pope Francis led the more than 1,500 priests, bishops and cardinals in a renewal of their priestly vows and dedicated his homily to the importance of preaching with a joy that touches people's hearts. "The priest makes the message joyful by his whole being," he said, and it is in "little things" that this joy is best shared.

Pope Francis washes feet of 12 prison inmates at Mass on Holy Thursday

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a gesture of service toward marginalized people, Pope Francis washed the feet of 12 inmates, including three women and a man who is converting from Islam to Catholicism.

Although in Jesus' time, washing the feet of one's guests was performed by slaves, Jesus "reverses" this role, the pope said during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper April 13 at a prison 45 miles from Rome.

"He came into this world to serve, to serve us. He came to make himself a slave for us, to give his life for us and to love us to the end," he said.

Pope Francis made his way by car to a penitentiary in Paliano, which houses 70 men and women who testified as a witness for the state against associates or accomplices.

To protect the safety and security of the prisoners, only a live audio feed of the pope's homily was provided by Vatican Radio as well as selected photographs released by the Vatican.

The Vatican said April 13 that among the 12 inmates who participated in the foot washing ceremony, "two are sentenced to life imprisonment and all the others should finish their sentences between 2019 and 2073."

In his brief homily, which he delivered off-the-cuff, the pope said that upon his arrival, people greeted him saying, "Here comes the pope, the head of the church."

"Jesus is the head of the church. The pope is merely the image of Jesus, and I want to do the same as he did. In this ceremony, the



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Francis kisses the foot of an inmate April 13 at Paliano prison outside of Rome as he celebrates Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. The pontiff washed the feet of 12 inmates at the maximum security prison.

pastor washes the feet of the faithful. (The role) reverses: The one who seems to be the greatest must do the work of a slave," he said.

This gesture, he continued, is meant to "sow love among us" and that the faithful, even those in prison, can imitate Christ in the same manner.

"I ask that if you can perform a help or a service for your companion here in prison, do it. This is love, this is like washing the feet. It means being the servant of the other," the pope said.

Recalling another Gospel reading, in which Jesus tells his disciples that the greatest among them must be at the service of others, Pope Francis said Christ put his words into action by washing his disciple's feet and "it is what Jesus does with us."

"For this reason, during this ceremony, let us think about Jesus. This isn't a folkloric ceremony. It is a gesture to remind us of what Jesus gave us. After this, he took bread and gave us his body; he took wine and gave us his blood. This is the love of God," the pope said.

Vatican Radio reported that several other inmates took an active role in the liturgy, including four who served as altar servers. Other inmates prepared homemade gifts for the pope, among them were two dessert cakes, a handcrafted wooden cross and fresh vegetables grown in the prison garden.

The evening Mass was the second of two Holy Thursday liturgies for Pope Francis. The first was a morning chrisem Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

In celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy

Today, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the world.

Not only do we celebrate the appearance of the Resurrected Lord to the Apostles in the Upper Room, but, at a much later time in history, His appearance to a simple Polish nun, Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, on Feb. 22, 1931.

The world knew nothing at that time of what would become a major devotion of the Catholic Church.

She saw the Lord clothed in white with red and pale

rays shining out from His heart. He said to her:

"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and (then) throughout the world.

I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already

here on earth, especially at the hour of death, I Myself will defend it as My own glory"

On April 30th of the Jubilee Year of 2000, Pope

John Paul II, her great defender, canonized her as St. Faustina.

Jesus made many appearances to her throughout her life. Church scholars, after years of intense examination, have declared her a major mystic of the Catholic Church

What is the connection between the Resurrection event which we continue to celebrate today, and God's mercy?

We can look at how mercifully Our Saviour treated those who abandoned him, or, like Peter, actually denied Him.

We can look at those like Thomas who staunchly refused to believe in the Resurrection. Jesus' first words

APRIL 23

Divine Mercy Sunday

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47

1st Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

to his disciples huddled in fear in the Upper Room was "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Instead of condemning them for being so cowardly, he commissioned them to lead His Church.

How about us?

We are all sinners who have disappointed the Mas-

ter. Yet, again and again, Jesus pours His mercy on all of us, forgives us, and sends us to build his Church through forgiveness, love, and courageous witness to His Truth.

Today, we are urged to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet in reparation and atonement for the sins and outrages of the whole world against God's love.

We must become ourselves Apostles of God's Mercy. In so doing, we ensure our own salvation, and that of countless others who will be enlightened by our faith and action.

Like Thomas in today's Gospel, let us proclaim in faith and trust, "My Lord and my God!"



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

'I'm not intrinsically disordered'

I have met several priests over the years who ended up leaving the active ministry of the priesthood. Two of them have been on my mind and in my prayers recently, having left the priesthood and the Church over issues connected to homosexuality.

I ran into one of them some time ago by chance as we were boarding the same flight. Filling me in on the decisions he had made, he shared:

"I was never happy with the Catholic Church's view that homosexuality is inherently..." and then he paused, "...what's the phrase they use?" I replied: "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."

"Ah, yes, intrinsically disordered," he replied. "It's a harsh institution that would call me intrinsically disordered, and I couldn't remain in a Church that held those views."

The second priest who left had similarly decried how the Church, on account of his homosexuality, saw

him as intrinsically disordered — which he took to mean that he was an evil person.

I was saddened at the way both of these former priests misconstrued the teachings of the Church, and disappointed that they couldn't see how we are not defined by our inclinations and proclivities, even if some of them may be disordered and in need of purification.

As fallen creatures, every person faces disordered desires within, and no one is perfect except, we Christians believe, Jesus himself.

Once when I was speaking with a person who was paralyzed, he shared how members of the disability community had given him some good advice after his accident: "Don't say you are a disabled person, because that lets the disability define you. Say instead that you are a person with a disability."

With a similar emphasis, people shouldn't pigeonhole themselves by saying: "I'm a homosexual," but instead

say: "I'm a person with homosexual inclinations."

Our inclinations don't define us, since we are free to decide whether we will act on them, or resist them.

The process of resisting our disordered desires can be very difficult, but contributes significantly to our own growth and spiritual maturation.

When referencing men and women "who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies," the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* emphasizes that such individuals must be accepted "with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may en-

counter from their condition." These persons, thus, are children of God, unique and loved by the Lord and called to the pursuit of goodness, chastity and holiness.



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

The notion of an "intrinsically disordered" act (sometimes also called an intrinsically evil act) has been part of the Church's moral teachings for millennia.

Such acts, as Pope John Paul II noted in his 1993 encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, "are by their nature 'incapable of being ordered' to God, because they radically contradict the good of the person made in his image."

Even the best of intentions, he stressed, cannot transform an act that is intrinsically evil into an act that is good or justified.

Many kinds of acts fall under the heading of an "intrinsic evil," representing seriously damaging choices

for those who pursue them and for those around them.

A few randomly chosen examples would include: prostitution, torture, slavery, trafficking in women and children, adultery, abortion, euthanasia, and homosexual acts.

As noted in the *Catechism*, homosexual acts "are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity."

Or as noted in another important teaching document called *Persona Humana*, "homosexual relations are acts which lack an essential and indispensable finality."

Even though men and women may engage in intrinsically disordered acts at various points in their lives, that fact clearly does not make them "intrinsically disordered persons," or "evil individuals."

We're reminded of the old adage that we are to love the sinner and hate the sin.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Grown viewers willing to kick reality to the curb will have fun with the preposterous but lively auto-themed action adventure "The Fate of the Furious" (Universal).

Dicey moral values and a high mayhem quotient, however, mean this seventh sequel to 2001's "The Fast and the Furious" is not a film for impressionable youngsters.

In a twist on the franchise's central theme of staunch solidarity among the members of the self-proclaimed "family" of car racers who populate it, this installment finds their leader, Dominic "Dom" Toretto (Vin Diesel) turning on his friends and working against them. He does so, however, only under duress.

Dom is being blackmailed by elusive criminal mastermind Cipher (Charlize Theron), though the exact nature of her leverage over him remains hidden for quite a while. Since Cipher's mad cyber skills keep her virtually untraceable, Dom's



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Vin Diesel and Charlize Theron star in a scene from "The Fate of the Furious."

erstwhile allies, including his wife, Letty (Michelle Rodriguez), and former federal agent Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson), have their work cut out for them in hunting her (and Dom) down.

They're helped by ultimate undercover agent Mr. Nobody (Kurt Russell) and his comically unseasoned sidekick, Eric Reisner (Scott Eastwood). Mr. Nobody also brings the team's former adversary, rogue and now-imprisoned British special

forces veteran Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham), on board.

Director F. Gary Gray and screenwriter Chris Morgan put loyalty (even under strain) first and safety last as their globetrotting ensemble pursues an opponent so powerful she has her own AWACS-style airplane. (AWACS stands for Airborne Warning and Control System.)

Along with that kind of credulity straining but

harmless prop comes a more troubling display of indifference to fact: Early scenes set in Cuba portray that nation as an island paradise, conveniently ignoring the reality that it has been ruled for the past half century and more by a duo of despots.

Doses of humor and clever resourcefulness help to divert attention from the sketchy us-against-the-world ethics that have characterized the whole series.

But moviegoers intent on analyzing the picture's underlying values will wonder whether any personal consideration -- even one as weighty as that coercing Dom -- can justify aiding a villain in her bid to acquire nuclear weapons and gain (what else?) world domination.

On the other hand, however muddled the moral values on offer may be, they do come tricked out with distinctly Christian detailing. Nor can a movie that ends with a clan-gathering meal over which grace is pronounced -- a recurring conclusion in the series -- fail to endear itself, at least a little, to viewers of faith.

The film contains frequent gunplay and hand-to-hand combat but with little gore, an adultery theme, several uses of profanity, an obscene gesture.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

I'm not

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The *Catechism* sums it up well: "Man, having been wounded in his nature by original sin, is subject to error and inclined to evil in exercising his freedom," but the remedy is found in Christ and in "the moral life, increased and brought to maturity in grace."

Thus, intrinsically disordered acts, while always destructive to ourselves and to others, do not put us outside of the eventual reach of grace and mercy, nor beyond the healing effects of repentance.

Rather those acts and their harmful effects should

beckon us towards the loving gaze of the Lord as he invites us to seek a higher path, one in which we renounce wrongdoing and resolutely embrace the freedom of the sons and daughters of God.

—
Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard.

He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncb-center.org

ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/DREAMWORKS

Mother, voiced by Lisa Kudrow, Boss Baby, voiced by Alec Baldwin, and father, voiced by Jimmy Kimmel, appear in the animated movie "Boss Baby." The Catholic News Service classification is A-1 -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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@ad-mercy.org.

CLINTON

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh—St. Peter's, St. John's and OLV are celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday

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

SPRING SALE

Peru - St. Vincent's Thrift Store will be having its Annual Spring Sale.

Schedule: April 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Sale of gently used clothing and footwear. A large bag of clothing and footwear will be \$6

HEALING MASS

Redford - A Healing Mass will be held.

Date: April 25

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Assumption of Mary Church

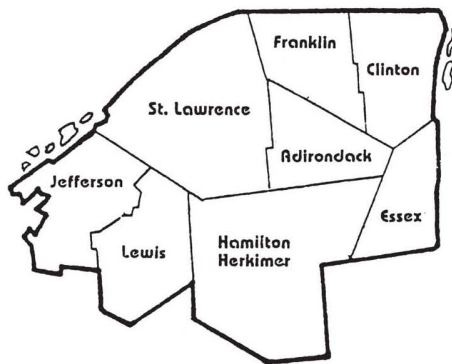
Features: Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick. Prayer teams will be available after Mass for additional private prayer.

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 Address by Cathy Russell, followed by a light lunch. Break-out Sessions, Eucharistic Adoration and Sacramental Reconciliation and 4 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

Cost: \$10

Contact: Register on-line at RCDONY.org.

To locate the registration page, go to "Offices", then "Formation for Ministry". On the lower left part of the page is registration link for the Spring Event. For More information, contact Starr Burke at sburke7035@gmail.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander and St.

Joseph to hold pancake breakfasts.

Dates: April 23

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Joseph's Hall

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

SETON GALA

Plattsburgh - Mark your calendars for the Seton Roaring Twenties Gala.

Date: May 20

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 11

Place: PSU Angel Center

Cost: \$50 per person or \$400 for a table of 8 or \$500 for a Corporate table of 8 which includes numerous advertising opportunities for your company.

Features: Accepting donations for live and silent auctions, including gift certificates and items of experience and activities. Assistance with set up and decorating is Welcome.

Contact: Seton Catholic for more information, (518) 561-4031, ext. 7.

ESSEX

SPAGHETTI FOR GETTYSBURG

Ticonderoga - The 7/8 grade students of St. Mary's school will be having a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for a

class trip to Gettysburg

Date: April 19

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$5; family rate of 4 or more, \$30

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;

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

MINISTRY FAIR

Clayton - The Parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's invite all parishioners to a Ministry Fair.

Dates: April 29, from 3p.m. to 4 and 5 p.m. to 6 and June 4 after the 9 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Learn about the many ministries active in our parishes. Speak with parishioners about their ministries. Explore where God might be calling you to share your faith, time, and talents. (Others, with the hopes of promoting ministries in their home parishes, are also invited.)

Contact: For more information, contact the parish office at 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

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

LEWIS

K OF C BRUNCH

Lyons Falls - Fr. Pascal Rys OFM Conv. all you can eat Pancake brunch to be held.

Date: April 23

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

Place: St. John's Church

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

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

Protecting the children of God

An excerpt from Missio.org:

"Tens of millions of children are forced to work in degrading conditions, exposed to forms of slavery and exploitation, as well as to abuse, ill-treatment and discrimination, ... Let us all renew our commitment, especially families, to ensure the tutelage of every boy's and girl's dignity and the chance to grow up healthy." - Pope Francis

What is Child Labor?

The most recent reports show that globally child labor continues to decline, more sharply than previously. This is great news but the sad reality is that there are still many, many children living these horrible circumstances.

The International Labor Office (ILO) defines child laborers as all children younger than 12 working in any economic activities, as well as children 12 through 14 years old engaged in more than light work and all children engaged in the worst forms of child labor – in which they are enslaved, forcibly recruited, prostituted, trafficked, forced into illegal activities or exposed to hazards.

The Global Story

- 168 million children ages 5 to 17 were engaged in child labor in the world in 2012 (About 1/10 of the total child population). The regional estimates of children engaged in child labor as of 2012 in Asia and the Pacific 835,334; Latin America and the Caribbean 142,693; Sub-Saharan Africa 275,397; other Middle East and North Africa regions 334,242.

- Hazardous work is a subcategory of child labor. The number of children in this worst form of child labor accounts for almost half of all child laborers (85.3 million). Children engaged in child labor work in all the three broad groupings of economic activity (agriculture, industry and services). Among child laborers ages 5 to 17 in the world, 58.6 per cent are involved in the agricultural sector, 7.2 per cent are employed in industry and 32.3 per cent in services (of which 6.9 per cent are in domestic work).

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) can help make a difference in fighting Child Labor. The prayers and sacrifices through MCA help support the work of missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus to the poor and suffering including child workers.

MCA assists volunteers and missionaries who work with children that are victims of forced labor, domestic abuse, and provide support while uniting children with their families whenever possible. Basic needs such as clean water, food, education and clothing are examples of provisions made by MCA to compromised children. When children have the opportunity to escape dire poverty while obtaining an education, are children who can break the chains of child labor, trafficking and a life of misery.

MCA is proud to be in a position to make these dreams a reality. MCA's primary objective is to protect all of God's children through support both sacrificially and spiritually.

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – Robert B. Wagoner, 95; Funeral Services April 11, 2017 at St. Cyril's Church.

Carthage – Craig R. Mitchell, 57; Funeral Services April 14, 2017 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. Lawrence Union Cemetery, Clayton.

Chateaugay – Terry L. Lavoie, 54; Funeral Services April 8, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Aaron J. Cormier, 31; Funeral Services April 18, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church.

Elizabethtown – Sheila Mary (Keith) Phalen, 90; Funeral Services April 25, 2017 at St. Elizabeth's Church; burial in Lewis Cemetery.

Gouverneur – April A. Law, 50; Funeral Services April 11, 2017 at the French Funeral Home.

Lake Placid – Lawrence J. Otranto Sr., 80; Funeral Services April 12, 2017 at St.

Agnes Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Jeanne (Gervais) Fitzsimmons, 89; Funeral Services April 17, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Jordan P. Markell, 31; Funeral Services April 12, 2017 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Moers – David C. Hemingway, 84; Funeral Services April 12, 2017 at St. Ann's Church.

Moria – Robert Lee Richard, 72; Funeral Services April 14, 2017 at Flint Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Donald H. Duquette, 83;

Funeral April 11, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Jo-Anne Kerst Branch, 83; Funeral Services April 19, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Schroon Lake.

Saranac Lake – Bernadette Harrington Derby, 90; Funeral Services May 6, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church.

Ticonderoga – Jean Helen (Willey) Bevilacqua, 90; Funeral Services April 18, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's parish cemetery.

Watertown – Louise H. (Metz) Horning, 90; Funeral Services April 13, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.



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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 from 2 p.m. to 3 upstairs. Downstairs, the DVD, "The Face of Mercy" will 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.

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: exposition, silent adoration, 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

ST. LAWRENCE

SPRING RETREAT

Morristown – A Spring retreat is set Scheduled: May 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 or May 27, 9:30 a.m. to May 28 at 4 p.m. **Place:** Cedarhaven, located along the St. Lawrence River

Cost: Saturday only, \$25 (includes lunch) or both days, \$85 (includes overnight and all meals)

Features: The theme is "Planting the Seeds of Compassion" facilitated by St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald. **Contact:** Call: 315-212-6592 or email sr-bethssj@gmail.com by May 24.

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, pastormsp@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 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

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.

TRAVELING CHALICE



SCHOOL PHOTO

Immaculate Heart Central Elementary School in Watertown initiated a Traveling Chalice Program April 3 to pray for vocations. Above, a first grader at the school prays next to the chalice placed on a table in front of the cross in the lobby of the primary building. Families have been encouraged to participate in the Traveling Chalice Program as a way to promote vocations and to foster prayer within families. A prayer book accompanies the chalice.

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 re-

quires each and every parishioner.

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

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is now open.

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

Features: families of all dimensions invited to enjoy a weekend in the Adirondacks, fun family workshops and activities, liturgy and special prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.

Contact: Register online at <http://www.rcdony.org/familylife.htm>

GO GREEN!

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JOB OPENINGS

Applications are now being accepted at: Augustinian Academy for the 2017-18 school year

- Full-time Sixth grade classroom teacher responsible to teach Math grades 5-8
- Part-time Music teacher for PK-8 grade music classes and instrumental lessons.

Applications available on our website at www.caugustinian.org