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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 5, 2017

God promises the 'impossible'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Hope is not built on people's predictions, assurances or line of reasoning, Pope Francis said.

Real Christian hope "is not based on our word, but on God's Word" and promises of salvation and eternal life, the pope said during his general

audience in St. Peter's Square March 29.

Continuing a series of reflections on how the Apostle Paul describes the nature of Christian hope, the pope looked at how Abraham's faith is held up as a model for everyone in the apostle's

Letter to the Romans (4:16-25).

Despite all logic -- Abraham was old and his wife infertile -- Abraham "believed, hoping against hope that he would become 'the father of many nations,'" which shows how faith is so closely con-

nected to hope, the pope said.

"Our hope is not based on human reasoning, predictions and assurances," he said; real hope arises "where there is no more hope, where there is nothing left to hope for."

Bishop's Fund meets 2016 goal

Bishop LaValley has announced that, with contributions from over 9,400 households in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the 2016 Bishop's Fund Appeal has reached its goal of \$1,280,000.

At this time, the Bishop's Fund has collected \$1,288,074.69 in gifts received with \$62,265.83 remaining in promised pledges.

Those who have made a pledge to the appeal, are encouraged to complete the pledge before June 15.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

God bless our teachers

As registration for the next school year continues, long time teachers tell why they love Catholic schools

FULL STORY, PAGE 8-9

WHEN LIFE GETS RUFF...



PHOTO BY SHAN MOORE

Students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh take turns petting Pepper, a blind pup who visits schools and other places to share her messages, one of which is, when life gets "ruff," keep wagging your tail. Pepper, owned by NCC writer Shan Moore and her husband, Bryan, shown above, is an mascot of the Plattsburgh Lions Club, promoting its vision and diabetes awareness programs. Full story, page 7

FATIMA AND THE POPES

A special affection



CNS PHOTO/JOAO PAUL TRINDADE VIA EPA

Pope John Paul II is pictured with Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last of the three Fatima visionaries alive in 1991. Recent popes have had a special affection for Our Lady of Fatima, but no pope's connection can match that of now St. John Paul II. "We cannot forget that he was saved by Our Lady of Fatima from the assassination attempt here in St. Peter's. This is fundamental and central. It is never forgotten," Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, told Catholic News Service March 29. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have also shown deep devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

CHRISM MASS: To be held April 6 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral

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COUNTRY
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Editor/
General ManagerPublish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Editorial Office:**
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**
(315) 608-7556**E-mail:**
news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication should be addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to publication.
Paper is printed each
Monday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.**POSTMASTER:**
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Rest in peace, Father Lamore

"A sweet and gentle man who spent many years of his priesthood in one of the most difficult ministries in the diocese."

That's how a fellow prison chaplain remembers Father Victor Lamore who died last week in Arizona.

After 20 years in North Country parishes, Father Lamore began his ministry to prisoners at the Adirondack Correctional Facility in Ray Brook and then, at Clinton Correctional in Dannemora.

At the maximum security

prison, Father Lamore did everything he could do make the lives of the inmates a little easier, a goal that could cause tension with the guards and prison administration.

Mary Lou
Kilian

His chaplain friend remembers how animated Father Lamore would become when talking about his job during regional chaplain gatherings. He really loved the men he worked with and spent 14 years of his life as their advocate.

A Canadian native, Father Lamore served parishes in all

parts of the diocese – in Saranac Lake, Canton, Plattsburgh, Malone, Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake and West Leyden – after Bishop Brzana ordained him to the priesthood in 1980.

His service as a priest followed service to the country, as a sailor in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

This Thursday, the priests Father Lamore leaves behind will renew their vows to the priesthood during the annual Chrim Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Among the questions Bishop LaValley will ask is this:

"Are you resolved to be faithful stewards of the myster-

ies of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?"

It's safe to say that Father Lamore lived up to these promises in parishes and prisons for all 37 years of his priesthood.

We extend our sympathy to his family, including two sisters who traveled from Canada to Arizona to be with their brother as he made his final journey home.

And we say farewell to this brother of ours. Well done, good and faithful servant.

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Jesus and the people of the Passion

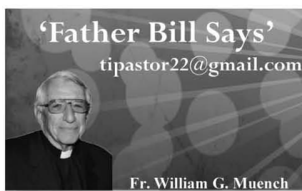
This week I would like to take a moment to consider with you some of the people who were part of the Passion of Jesus. We read about them each year on Palm Sunday and also on Good Friday.

This story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus was so important to those early Christians that it was the first message they used to bring the message of Jesus to those who were just learning about Jesus.

I have always wondered about Judas. I think Judas was truly committed to the Kingdom of Jesus and just couldn't understand or accept why the plan had fallen apart. He is terribly upset when the Hebrew leaders turned on Jesus, so, he lost his faith in Jesus; he even decides to make a profit from this new situation.

However, when he realizes how violent they are with Jesus, he completely despairs on the way he turned on Jesus. He takes his own life.

Even after his betrayal Judas could not even consider for a moment that he might reconcile himself with the other apostles – or that he might be forgiven. He takes his own life.



Fr. William G. Muench

I have always wondered how Peter had the strength of will to stay faithful to the Lord – even after his denial of Jesus. Peter denies that he even knew Jesus after he had boasted that he would even be ready to die with Jesus.

Peter was with Jesus in the Garden of Olives and saw Jesus' agony. Peter even tried to interfere with the soldiers when they arrested him. Then he becomes afraid – he denies him. Yet, he stays faithful to the Lord and remains close to the other apostles. He believes in the future of Christ's Kingdom. For this, he becomes a saint, a great saint – our first Pope, our leader and the very foundation of our Church. Peter never loses his trust and confidence in Jesus.

I have wondered and prayed over the great sufferings that Mary, the Mother of Jesus had to endure. I cannot begin to

imagine how Mary suffered so much as she stood at the foot of the cross of Jesus. It had to be overpowering.

I am certain that some of you have experienced a pain like this when being close to a loved one at the time of death. Mary is our support and guide as we help a loved one die. She knows well the experience. May Mary be with us and support us when our time comes.

Standing with Mary, the Gospels tell us were Mary Magdalene and the apostle, John. Mary Magdalene became a central figure in the Passion of Jesus. She stands at the foot of Jesus' cross with Mary and is with her when they remove the body of Jesus from the cross. She was there when they buried Jesus. She would be among the first to see the resurrected Jesus.

John, the apostle and the evangelist, is the youngest of the apostles. He is the only apostle to be present at Calvary. He comes as a support and protector for the Blessed Mother of Jesus. John is also the author of the Fourth Gospel who has given us a detailed description of the events of Christ's Passion and Death.

There are so many others that I would like to know more about – like Pontius Pilate, those soldiers who crucified Jesus, those High Priests, Annas and Caiaphas. For centuries, authors and historians have written books trying to explain to us who all the important people would have been and what they were like. I would still like to meet them one day to see for myself.

Finally, there is you and me. Each year we are invited to walk with Jesus through his Passion and Death during Holy Week. The days of Holy Week, the ceremonies of the Great Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday – leading up to Easter Sunday – are our moments when we walk with Jesus and truly experience what he experienced.

On Holy Thursday, we are at the Last Supper with Jesus and the apostles. On Good Friday, we stand with Mary at the foot of Christ's cross. At the Easter Vigil, we celebrate life, our life, sharing even now in the Resurrection of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, we joyfully end our Lenten time of mortification – and rejoice in new life in Jesus' Resurrection.

2016 Bishop's Fund Appeal reaches \$1.28 million goal

By Valerie Mathews
Diocesan director, Bishop's Fund Appeal

With gratitude, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that, with generous contributions from over 9,400 households, the 2016 Bishop's Fund Appeal has reached its goal of \$1,280,000.

Bishop LaValley said, "I join my prayers of gratitude with those of the many individuals and families of our North Country who have benefited from such generosity through the many ministries the Bishop's Fund Appeal supports.

"I am particularly appreciative of the strong leadership of our pastors who support this critical appeal each year," he said.

At this time, the Bishop's Fund Appeal has collected \$1,288,074.69 in gifts re-



ceived with \$62,265.83 remaining in promised pledges. Those who have made a pledge to the 2016-2017 Bishop's Fund Appeal, are encouraged to complete the pledge before June 15, 2017.

Any funds received over this year's goal will be designated to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

The Bishop's Good Samari-

tan Fund is a ministry of the Bishop's Fund Appeal which provides grants to individuals and families who are facing unexpected emergencies such as illnesses in the family, loss of homes to fires and flooding and job loss.

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund also provides assistance to food pantries across the North Country so that they may continue to help families in need.

Support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal truly allows the Diocese of Ogdensburg to be Mercy In Motion by providing spiritual, educational and charitable support to all of our brothers and sisters in the North Country.

Those who have not yet made a gift to the Appeal, may mail donations to The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or donate online at www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal.

Fr. Lamore, 75, dies in Arizona

The diocese has received word of the death of Father Victor E. Lamore, 75, a retired priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

He died in Arizona with his two sisters from Canada at his side.

Father Lamore was born July 12, 1941, in Britt, Ontario. He entered the Franciscan Atonement Friars as a brother in 1960 and joined the Navy in 1969.

After serving in Vietnam, he was discharged in 1973, and began studies for the priesthood.

He graduated from Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut; and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York, before his ordination May 3, 1980, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Lamore served as an associate pastor at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. Mary's in Canton, Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh; and Notre Dame in Malone.

In 1986, he was named administrator in Rosiere and, two years later, pastor in Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake.

In 1997, Father Lamore was appointed pastor in West Leyden.

The priest served for many years in prison ministry as a chaplain at the Adirondack Correctional Facility and at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora.

He retired in 2015 and moved to Arizona.

(A reflection on his life and ministry appears on page 2.)



Father
Lamore

LENTEN FAMILY GATHERING



PHOTO BY JAMIE BURNS

St. Mary's Parish in Canton held a Lenten Family Gathering March 12 during which families prayed and walked the Stations of the Cross together, as well as created Resurrection Gardens. Each family received a "Bringing Lent in the Home with St. Teresa of Calcutta" book for daily reading through the season. Shown above is the McDonough family, Sarah, Grace, Joe, Ellie and William.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary

66 Court Street, Canton, New York

www.cantoncatholics.com



invites you to participate in
Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday - April 9

5:00 p.m. (Sat) Vigil Mass with Solemn Entrance
8:00 a.m. Mass with Simple Entrance
9:30 a.m. Ecumenical Palm Sunday Procession in Village Park
11:15 a.m. Mass with Solemn Entrance
5:00 p.m. Mass with Simple Entrance

Holy Thursday - April 13

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30 p.m. Time of Quiet Prayer in Chapel (Confessions until 9:30 p.m.)
10:00 p.m. Night Prayer

Good Friday - April 14

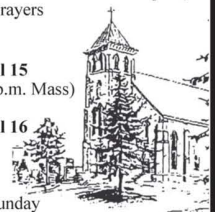
12:10 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy
1:30 p.m. Time of Quiet Prayer in Church (Confessions until 3:00 p.m.)
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet & Novena Prayers
5:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - April 15

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil (No Confessions or 5 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday - April 16

7:30 a.m. Easter Mass
9:00 a.m. Easter Mass
11:15 a.m. Easter Mass
Please note: There is no 5 p.m. Mass Easter Sunday



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Parish honors altar servers

CLAYTON - St. Mary's Church and St. John's in Lafargeville honored their altar servers March 26 at 9 a.m. Mass with a special blessing from their pastor, Father Arthur LaBaff.

Sixteen young people participated in the Mass and processed in as a group.

Father LaBaff talked about the importance and dedication of the servers and thanked the parents for their support of this important ministry.

Many, if not all the servers, have family members who are involved in many parish ministries, emphasizing the importance of family.

Neil Fuller, a deacon candi-

date who was recently installed as an acolyte, serves as altar server coordinator. He said that the servers are the future of the Church and others should answer their calling and serve their parishes communities in various ministries.

The servers who participated were Payton Morse, Walter Patrick Cummings, Maria Foisy, Madeline Jones, Andrew Klosner, Rebecca Leonard, Katie Oliver, Caryse Oliver, Madelon Frailey, Connor Dillenback, Christian Dillenback, Claire Ward, Samantha Wahl, Liam Wahl, Macey Cooper and Sophia Nemerget.

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Mass of Healing set for Divine Mercy Sunday

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

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.

"This crisis has impacted all of us in the church, and we need to ask God's help for continued healing," Bishop LaValley said.

The entire diocesan family, clergy, religious, and laity, is invited to participate in this Eucharistic celebration to continue to ask God's help for healing and reconcilia-

tion. Additionally, Bishop LaValley invites those seeking to rebuild their lives amidst such anguish to come and continue the process of healing and moving forward.

The Mass was planned as the church completed the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis.

"The Year of Mercy has focused us on our sinfulness and the need for God's mercy," Bishop LaValley said. "The sin and scandal of clergy sexual abuse still wounds us and causes us pain. The Year of Mercy would not be complete without again acknowledging the pain of the victims of clergy sexual abuse and extending to them our apology and help".

While the church has made

documented progress in protecting children and young people and raising awareness of child sexual abuse, Bishop LaValley says that those victimized by this sin must never be forgotten.

"We have done much to create a safe environment for children and young people in our church" the bishop said, "especially since the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: zero tolerance for guilty clergy, full cooperation with law enforcement, comprehensive child safety education for all involved in ministry or serv-

ice to children and young people, background checks of those involved in ministries with children, and outreach and assistance offered to the victims."

"Yet, the year in which we celebrate the healing mercy of God calls on us to once again apologize for this scandal and to offer reconciliation and healing to victims," Bishop LaValley said. "We need to offer more compassion and help to victims."

"While we cannot make victims whole or make up for the suffering they have endured, we have consistently tried to acknowledge their

pain and alleviate their suffering by offering counseling and any support possible," he said. "The Year of Mercy called us to continue to seek reconciliation and healing for victims of clergy sex abuse. Despite our efforts, there is still need for reconciliation and healing: there is more we can do."

"Many victims are in pain and looking for more compassion from the church", said Bishop LaValley. "To those people, I am reaching out. I invite them to come forward and to allow us the opportunity to help them heal."

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A Card of Thanks from the Family of Deacon David Wells



The family of Deacon David P. Wells would like to express our deep appreciation for all the kindness, love and support shown to us at the time of his sickness and death.

We are so grateful for the compassionate care given to our beloved husband, father and grandfather by the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and the First Responders of Heuvelton and then by the staffs of Claxton Hepburn Medical Center in Ogdensburg and St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse.

We will never forget the wonderful staff of Fox and Murray Funeral Home - Patty and Dave Murray and Diane Fifield - who did so much to help us through this difficult time. We are so thankful for their kindness, generosity and professionalism.

Our family was also overwhelmed by the love shown to us by our Catholic family of faith. Priests and Dave's brother deacons came from all over the diocese to participate in the funeral Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. In particular, we want to thank Father Kevin O'Brien, our pastor, who continues to reach out to help us in this time of sorrow; Father Jay Seymour, our former pastor who encouraged Dave to become a deacon; and Dave's closest deacon friends: Deacon Tony Pastizzo who delivered the beautiful homily at the funeral Mass and Deacon Guy Javarone from Watertown.

Dave loved being a deacon and was so proud to call his fellow deacons his brothers. A day didn't go by that he didn't talk about something that happened in the deacon classes at Wadhams Hall or mention that he saw one of the deacons somewhere. All the deacons were God's gift to him.

Finally, we want to thank all our family and friends for the cards, gifts, donations, Masses and food that we received in the days and weeks after Dave's death. All the kind words and heartfelt gifts have provided great comfort during this very difficult time in our lives. Our hearts are broken but we have the courage to move forward because of the love and faith shown to us by so many people who loved Dave too.

God bless you all.

Dot, Jan, Cory, Amber, Katie, Julie, Lewie, Bobby, Chelsea, David, Alison, Emma, Hunter, Calvin and Jude

Catholic Charities offers senior volunteer programs

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is inviting senior citizens to become involved in two volunteer programs.

RSVP in Franklin County

The Franklin County Retired Senior Volunteer Program serves senior citizens age 55 and older who wish to apply the skills and wisdom they have acquired throughout their life to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

The interests and skills of potential volunteers are assessed and matched with requests for service in community agencies and organizations.

"Without the assistance and dedication of RSVP volunteers, these agencies and organizations would be unable to continue many of their services, and the needs of people in our county would go unmet," said Melissa Howards of the Tupper Lake Catholic Charities office.

"RSVP volunteers can make new friends, keep active, do meaningful work and learn new skills while helping others," she said.

Volunteers can choose the days and times that they would like to volunteer. Volunteers also get a reimbursement of .40 cents per mile to get to their volunteer station.

Those interested in joining RSVP should contact Melissa Howard at 518-359-7688

persons aged 55 and older, to provide person to person services in health, education, and the welfare of children ages 21 and younger.

Foster Grandparents are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, to provide friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help.

The Foster Grandparent also receives a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that cannot be held against any current benefits they may already have.

Benefits include mileage expenses and paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.

The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 children per year.

Those interested in becoming a Foster Grandparents should contact Melissa Howard at 518-359-7688.

Foster Grandparents

The Foster Grandparent Program of Northern New York, also hosted by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, provides opportunities for low income



GO GREEN!

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to sign up today.

Rest in Peace

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

- April 5** – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992
- April 6** – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965
- April 7** – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934
- April 8** – Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901
- April 10** – Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976
- April 11** – Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947

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Bishop's Schedule

- April 5** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg
- April 6** – 11 a.m., Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- April 7** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- April 8** – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- April 9** – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
2 p.m., Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral
- April 10** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- April 11** – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg
- April 12** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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 Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.
Upcoming sessions:
April 23 – 5:30 p.m., St. Anthony's, Inlet

To Report Abuse

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

Environmental Stewardship

Praying for the environment

Pray: Start the day by putting yourself in God's presence and recite this prayer:

"Lord, look upon us and hear our prayer. By the penance and good works you inspire, help us to discipline our appetites and to be renewed in spirit. So that we may be better stewards of creation, help us to live simply even when our desires are great. And help us to love greatly, even when we are not loved. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever." (Adapted from the Divine Office.)

- Throughout the day, pray the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or the Divine Office.

- Read Scripture, especially those passages referring to Creation Stewardship and Environmental Justice.

- Take part in a Mass or holy hour in your parish, asking to incorporate "the urgent solution of the climate change crisis" as a prayer intention.

What do I pray for?

- For the urgent solution of the climate change crisis.

- For the grace to grow in virtue, which helps us be better stewards of creation.

- For easing the suffering of the poor and those affected by disease and severe weather.

- For the Church, that it may use its prophetic voice to help solve the environmental problems we face.

Share

You can fast from food during at least one meal or an entire day. We also encourage doing a "Carbon Fast", trying to avoid activities that produce carbon dioxide and other wastes (by reducing your use of fossil fuels, electricity, plastic, paper, and toxins).


Remember to be careful and not compromise your health; everyone sacrifices in different ways based on their age, physical strengths, and limitations.

As we fast, we will pray for our own ecological conversion and for bold action by our gove

Water is life. Together we can fast for bold action to solve the climate change crisis and its life-threatening impact on water.

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Contact Melissa Howard at: 518-359-7688

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- ◆ Serves Senior Citizens over 55
- ◆ Share your skills to make a positive difference in others lives.
- ◆ Choose the days and times you volunteer
- ◆ .40 cents per mile reimbursement to get to volunteer station

If you know anyone that would benefit from our program or would like to join, contact: Melissa Howard at 518-359-7688

Blind but dogged dog offers lessons of love and acceptance

'Pepper finds her way'

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

We were mildly alarmed when our black Labrador retriever, Pepper, lost her appetite.

When the vet diagnosed diabetes and prescribed twice-a-day insulin shots, we felt a bit stressed.

And we radiated even more stress when our pup's blood sugar just would not settle at a safe figure.

Glaucoma, a common diabetic side effect, added to our anxiety; and turned out it was warranted. We — my husband, Bryan, daughter Shelby and I — paced the floor and prayed as Pepper underwent surgery to remove her right eye.

Then we worried, more and more, as her left eye had recurring bouts of blindness as treatment for the glaucoma failed.

In great distress, we sat on the kitchen floor with our dog, all petting her as we struggled over whether to go with a last-ditch operation that might — but probably wouldn't — save the sight in that eye.

The other option was to relieve her pain for good by having that one removed, too, leaving her blind.

The vet said dogs tend to adapt pretty well to being blind — but what if she didn't, what if we were condemning her to walking into walls, doors, closets for the rest of her life?

It was a nightmare, those weeks and weeks of ever-ramping angst.

For us, Pepper's people, that is.

What did our dog do as we stressed and worried and agonized over her medical issues?

Pepper wagged her tail, wagged her tail, wagged her tail ...

Out dog already knew more about acceptance than we ever will.

Lesson in fortitude

But at least we paid attention.

Our pup was pretty inspiring, we marveled again and again as she endured that final surgery that left her blind for good, wearing the dreaded "cone of shame" for weeks and, as we'd feared, walked into walls, doors, closets ...

But always wagging her tail.

And before long, she figured it out, using nose, ears, whiskers to guide her, along with cues from



PHOTO BY SHAN MOORE

St. Joseph Sister Helen Hermann, principal at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh, takes a moment to pet Pepper, held by the dog's "dad," Bryan Moore. Along with the entire school, the Blind Pup Project's presentation was viewed by Lions Clubs International President Robert Corlew, who made a stop in Plattsburgh as part of an extensive U.S. tour. Pepper is mascot of the Plattsburgh Lions Club, promoting its vision and diabetes awareness programs.

us — step up, step down, right, left, CAREFUL (as she headed toward a wall, door, closet ...).

We should share Pepper's lesson in fortitude with others somehow, Bryan said one day. Shelby and I agreed.

And so we did.

Over the past year, Pepper has been petted by thousands of kids at schools, libraries and other places as part of her Blind Pup Project and as mascot of the Plattsburgh Lions Club. She promotes the club's vision and diabetes-awareness programs and shares her two mottos: When life gets "ruff" keep wagging your tail, and I'm not my disability, I'm ME.

Shelby and I wrote a children's book that I also illustrated, "Pepper Finds Her Way," that we read to the kids; Pepper's tail is wagging on every page.

God's presence

Every single presentation leaves us with full hearts and a deep sense of gratitude that we have been entrusted with this dog and with the privilege of sharing her with others.

We see flashes of God's presence in the bond

that quickly unites kids and canines.

And in the innocence and sweetness that comes of that interaction.

At each presentation, I tell the children several things about Pepper — that she snores, bites her nails, loves carrots, swimming and playing tug ...

Then I say, almost as an aside, that she's blind. "Do you know why I didn't tell you that first?" I ask, working up to the "I'm not my disability" message.

"Because you don't want to hurt her feelings?" a little voice will ask.

"Can Peppa come play with us?" a 4-year-old girl asked after a recent story time at Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro.

At a school for children who are developmentally disabled a few weeks ago, a teenage boy who is deaf "heard" Pepper's story from a woman who signed the words to him.

And as we were leaving, he looked down at the dog, his fingers working.

He was signing to Pepper, I realized with a pang. "See you later," he told her.

Acceptance

One time, a girl had been petting Pepper and talking to her for at least 15 minutes when she suddenly asked, "Where are her eyes?"

We explained Pepper didn't have them anymore, and the child recoiled.

But within seconds, it clearly didn't matter anymore, as the girl resumed her petting.

She got it! Pepper's blindness isn't who she is! Most children take it completely in stride.

"She gots no eyes," one 3-year-old observed conversationally at a library story hour.

Some feel sad about it, which is when we remind them about Pepper's wagging tail.

"Don't feel sorry for me," we translate for them. "I'm just fine."

Again, it's about acceptance.

As a woman at a mental-health support group session in Plattsburgh observed during a Blind Pup visit, "If you can't be completely healed, you can live where you are."

But there's more to it.

Our dog did run into doors, walls, find herself in the closet instead of the living room — adjusting to blindness wasn't simply flipping senior switches from eyes to nose and ears.

But still wagging her tail, Pepper didn't give up.

She's a dogged dog, her storybook says. And she mastered a new way to see that even allows her to go down stairs by herself.

Which she does every morning, taking herself into the kitchen beside her dog dish, where she barks for breakfast.

Just like any other dog.

How blessed we are to have her.

(The views expressed in this column are not necessarily the views of the Plattsburgh Lions Club.)

Editor's note

To learn how to book a free visit from Pepper and the Blind Pup Project or to order copies of "Pepper Finds Her Way," at \$10 each with every penny going to Lions Club programs, contact Shan Moore at 518 570-2052 or blindpupproject@yahoo.com. Follow Blind Pup Project on Facebook and Twitter.

God bless our teachers

Longtime teachers reflect on the joys and challenges of teaching in Catholic schools

Teaching at Seton: a gift



Susan Bleeker, a teacher in the Plattsburgh Catholic school system since 1984, is shown with her current class at Seton Academy. She says that teaching in Catholic schools is "the heart of who I am."

PLATTSBURGH - At the encouragement of her mother, Susan Bleeker applied to St. Peter's School in Plattsburgh in 1984.

"At that time, I really had no thought of teaching in a Catholic school," she said. "Public school jobs were not easily available at that time. I didn't enjoy working as a substitute, so I thought this was a good place to start.

"Little did I know that my place to start would become my life's work, as well as the heart of who I am," Ms. Bleeker said.

"During my years in Catholic schools, (St. Peter's and Seton Academy) my faith has grown more than I should admit," she said.

Over the past 32 years, she has taught students in grades two, three, four and five and also worked as the school's librarian and technology teacher.

The years have been filled with both joys and challenges. "I've had the privilege of working with hundreds of amazing students and their families," she said. "It is the students and their families that keep me energized, and wanting to continue to teach."

"The concerns I have are few, but serious," Ms. Bleeker said. "With each Catholic school that closes, a choice in education is taken away... a choice we cannot afford to lose. Another concern is our pay and retirement. As my retirement nears, that reality is staring me in the face.

"Yet knowing all of this, I have not been dissuaded," she said. "I stand by my choice to be a Catholic school teacher. These years have been a gift I would not exchange for anything."

'I love coming to work every day'

My name is Shannon Margrey. I am currently finishing my 16th year at Augustinian Academy in Carthage. For the first 12 years I taught seventh and eighth grade ELA (English Language Arts), social studies, and health, and seventh grade religion. For the last four years I have taught grades five through eighth ELA, seventh grade religion, and seventh and eighth grade health.

I applied to teach at Augustinian Academy because I loved the school. As a graduate of CAA and then IHC, I felt a strong desire to share my positive experiences with the students in a Catholic school. Augustinian feels like a family and you can definitely feel that the minute you walk into the building. I wanted an opportunity to work in a smaller setting and really get to know my students and their families.

Augustinian feels like a family and you can definitely feel that the minute you walk into the building

Getting to know them outside of the classroom through various extracurricular activities helps develop stronger relationships which then translates to stronger performance in the classroom. When they see how much extra time the teachers are willing to put in, it inspires them to greater effort. I also enjoy sharing my faith and watching my students mature into strong members of their parish.

I have stayed at a Catholic school simply because I love coming to work every day. Even though the members of the faculty are very different from each other, we get along and create a great support system for each other. Whether it is the veteran teachers who just need to know you can help if they need you, or a new teacher feeling overwhelmed by entering a new environment, the entire faculty is there to support you.

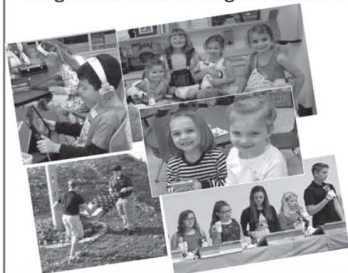
I especially enjoy the small team of teachers I work most closely with. They help share the burden of larger projects. Although between the four of us we have 93 combined years of experience teaching at Augustinian Academy, we are constantly challenging each other to do better.

We work hard to keep up on current changes in education and devise new ways to implement more challenging curriculum in our middle school classrooms. We are always looking for new programs to add that will keep us competitive with area public schools and entice parents to choose Augustinian Academy for their students.

My greatest joys as a Catholic school teacher are many. I love watching my students learn and mature, eventually leaving us to become leaders in their high schools and beyond. I especially enjoy hearing from them about

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Bright Smiles and Bright Futures at ST. MARY'S SCHOOL



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GOD BLESS OUR TEACHERS

‘I truly believe Trinity is where God needs me’

By Heather Doe
Trinity Catholic School, Massena

I chose to apply at a Catholic School because I firmly believe in not only the quality of education that is offered but in the opportunity to partner with families to help build a strong faith filled foundation for each child.

Our mission at Trinity Catholic School in Massena is to promote spiritual, academic and personal growth in an environment of Christian love. I truly believe that Trinity is where God needs me to be. I believe in this mission 100% and strive each day to do my part in making it a reality.

The children I have had the privilege of teaching and getting to know over the years have been one of my greatest rewards in life. I hope that I have taught them as much as they have taught me over the years!

I am also truly blessed that my own children had the opportunity to benefit from a Catholic school education. Their teachers (also my coworkers) did an amazing job fostering a love of not only learning academics but a deeper understanding and love for their God while they attended TCS. I will be forever grateful to each and



Heather Doe started her teaching career in 1996 at St. Mary's School in Canton and has been a first grade teacher at Trinity Catholic in Massena since 2000. She is pictured with her current class.

every one of them.

My greatest joys throughout the years have been seeing my students achieve their personal best while they are in my classroom. One of my fondest memories, is when one of my students a few years ago was able to read a copy of a chil-

dren's prayer that I had hanging in my classroom.

When he first came to me in September, he was reading well below the level that he should be reading at. On a very hot day in June, while all of the other children were sitting in front of the windows and fans trying to cool off, this little guy stood in front of the poster in the back of my room. When I went over to see what he was doing, he told me that he was "trying real hard to read the words."

It wasn't easy for him to do, and there was a lot of sounding out and looks of reassurance, but he did read that prayer with minimal help from me. The smile on his face when he was finished was priceless; I am just so glad that I had the opportunity to share that moment with him.

I began my teaching career in 1996 teaching at St. Mary's School, in Canton. My first year there, I taught fifth and sixth grade social studies, sixth grade ELA and as Well as pre-kindergarten in the afternoons on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It was a challenging first year, but I loved it. The next two years, I taught sixth grade and then finally ending my time there teaching second.

In 2000, I was hired at Trinity Catholic School, in Massena for a first grade position and have been loving it ever since!

Augustinian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

their academic and athletic achievements and how much they enjoyed their time at Augustinian. I also enjoy watching the older students interact with the younger ones. Because we are a PreK-8 building, the middle schoolers have many opportunities to plan activities for the younger students. It is great to see how patient and kind they are, no matter how many activities we make them do!

My final joy is the people I work with. I can't say enough what a great group of people they are. Working with dedicated educators who share the same goal for our school family is one of my favorite things about working at Augustinian.

As in any Catholic school, my greatest concern is always enrollment. Our school has been around for more than 130 years and it is a constant battle to keep enough students in the school to make it good financial sense to stay open. It is also a related concern keeping current and competitive on a limited budget. If we can't keep up on current changes in technology and resources parents may choose to send their children elsewhere.

My final concern is likely faced by every long time teacher in a Catholic school – what will I do if my school closes? Augustinian Academy has been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. My mother has taught here for 39 years and will soon take over as principal. I have been a part of the school community in some form since I was seven years old. Being here every day and teaching the students in front of me as a Catholic educator is a large part of who I am as a person, and I'm not sure what I would do if it was gone.

After 16 years, St. Mary's has 'become a family to me'

CANTON – After teaching fifth graders at St. Mary's School in Canton for 16 years, Cindy Niles says that the "school has become like a family to me."

"When I first decided to pursue my career as a teacher, I prayed to God for guidance," she said. "I have always wanted to teach in a small and family oriented school. God guided me to St. Mary's School."

"I was a substitute teacher in a public school for many years, but the atmosphere of friendliness was not the same," Ms. Niles said. "At St. Mary's I am allowed to practice my faith and I am able to share that faith with my students. I believe teaching at a Catholic School is my calling."

During her career at St. Mary's, she has found that her greatest joys have been the students.

"The eagerness to learn

and the expression on their faces when they have mastered a concept is priceless," she said. "I feel proud and elated when I see my students' names on the honor roll or high honor roll as they continue their education after leaving our school."

"One of my concerns is how people do not always recognize the importance of our faith and how our faith is integrated into our daily lives," she said.

In addition to her work with fifth graders, she also

teaches religion to the sixth grade students.

"I enjoy their questions about the Catholic faith," she said. "And, I also feel blessed that they feel comfortable with me to ask questions about topics they might not understand."


"Teaching at a Catholic School has made me stronger in my own faith as I learn along with my students," she said.

"Believing in God's Divine Providence led me to St. Mary's School," she said.

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A message from the papal nuncio to the United States:

'Pay close attention to pope's words, actions'

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the United States, gets plenty of questions about Pope Francis.

A March 27 discussion at Georgetown University, sponsored by the university's Initiative on Catholic

Social Thought and Public Life, was no exception. The nuncio, who sat onstage with John Carr, the initiative's director, was asked about the pope's key issues and his impact in the four years since his election.

Instead of emphasizing the pope's special qualities or accomplishments, Archbishop Pierre, who has been in the Vatican diplomatic corps for

almost 40 years, stressed how Catholics are called to view the pope and essentially work with him in the mission of spreading the Gospel.

He told the audience, nearly filling a campus auditorium, that it is not a question of whether the pope is good or bad or if one agrees with him or not. The issue, for Catholics, is to discern

what the Holy Spirit is saying through the pope.

"We have to pay a lot of attention to the person of the pope and to his message and to his testimony because the pope is not just words but he is also actions and actions that are powerful words," the nuncio said.

Archbishop Pierre, who was appointed to the U.S. post by Pope Francis last April, would not comment on the pope's approval ratings compared to politicians nor would he address the current political climate, but he stressed that one's personal faith can't be separated from daily life and that people need to use discernment in civic duties like voting.

When asked about care for migrants in today's world, he said Christians should be the "soul of this country" and Catholics should follow the example of Pope Francis who goes out to the borders and reaches out to those who are broken and those who suffer.

"The church is in the business of evangelization," he added, saying this works best when the church "goes outside herself" to meet people where they are. And in a pointed statement to this country, he added: If America is the center of the world then it has "a huge responsibility to help others."

When the nuncio was joined on stage by other panelists, they reiterated the importance of the pope's message that has come across just as much from his actions as his words.

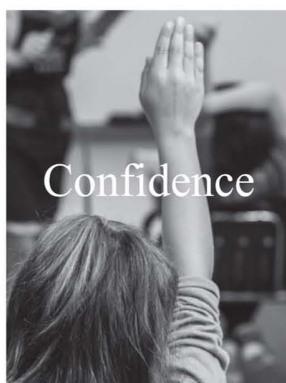
To sum up the pope's mes-

sage to Catholics today, Ken Hackett, former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See and former president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, looks to the example of the pope's visit to the United States in 2015 where the pope's presence, in front of Congress and with the poor, and his words at each stop made Catholics proud of their faith.

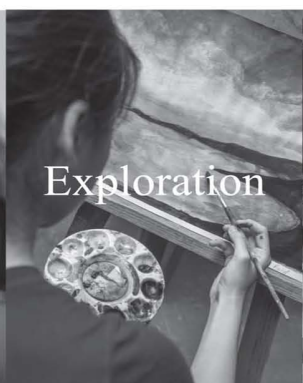
Kim Daniels, a member of the Vatican's Secretariat for Communications, said the pope's message has resonated not just with Catholics but also with those who have heard him even through social media. She said he has made the call to live out one's faith "something that's concrete and not abstract" and something "we can do right here, right now, where we are."

For Maria Teresa Gaston, managing director of the Foundations of Christian Leadership Program at the Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, the pope has been clearest on his message of community, telling people, including "those who are undocumented: You are loved and valued."

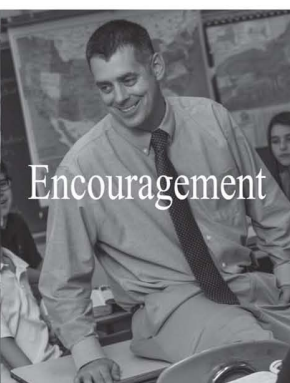
She also points to his message to youths at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013 as something that still resonates with her. He told the crowd "not to be afraid, to take risks and to be courageous" stressing they should prepare for "courageous and prophetic action in solidarity with the earth and with the poor."



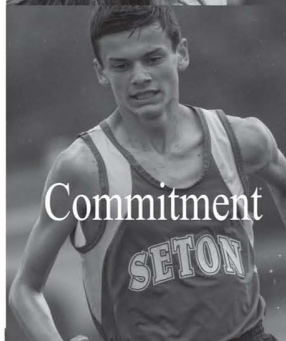
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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bill passes to let states redirect funds away from abortion clinics

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Senate voted late March 30 to override a rule change made by in the last days of the Obama administration that prevented states from redirecting Title X family planning funding away from clinics that performed abortions and to community clinics that provide comprehensive health care. "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.

Child protection group seeks new ways to be informed by victims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Following the resignation of a prominent member and abuse survivor, a pontifical commission charged with addressing issues related to clergy sex abuse vowed to continue to seek input from victims and survivors. The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors said the resignation of Marie Collins was a "central topic" of its March 24-26 plenary assembly, and it "expressed strong support for her continuing work" to promote healing for abuse victims and ensuring best practices for prevention. "Commission members have unanimously agreed to find new ways to ensure its work is shaped and informed with and by victims/survivors. Several ideas that have been successfully implemented elsewhere are being carefully considered for recommendation to the Holy Father," the commission said in a March 26 statement. Among the main concerns addressed was outreach out to victims, an issue first raised by Collins shortly after she resigned from her position. In an editorial published online March 1 by National Catholic Reporter, Collins said an unnamed dicastery not only refused to respond to letters from victims, it also refused to cooperate on the commission's safeguarding guidelines.

Bishops urge bipartisan approach on health care reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Now that lawmakers have withdrawn the American Health Care Act, Congress must "seize this moment to create a new spirit of bipartisanship" and make "necessary reforms" in existing health care law to address access, affordability, life and conscience, said three U.S. bishops' committee chairmen. The GOP bill was removed from consideration by the House at the eleventh hour March 24 because its passage looked unlikely, as a number of lawmakers disagreed with several of its provisions as well as the process that led to the drafting of the bill. The measure "contained serious deficiencies, particularly in its changes to Medicaid, that would have impacted the poor and others most in need in unacceptable ways," the bishops said in a joint letter to Congress dated March 30 and released March 31 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. But the committee chairmen also said that withdrawal of the bill "must not end our nation's efforts to improve health care." The letter was signed by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty; and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

VATICAN LETTER

No secret: Last three popes share close bond to Fatima

By Junno Arocho
Esteves Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Recent popes have had a special affection for Our Lady of Fatima, but no pope's connection can match that of St. John Paul II.

"We cannot forget that he was saved by Our Lady of Fatima from the assassination attempt here in St. Peter's. This is fundamental and central. It is never forgotten," Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, told Catholic News Service March 29.

Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, shot Pope John Paul at close range as the pope was greeting a crowd in St. Peter's Square on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 1981. Two bullets pierced the pope's abdomen, but no major organs were struck; a bullet had missed his heart and aorta by a few inches.

St. John Paul would later say, "It was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path."

That miracle, the cardinal said, is key in "understanding well Pope John Paul's devotion to Our Lady of Fatima."

Given the date of the assassination attempt, the pope credited Our Lady of Fatima with his miraculous survival and recovery. Several months later, he visited the site of the apparitions, the first of three visits he would make as pope to Fatima.

For St. John Paul, Cardinal Saraiva Martins said, "Our Lady of Fatima was everything," and his three visits to the Portuguese town were those of a grateful son to the mother who saved his life.

"I still remember - I'll never forget it -- when he arrived at the little chapel of the apparitions where (the statue of) Our Lady of Fatima was," Cardinal Saraiva Martins recalled. St. John Paul was holding one of the bullets that had struck him and slowly approached the statue, finally placing the bullet in her crown, he said. "It is still in the crown today. I witnessed these gestures, how he expressed his devotion to Our Lady. He would just walk closer and closer to Our Lady and would repeat: 'You saved me, you saved me.'"

As the prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes from 1998 to 2008, Cardinal Saraiva Martins also oversaw the process leading to the beatification by St. John Paul of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, two of the three young shepherd children, who saw Mary at Fatima.

The cardinal also shared a personal friendship with the third seer, Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, who died in 2005.

It was Cardinal Saraiva Martins who, two years after Sister Lucia's death, urged Pope Benedict XVI to waive the five-year waiting period before her sainthood cause could be opened.

Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is emblematic of the popes of the last century who have 'always recognized' the relevance of Mary's message, particularly its emphasis on faith, conversion, hope and peace

Pope Benedict, the cardinal added, was a "great devotee" of Our Lady of Fatima, even before his election to the papacy.

Interviewed in his apartment near St. Peter's Square, Cardinal Saraiva Martins grabbed a copy of part of the interview then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger did in 1985 with Vittorio Messori, an Italian journalist.

"Before becoming pope, he said: 'A stern warning has been launched from that place ... a summons to the seriousness of life, of history, to the perils that threaten humanity,'" the cardinal read.

The special papal bond with Our Lady of Fatima continues today with Pope Francis, who as archbishop of Buenos Aires, was a frequent visitor to a shrine in the Argentine city devoted to her, Cardinal Saraiva Martins said. Pope Francis will visit Fatima May 12-13 to mark the 100th anniversary of the apparitions.

The cardinal recalled Pope Francis' "beautiful" words to Portuguese-speaking pilgrims on May 13, 2015, the 98th anniversary of the apparition: "Entrust to her all that you are, all that you have, and in that way you will be able to become an instrument of the mercy and tenderness of God to your family, neighbors and friends."

"This an example of the words of Pope Francis, so he is a great devotee of Fatima," the cardinal said. "And for this reason, he will go to Fatima. For him, it will be an extraordinary day in which he will fulfill this great desire that has been expressed in so many ways."

Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is emblematic of the popes of the last century who have "always recognized" the relevance of Mary's message, particularly its emphasis on faith, conversion, hope and peace, the cardinal said.

"Today we need faith, to be closer to God and our brothers and sisters -- not hate each other -- we need hope and we need peace," Cardinal Saraiva Martins said. "In short, the message of Fatima given 100 years ago is of extreme relevance."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Entering the holiest week of the year

The waving of palm branches and the cries of "Hosanna to the King!" usher in the holiest week of the year.

The full drama begins with the crowd's fickle acclaim of Jesus as King for a day. It is a foreshadowing of the blasphemous mockery the soldiers will hurl at our thorn-crowned Saviour a few days later.

And yet, for a few hours we can raise our voices joyfully with the crowd, linking the honor given him, especially by the children, with His ultimate victory beyond the grave. We wonder and rejoice as the veil is raised to permit a glimpse of Jesus, the Messiah-King and liberator.

But then, as the Palm Sunday Mass proceeds, the horrors of the Passion are proclaimed and we must, with reluctance, raise our voices with the crowd clam-

oring "Crucify Him!".

Today's events were all foretold thousands of years ago. The first reading from Isaiah, one of the four Suffering Servant oracles written at the time of the Babylonian captivity, speaks of a courageous and obedient messiah-figure who says, "I have set my face like flint" against the beatings and scourging that lie ahead,

"knowing that I shall not be put to shame".

The second reading from Philippians reminds us of Jesus' total emptying out of his divinity in order that he might identify Himself with the lowest criminal being led to his execution, "obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross".

The Church is a master of drama in the liturgies of this week. Through the use of lay readers for the Passion and the voices of the con-

gregation, we all become part of the action. Most feel embarrassed to cry "Crucify Him" with the palm branches still in their hands. It reminds us of our own fickle response and our lack of courage in responding to His love and truth. Yet we know that it was the sins of us all which brought Jesus to Calvary.

The Passion narrative of Matthew emphasizes the great humility of Jesus, the King. It's the only Gospel to tell us in detail of what happened in Jerusalem at the hour Jesus gave up His Spirit. — the sanctuary veil torn in two, the earth quaking, rocks split, and dead saints rising from their graves and entering Jerusalem.

It's the fulfillment of all the prophecies of thousands of years before. It also tells us more fully of the betrayal by Judas, the denial of Peter, the hearings before Caiaphas and Pilate—the awful scourging by the Roman soldiers, the thorny crown

APRIL 9

Palm Sunday of the Passion

READINGS

At the Procession of the Palms:

Matthew 21:1-11

At Mass:

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

a tragic lesson to all religions, even to the present day. That these leaders scandalized their own people, making them agents of falsehood, is another warning to those of unwary and careless piety. How easily the righteous can be lulled into blind activity that can do harm!

We wonder if any of the many that Jesus healed in his journeys were among those crying out against Him. The Passion narrative is the most powerful story ever written about the sacrifice of innocence to evil, and the blind consent of crowds to those in power.

Holy Week is all about Jesus suffering for our inadequacies and for our very real sins. Holy Week is a time for us to realize what we're really like, and to find that the only remedy for our pains and fears is love. Are we ready to join our own pains and fears to the Master's, and to add as much love as we can possibly muster to His limitless love?



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

PURSUING JUSTICE

Standing against... physician assisted suicide

This is the second 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 opposition to physician assisted suicide

Background

Since the 2014 death of former Californian and brain cancer patient Brittany Maynard, at least 29 states have seriously considered the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide. It has been authorized in only five states and the District of Columbia.

The vast majority of states, and professional medical associations, continue to reject physician-assisted suicide.

New York State has specifically been targeted by the assisted suicide advocacy

group Compassion & Choices as fertile ground for legalization, and the organization is aggressively pushing its legislation, S.3151 Savino/A.2383 Paulin.

Messages

- Legalizing assisted suicide will lead to psychological, financial and other pressures for vulnerable persons to end their lives. Elderly persons, depressed persons, low-income persons, and persons with disabilities will be most at risk of undue pressure, coercion and abuses under the law.

- It will undermine the physician's role as healer, forever alter the doctor-patient relationship, and lessen the quality of care

provided to patients at the end of life. Both the American Medical Association and the Medical Society of the State of New York hold policy positions against physician-assisted suicide.

- It will blur longstanding medical, moral and legal distinctions between withdrawing extraordinary medical assistance and taking active steps to destroy human life. The former removes burdensome or useless treatments, allowing nature to take its course, and allowing the patient to either live or die. The latter is the deliberate and direct act of taking a patient's life.

- Rather than assisting suicide, government should be consistent in its efforts

to prevent suicide. It is illogical for the state to promote/facilitate suicide for one group of persons — calling the suicides of those with a terminal illness and a specific prognosis "dignified and humane," while recognizing suicide as a serious statewide public health concern in all other circumstances.

- The legislation contains many flaws, for example, there is no required mental health evaluation, no witness or physician required at the time of death, no proper disposal procedures for unused lethal barbiturates, and no safeguards from coercion and abuse at the time the drugs are ingested.

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AT THE MOVIES

GHOST IN THE SHELL

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

"Ghost in the Shell" (Paramount), director Rupert Sanders' murky, boring adaptation of a series of comics by Masamune Shirow, offers little beyond glitzy futuristic cityscapes. This live-action version of Shirow's sci-fi-themed manga - first published in 1989 and previously the inspiration for two animated features - is also somewhat exploitative.

Its heroine, Major (Scarlett Johansson), a hybrid warrior whose human brain has been implanted into the body of a robot, has a fondness for fighting in the nude that must have gone down well when the film was being pitched, but puts it off-limits for kids.

The fact that Major's synthetic skin is something between a patchwork of eggshells and a smoothed over version of Johansson's physique does tamp down the voyeurism factor for grown-ups, however. They may be more distracted by the seemingly endless mayhem with which the movie is packed.

Gunplay, explosions and martial arts bravado attend Major's duel with Kuze (Michael Pitt), an elusive killer who wants to bring down the Hanka Corporation, the company that produced her. She gets backup in her battles from gruff comrade Batou (Pilou Asbaek) and, during her down time, draws emotional support from Dr. Ouelet (Juli-

ette Binoche), the physician who supervised her creation.

The dialogue occasionally explores the nature of humanity under the threat of encroaching technology. But the script gets muddled by its own materialism, identifying the soul (or "ghost"), for instance, exclusively with the brain.

A vaguely sensual get-together with a woman who may or may not be a street-walker, the flesh of whose face Major enviously examines, might be meant to show us Major's alienation from her new "shell." On the other hand, since an encounter of a more intimate nature might be surmised to follow the scene, though nothing of the sort is actually depicted, this might be of a piece with Major's tendency to shimmy out of her clothes.

Screenwriters Jamie Moss, William Wheeler and Ehren Kruger take a stab at an anti-war message by way of the tension between Hanka executive Cutter (Peter Ferdinando), who sees Major strictly as a weapon, and

Ouelet, who insists she amounts to more than just a killing machine. The peace theme fails to hit home, though, if only because the tumultuous action consuming most of the film is so completely at odds with it.

Similarly, the implicit critique of capitalism underlying the friction between profit-driven Cutter and the more responsible figure of Aramaki (Takeshi Kitano), the head of the anti-terrorism squad for which Major works, amounts to no more than a feint. In dealing with all these subjects, Moss and company serve up lines that are meant to sound like pearls of wisdom but land instead like lumps of lead.

The film contains pervasive stylized violence with little gore, torture, a suicide, occasional rear and upper as well as a glimpse of full female nudity in a nonsexual context, crude and crass language, and 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.



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Scarlett Johansson stars in a scene from the movie "Ghost in the Shell."

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CLINTON

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Lyon Mountain – All you can eat breakfast to be held on Palm Sunday.

Date: April 9
Time: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Place: American Fire Station
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free
Features: 50/50 tickets on sale. Take-out will be available.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY RIGHT TO LIFE

Plattsburgh – The next meeting for Champlain Valley Right to Life is set

Date: April 6
Time: 8:45 a.m.
Place: Cafeteria of OLV Parish Center
Features: Discussion on ways to promote a greater respect for human life. The Good Friday Prayer Service in front of Planned Parenthood will be discussed. Meetings last no more than one hour.

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.

PAINT AND SIP

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

Date: April 5
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Cost: \$30 payable at the door includes all instruction and supplies, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

LENTEN ADORATION

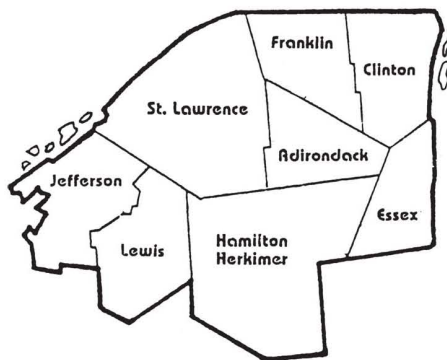
Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Features: Concludes April 11 with Benediction at 7 p.m.

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.
Cost: \$10
Contact: Register on-line at RCDONY.org.



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.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

Ticonderoga – The Annual St. Mary's Summer Gala Dinner Dance and Silent Auction has been planned

Details: Set for July 21 starting at 6 p.m., at the Burgoyne Grill located at the Best Western. DJ Jim Burgey will provide music. Details to follow

FRANKLIN

SUGAR ON SNOW BRUNCH

Chasm Falls – The third annual Sugar on Snow brunch to be held.

Date: April 9
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: St. Helen's Hall
Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children 5-10, \$5; under 5 Free
Contact: call 518-483-1300

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 Chant 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.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

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

Date: April 9
Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

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

Contact: Inquiries can be made at the parish office at (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 9 and 23
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Bartholomew's Rectory
Features: Reflection, Vespers & dinner. Juniors in high school and older.

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

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

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: April 8
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAY

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

Date: April 14
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Church
Features: A dramatic multi-media presentation of the Passion and Death of the Lord, through the use of special lighting, inspirational music, drama, and soul searching meditations, 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

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

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

Springtime: new beginning

By Molly M. Ryan
Diocesan Mission Office

April is here. April brings the showers that bring the flowers. The warmer, longer days are finally upon us too. Rejoice! You survived another winter that seemed to never end, like so many that have come before it. Soon, our schools will be on their spring break.

This is a time for children to have a break from the daily responsibilities of school, homework, sports and clubs. It is also time for parents to get quality time with their children possibly on a trip or excursion.

Last but not least, the educators, teachers, administrators and their hard-working staffs get to regroup, rest and enjoy a well-deserved break from school too.

The calendar hints that another school year will end before we can say "final exams". Students and teachers are preparing for such wonderful milestones like First Communion and Confirmation. These blessed events as Catholics bring families together, make parents proud and help us share that commonality of Catholicism's joy, spirituality and love of Jesus.

As we look to Holy Week, let us keep in our thoughts and prayers our children, schools and educators especially the children in our Catholic Schools and Religious Education programs. Let us remember the teachers, volunteers, priests and religious that guide our children on their way and navigate them through turbulent waters and serene surroundings alike.

Education is the most basic thing that we instill in our children from the time they are born. From day one, children are learning to eat, crawl, and do things on their own. It takes a village to get each child out into the world. Celebrate all those that help to raise each child. Show gratitude for what we can often take for granted: organized and funded education systems.

The Mission Lands do not have the luxury of schools, books and teachers who are educated and enlightened. But with the help of the Church and organizations like Missionary Childhood Association, MCA, things are improving, thriving and taking off. Cherish your children and all they are able to advantage of here.

As Spring brings promise for new beginnings like Sacraments and graduations, we also hope for good things to come in the Mission Lands, with the help of our children making a world of difference here. Pray that an abundance of hope, faith, joy and love will help all of God's children receive the education they deserve.

Thank you to our Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs here in our Diocese for all you do! God Bless!

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

OBITUARIES

Adams – Edwin J. Smith, 79; Funeral Services April 1, 2017 at the Pidcock Funeral Home.

AuSable Forks – Marie "Elaine" (Annunziato) Amato, 75; Funeral Services April 1, 2017 at Holy Name Church.

Canton – Floyd A. Firman, 77; Funeral Services March 27, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage – Ken Tabolt; Funeral Services March 25, 2017 at St. James Church.

Chateaugay – Homer LaValley, 91; Funeral Services March 30, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Claire A. (Longtin) Bowman, 64; Funeral Services April 19, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Dannemora – William E. Donahue, 91; Funeral March 27, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ellenburg – James "Jim" H. Bilow, 85; Funeral Services March 30, 2017 at St. Edmund's Church.

Ellenburg – Paul L. Lagree, 72; Funeral Services March 28, 2017 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery, Churubusco.

Hammond – Roberta W. Evans, 76; Funeral Services April 1, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Rossie.

Gouverneur – Patricia D. "Patty" (Holt) Bigarel, 73; Funeral Services March 30, 2017 at French Funeral Home; burial in East Riverside Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Sheila M. (Lenahan) Durkin, 86; Funeral Services April 3, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in Mt. Calvary

Cemetery, Cheektowaga.

Louisville – Raymond A. Legault, 81; Funeral Services April 1, 2017 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Lowville – Theresa Amiable, 73; Funeral Services March 29, 2017 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Malone – Doris Lauber; Funeral Services March 16, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

Malone – Dorothy M. (Trumble) Robert, 91; Funeral Services March 29, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Moors – Rosemarie (Reinwarth) Miller, 77; Funeral Services March 30, 2017 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Pierrette S. (Fiset) Gagnon, 84; Funeral Services March 29, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – P. Margaret (Rheume) Nobel, 89; Funeral Services March 28, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.

Ogdensburg – Mary M. (Limoges) Senecal, 69; Funeral Services March 31, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Richard Zerrahn; Memorial Services April 1, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Walter A. "Sonny" Blahut,

70; Funeral Services April 3, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Louise M. Brushnefski, 95; Funeral Services March 30, 2017 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

Plattsburgh – Helene F. (Martin) LeClair, 95; Funeral March 31, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – John W. Sorrell, 80; Funeral Services March 29, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

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

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

Theresa – April M. Thompson-O'Dett, 30; Funeral Services March 30, 2017 at St. Theresa of Avila Church.

Watertown – James C. Brett, 85; Funeral Services June 1, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – John F. "Jack" Killen Jr., 91; Funeral March 30, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Patrick J. Lawler, 48; Funeral Services March 31, 2017 at Holy Family Church.

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



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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Date: April 23

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

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

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

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

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish and shrimp Fry to be held.

Date: April 14

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

Place: St. James School

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

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

ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 11

Place: Parish Center

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: April 2 and 23, May 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Features: Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.

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



PHOTO BY SISTER MARY EAMON LYNG, SSJ

St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald and the SSJ Social Justice Committee presented a program March 26 on the importance of water. Vicky Murphy, City of Watertown Plant Supervisor, shared how every drop of water counted. She gave the audience a variety of ways of how to conserve water. Cathy Moore, pictured above, Fort Drum Program Leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County, explained that water is a key element to our everyday health. Jay Mattison, pictured at left, Jefferson County Agricultural Consultant, cited with statistics how important water is in agriculture in and around Watertown.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 through www.rcdony.org/camp.

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

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

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 all 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

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: Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a weekend in the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through 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.html>



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