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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 7

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 17, 2017

Mary teaches people to hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Mary, like many mothers throughout the world, is an example of strength and courage in accepting new life and in sharing the suffering of their children, Pope Francis said.

Although she had no idea of what awaited her when she accepted to bear God's

son, "Mary in that instant appears to us like one of the many mothers in our world, courageous to the extreme," the pope said May 10 at his weekly general audience.

Her motherly love and courage is seen again at the foot of the cross, he said, where "she teaches us the

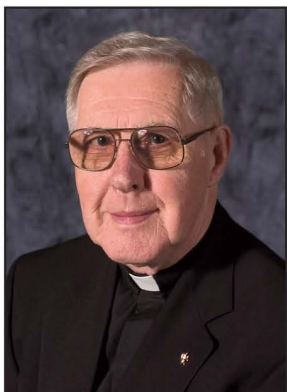
virtue of waiting even when everything appears meaningless.

Just a few days before he was to visit Fatima, Portugal, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions there and as people in many countries were preparing to celebrate

Mother's Day, Pope Francis used his audience talk to focus on Mary and hope.

"We are not orphans, we have a mother in heaven," Pope Francis said. "In difficult moments, may Mary, the mother that Jesus has given to us all, always guide our steps."

Rest in Peace, Father John Cosmic, 94



Fr. Cosmic

FULL STORY, PAGE X

New clergy assignments

Bishop LaValley announces two new pastors, a first assignment and Msgr. Deno's retirement

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

CALLED TO HOLINESS



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Father Todd E. Thibault, left, and Msgr. John R. Murphy join Bishop Terry R. LaValley in the celebration of Mass at the vocation ministry program held Nov. 5 in Norfolk. Vocation is the focus of this week's *North Country Catholic* as "the call of holiness" is explored from the perspective of a bishop, priest, married couple, deacons, religious Woman and a single man.

POPE FRANCIS IN FATIMA

Weekend pilgrimage



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis places flowers near a statue of Mary as he prays in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, May 12. The pope was making a two-day visit to Fatima to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions and to canonize two of the young seers. The visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima "is a bit special," he told reporters aboard his flight from Rome May 12. "It is a journey of prayer, an encounter with the Lord and the holy Mother of God."

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A NEW CONVENT: Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod coming to Cadyville, p. 4

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Called to holiness... called home

It's sad, though somehow fitting that we bid farewell to Father John Cosmic in the NCC's annual Vocation Issue.

Father Cosmic's vocation was a unique one since he was ordained about 40 years later than the typical seminarian. He had just passed his 67th birthday when Bishop Brzana laid hands on the new priest and then assigned him to serve as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral.

He also became a chaplain at the Ogdensburg Correctional

Facility, old enough to be a grandfather for the men to whom he ministered.



Mary Lou
Kilian

Later, Father Cosmic served as pastor in Port Leyden and Chaumont.

He retired, came back to work and retired again though still offering priestly service until he was no longer physically able.

During one of his post-retirement assignments, as administrator in his home parish in Deferiet, Father Cosmic had a profound effect on the life of a young man from Carthage.

Father Thomas Higman, who was ordained in 2012, and now serves as administrator in El-lenburg and Lyon Mountain, as well as associate vocation director for the diocese, shared this story about his friend:

During my senior year in high school, I had the ability on certain days to arrive late to school because of my schedule. Those days allowed me, as I discerned priesthood, to attend Daily Mass.

While the schedule in Carthage didn't always allow that, Father Cosmic's commitment to the daily celebration of the Eucharist made this possible. As this was the greatest

possible prayer to discern priesthood, Saint Rita's in Deferiet it was!

From there, a beautiful friendship and witness of priesthood began. This friendship was a tremendous support to my own vocation - to the day when we'd share an anniversary of Ordination on May 26th - and be able to celebrate the priesthood we would share forever!"

Father Cosmic certainly followed the call to holiness as a businessman, a priest and a friend. He will be surely be missed by young priests and old friends across the diocese.

Rest in peace, Father Cosmic.

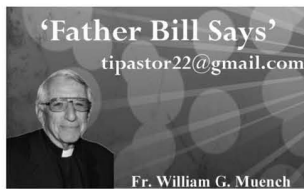
FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Called to holiness... as a deacon

Today, I would like to take a moment to honor personally the wonderful deacons of our diocese. I see them as a gift to so many parishes. They have added so much to the Church's ministry to the life of the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

This came to my mind through the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles from the Fifth Sunday of Easter which tells us of the choosing of the first deacons. The first Scripture reading at the Sunday Masses during the Easter Season is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is the book of the New Testament that describes the life and development of the early Christian community after the Resurrection of Jesus. The book was written by St. Luke - the same St. Luke who wrote one of the Gospels. The Book of the Acts gives us an excellent insight into the life of the people who were involved in the formation of the Church in those early years.

The story of the choosing of the first deacons goes like this: there were various needs and concerns of the earth Christian community that called for a restructuring of ministries. Up



to that time the Twelve had taken on the entire leadership. At the time of this event, the Twelve asked the community to choose a new group of leaders - calling them deacons. These deacons were asked to accept the task of the distribution of good to the members of the community in need. Then the Twelve were able to continue to dedicate themselves to the preaching of the Gospel.

Over time, the ordination for a deacon was a transitional ministry that led to priesthood. Then the Second Vatican Council prepared the way for the re-institution of the diaconate as a permanent ministry as well as continuing the transitional diaconate. This diaconate ministry is open to single and married men who are trained to be involved in the Church's ministry. These deacons can confer the Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage. They assist at Mass as well as serve in many

other forms of parish ministry.

Again, I want to use this opportunity to tell you how impressed I am with the many deacons I have worked with and known around the diocese. I have associated with deacons here in the North Country and in many other dioceses. I have found them to be very talented and most capable. I suspect you would agree with me.

Most of our deacons minister in the parish where they grew up. They know everybody - church goers and non-church goers. As a pastor I learned so much about my parish from the deacon who was well acquainted with the area.

I remember innumerable times I have observed the wonderful ministry of a deacon. I was truly impressed. I think of my own situation as being the pastor working with a deacon. I remember, for example, many parishioners would stop to visit our deacon - especially at times of difficulty or problems - because they felt more comfortable with the deacon who had also been their friend. Such a deacon is a gift to the parish and a trusted helper to the pastor.

There were times when a family would ask our deacon to

conduct a funeral service or speak at a funeral Mass. He knew the person well - even intimately. They had worked together, worked on community projects together and sometimes the deacon had been the coach of their grandchildren's Little League team.

In addition, the deacon conducted the funeral service of many who did not belong to any Church. Again, what a gift to a parish to have such a good deacon.

So, I offer my deep gratitude to the deacons of our diocese. You add so much to the ministry of our parishes. Your dedication is exceptional - I have seen you in action. Your life's work or career has brought unique capabilities to your ministry. Many of you continue to be employed and yet willingly give of yourselves to the ministry of your parish.

May I add one other gift these deacons bring to their ministry - that is those who are married. I am talking, of course, of your wives. I have been blessed to know and minister with many deacon's wives. They certainly bring so much to the ministry of their parishes and the ministry of their deacon husbands.

FOLLOW ME

Called to holiness... as a bishop

As I offer these thoughts about my personal response to the universal call to holiness as a bishop, I begin by recalling that the bishop is above all else, like every other Christian, a child of God and member of the Church.

All the faithful of Christ, regardless of status, are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity.

The Bishops at Vatican Council II taught: "...in the various types and duties of life, one and the same holiness is cultivated by all who are moved by the Spirit of God, and who obey the voice of the Father, worshipping God the Father in spirit and in truth" (*LG, 41*).

One of the early Church Fathers, St. Gregory of Nazianzen, so eloquently made the connection between personal holiness and episcopal ministry: "First be purified, and then purify others, first allow yourself to be instructed by wisdom, and then instruct others, first become light, and then enlighten others, first draw close to God, and then guide others to him, first be holy yourself, and then make others holy."

I simply cannot give what I do not possess. I must practice what I preach.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Pastores Gregis* (2003), St. John Paul II wrote: "Together with all the faithful, the bishop shares in the incomparable dignity of the children of God, a dignity to be lived out in communion and in a spirit of grati-



NCC FILE PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop LaValley during his April 30, 2010 ordination and installation as the 14th Bishop of Ogdensburg.

tude and fraternity. On the other hand, by virtue of the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders, the bishop is also the one who, before the faith-

ful, is teacher, sanctifier and shepherd, charged with acting in the name and in the person of Christ." (#10)

As your bishop, it is impossible for me to be your servant unless I am first a servant of God.

My spiritual journey, like that of every Christian, is rooted in the sacramental grace of Baptism and Confirmation. I share this grace in common with all the faithful.

As St. Augustine once wrote to his people: "... for you I am a bishop, with you I am a Christian."

With you, I need to nourish my spiritual life with the living and effective word of the Gospel. I remember well my episcopal ordination liturgy when the deacons placed the open Book of the Gospels on top of my head, a sign of my responsibility to be a man of the Word. I cannot be a credible witness of hope and joy without attentive listening to the Word of God and daily sharing the Living Bread of the Holy Eucharist.

A bishop's personal sanctification is pursued and realized in the exercise of his ministry, in all its many dimensions.

Amid my own weaknesses, I am called to live out my vocation to holiness, like everyone else, in a daily context of joys and challenges.

Thank God we have one another, fellow companions on this journey of faith, to challenge and to support us as we all seek to follow Him, Jesus Christ, our hope and our life.

Rites held Friday for Fr. John Cosmic, 94

CARTHAGE – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass of Christian Burial for Father John J. Cosmic, 94, May 12 at St. James Minor Church.

Father Cosmic died May 7 at the Vianney Hall of the St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. Burial was in St. Mary Our Mother Cemetery in Horseheads, New York.

Father Cosmic was born in Deferiet April 15, 1923, the son of the late Frank and Katherine Wojtorowicz Cosmic. He graduated in 1940 from Augustinian Academy in Carthage. He studied at the Watertown School of Commerce and Wadhams Hall Seminary before attending Le Moyne College where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1955.



Father Cosmic

In addition to nearly three decades working at IBM, Father Cosmic also worked at Remington Rand Corporation of Elmira and Swift and Company in Syracuse.

He served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946.

In 1979, he began studies for the diaconate at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, New York. After his retirement from IBM in 1983, he assumed fulltime duties as a deacon at St. Mary Our Mother parish in Horseheads.

During this time, Father Cosmic served as chaplain for the Southern Tier Legion Mary Curia and spiritual director for the Legion of Mary Praesidium of St. Mary Our Mother.

He returned to college

studies for the priesthood at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut and graduated with a Masters of Divinity.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana ordained Father Cosmic to the priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg May 26, 1990.

He celebrated his first Mass the following day at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

Father Cosmic returned to Ogdensburg to serve as parochial vicar for St. Mary's Cathedral and part-time chaplain at the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility.

In June of 1993, he was named pastor of St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and the nearby mission St. John's Church in Lyons Falls. In 1995, he became pastor of All Saints Church in Chaumont.

Upon his 1998 retirement, Father Cosmic remained at

All Saints as Pastor Emeritus. He continued serving parishes as administrator during retirement including St. Francis Solanus Church of Harrisville and St. Henry's Church of Natural Bridge in 2000 and in 2002 St. Paul's Church in Black River and, the parish of his youth, St. Rita's Church in Deferiet. From 2005 to 2011, Father Cosmic served as special parochial vicar at St. James Minor Church in Carthage. In

2013, he moved to Vianney Hall at the Motherhouse in Watertown.

Father Cosmic is predeceased by his brothers Edward and Joseph and his sisters Vickie, Stella and Mary and survived by nieces and nephews and their children as well as numerous cousins.

Memorial donations may be made to Augustinian Academy in Carthage or the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown.

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Sisters of the Cross to establish second community in the diocese

Called to holiness... as missionaries

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod will open a second convent in the Diocese of Ogdensburg this summer. The Sisters of the Cross first came to the diocese from India in July 2009.

Bishop Robert Cunningham invited the Sisters to establish a convent in the diocese after extensive dialogue between members of the diocese and the religious order.

Msgr. John Murphy, then Moderator of the Curia for the diocese, together with Father Arthur LaBaff, Dean of Jefferson Deanery, and Sister Ellen Donahue, Delegate for Religious, represented the diocese in these dialogues.

After several meetings with Sister Veronica Fernandez, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of the Cross, and Sister Eugene D'Souza, General Superior of the Sisters of the Cross, it was decided that the sisters would be a good fit for the diocese..

Sister Sheena arrives

The first Sister of the Cross to arrive in Watertown was Sister Sheena George Who came on July 29, 2009 and served as Catholic Chaplain at the Samaritan Medical Center under the direction of Father LaBaff.

During the early days of the sisters in the diocese, Sister Sheena lived at the Motherhouse at the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Mary Maria Flavia D'Costa and Sister Maria Angelica Reblo joined Sister Sheena in Watertown in December 2009.

The convent for the Sisters of the Cross was established at the former St Patrick's Rectory on Ives Street in Watertown. Sister Maria Flavia replaced Sister Sheena as hospital chaplain, and Sister Maria Angelica was assigned to Holy Family Church as a Pastoral Associate.

Currently, the convent of the Sisters of the Cross is lo-



In this July 2016 file photo, Bishop LaValley and Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, diocesan delegate for religious, are shown with members of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. From left, are Sister Jaquiline Seliappan, Sisters of the Cross, Watertown foundation, Sister Ellen, Sister Caroline Fernandes, provincial; Bishop Terry LaValley and Sister Eugene D'Souza, major superior of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. As a result of the fruitful dialogue of the meeting, a second convent of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod will open in Cadyville this summer.

cated at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown.

Pastoral associates, chaplains

There are four Sisters of the Cross currently serve in the Watertown area as pastoral associates and chaplains.

Sister Jaquiline Mary Sellappan serves at St. Anthony's Church and St. Patrick's Church as a Pastoral Associate.

Sister Maria Angelica Rebello serves as a Pastoral Associate at Holy Family Church, and Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa continues as Catholic Chaplain at Samaritan Medical Center.

Sister Rosy Soosaira, a registered nurse, works in the emergency room at Samaritan Medical Center and supplies support for the sisters in the convent.

"The Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod have been a blessing for our diocese," said Bishop LaValley. "They have served the people of the Watertown areas so well since their arrival in 2009. The sisters are deeply loved and appreciated by all in that community".

Further dialogue

In July 2016, Bishop LaValley invited further dialogue with the Sisters of the Cross.

Sister Caroline Fernandez, Provincial Superior of the Order, and Sister Eugene D'Souza, Superior General, traveled to Ogdensburg to meet with Bishop LaValley and Sister Ellen Donahue, the Delegate for Religious.

"Our talks with the sisters went very well," said Bishop LaValley. "Sister Caroline and Sister Eugene recognized how deeply the sisters serving in Watertown are loved, appreciated, and accepted. The superiors of the Sisters of the Cross could see that the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod proved to be a good fit for each other".

While visiting the diocese, Sister Caroline and Sister Eugene also met with Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Fathers Scott Seymour, Timothy Canaan, Bill Reamer, Joseph Morgan, Douglas Lucia, and Kevin O'Brien about possible locations for the establishment of more convents in the diocese.

"The Superiors of the Order quickly perceived how

wanted and needed the sisters are in our diocese," said Sister Ellen Donahue. "Even before the visit was over, the Superiors were committed to sending more sisters to serve in our diocese.

Their visit and their response to Bishop LaValley's invitation could not have been better," Sister Ellen said.

Three new missionaries

As a result of their visit, Sister Caroline and Sister Eugene informed Sister Ellen Donahue that the order has three experienced sisters who are willing to serve as missionaries in the diocese.

These sisters are in the process of applying for required visas and immigration status for their work in the United States. The sisters are expected to arrive in July, depending on the completion of the immigration process.

The new convent will be established at what is currently the rectory in Cadyville, just outside Plattsburgh. One of the new sisters will be assigned by the order to the Watertown convent. The other two new sisters, and one sister from Watertown will open the Cadyville convent.

A happy day for the church

"The arrival of the sisters will be a happy day for the Church in the Plattsburgh area," said Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Dean of the Clinton Deanery. "There is a great need for the presence of these religious women in our parishes, and I am greatly impressed by the holiness and the qualifications of the Sisters of the Cross who will be coming to us".

Msgr. Duprey said that all the sisters who will be assigned to the Cadyville convent will serve as pastoral associates in area parishes.

One of the sisters will be assigned to the parishes of Morrisonville, and Cadyville under the leadership of pas-

tor, Father Scott Seymour.

A second sister will be pastoral associate shared by the three parishes in the City of Plattsburgh, St. Peter's, St. John's, and Our Lady of Victory. The third sister will be a pastoral associate for the parishes of St. Mary's in Champlain, and St. Patrick's in Rouses Point, under the leadership of Father Clyde Lewis.

Details of the sisters' job descriptions are being worked out between the parishes and the religious order.

"There is so much that the sisters can do for us," said Msgr. Duprey. "We have a busy hospital where visits need to be made, together with several nursing homes that require attention. Additionally, the sisters can help with our Youth Ministry, Faith Formation, and in so many other ministries."

Spiritual presence

"The Clinton Deanery is blessed to welcome a new convent of religious to our area," Msgr. Duprey said. "It will provide a unique spiritual presence in Cadyville, in addition to enhancing our spiritual life throughout the Clinton Deanery".

Sister Ellen said, "Everything is falling into place. This is an exciting time for our diocese. We are so fortunate to have additional Sisters of the Cross coming to serve in our diocese".

"I am so grateful for the positive and generous response we received from the Sisters of the Cross", said Bishop LaValley. "They have served us well in Watertown and are deeply loved by everyone in that community.

"I am also grateful to Sister Ellen Donahue, Msgr. Duprey, Fathers Scott Seymour, Timothy Canaan, Bill Reamer, and Clyde Lewis for their willingness to welcome the sisters and to accept their ministry," the bishop said. "We are truly blessed".

Called to holiness... in marriage

By Kristina Dean
Contributing writer

When I first met the man who would become my husband, we were very different - a country mouse and a city mouse.

It amazes me how God called us to one another, and had us grow in one another. Our vocation to marriage has challenged us, shaped us, formed us

As a young girl in Albany, I always imagined my future partner would be soft-spoken, gracious, and have an appreciation for poetry and literature.

Instead, this Antwerp native came to me with some serious baggage, had been poorly treated and was angry. He told me he would never trust women and that he would never again marry.

I came to him as a bit of a snob, with my own baggage. I had a lot less patience and looked down upon people I felt were ignorant.

I had been away from my

faith for a long time. I did not attend Mass, and I did not regularly pray.

I was biding my time before I moved back to my hometown of Albany.

We met in a farmer's house; Dave worked on the family's farm, and I was friends with the farmer's son. My future husband was intense and a little scary. So scary, in fact, as we rode in the family car to a son's graduation, I made someone sit between us. I didn't want anything to do with him.

Later, my heart really noticed him when he - a giant, intense, somewhat scary man - picked up and held a child who reached out her arms to him.

That was the moment when God laid His finger on my chin, lifted it and made my heart listen. I became intrigued.

Walking down the aisle four years later, I felt the hand of God again.

Standing in the vestibule clutching my father's arm, the most amazing thing happened. I looked at my dad, he looked at me and told me he loved me.

Then - in the only way I can describe it - something



Kristina and David Dean

came over me. I believe it was the Holy Spirit. I knew in my heart with absolute certainty, this was the man God created for me.

I was filled with the knowledge that rang deep into me, through me, washing over me, that by marrying this man, I was doing

God's will.

I was filled with absolute joy.

Now, when I pray for guidance and to discern Our Lord's will, I often think of that instant. I measure everything against it. I can't explain it, but I am still rocked by the power of that moment.

When I met Dave, I'd been away from the church for a long time. Dave is not Catholic, and although I was raised in the faith, I'd stopped thinking of myself that way. Because of this, I never thought about marriage as a sacrament or understood what that meant.

I'd heard people talk about having a vocation, or being called to married life, but those were just words and I didn't pay particular attention.

I figured, you fell in love and then got married. Done. But God is a very real presence in marriages, and I have seen Him work through our lives many times.

Gradually, through a wonderful chain of events, I made my way back to my faith. Eventually, we pursued an annulment of

Dave's first marriage so we could have a convalidation, or as my husband put it, "I love you so much, I'm marrying you twice."

Being part of an interfaith marriage has its challenges. Sometimes explaining why Catholics do certain things is hard. But I believe my husband sees the joy my church and my faith bring to my life, and in turn bring to our marriage and family.

It amazes me how God called us to one another, and had us grow in one another. Our vocation to marriage has challenged us, shaped us, formed us.

We were in very different places when we met 22 years ago. We've been through heartache, changes, difficulties.

We've buried two fathers. We've had three boys. We survived on minimum wage. We stayed together through all of life's twists.

With God's guidance, we have mellowed out each other's flaws and become stronger through one another. It's really beautiful and amazing, to be called to this vocation, and by doing so become more than what we were before.

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS



St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams with its mission in Henderson recently sponsored a vocation panel featuring a priest, deacon couple, religious sister and family. They answered questions about their vocations submitted by confirmation students and members of the parish vocation ministry team. In the photo at left is Laura Mallan, director of religious education, and St. Joseph Sister Marie Cordata Kelly. Above are Deacon Larry Ambeau and his wife Vickie, Sister Cordata and Father Thomas Higan; assistant vocation director for the diocese and pastor in Lyon Mountain and Ellenburg. Jeff and Brenna Ginger and family also took part in the panel.

Parish hospitality workshop set June 3 at SUNY Potsdam

POTSDAM - The Offices of New Evangelization and Formation for Ministry are holding a day long workshop on parish hospitality June 3 from 8 a.m. to 4 at SUNY Potsdam.

Sheri Wohlfert, an author at Catholicmom.com, will lead the "Entertaining Angels" workshop exploring how the Catholic faith community welcomes people.

Marika Donders, director of the New Evangelization Office, said, "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 one of us.

"Please join us for a practical one-day workshop at SUNY Potsdam to learn how

you can make a difference in how your parish community opens the doors to Christ," she said.

Cost for the workshop is \$35 per person which includes all materials and lunch.

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

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Rest in Peace

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

May 18 – Rev. John B. A. Legrand, 1891; Rev. Richard J. Cotter, 1928, Rev. Augustus J. Dumont, 1949

May 19 – Msgr. Arthur M. Leary, 1968; Deacon Vincent J. Frattali, 2003

May 20 – Rev. Robert Booth, 1939; Rev. Eugene Noury, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. P. Andrew L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1962

May 21 – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998

May 22 – Msgr. Claudius Gobet, 1961

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.

Upcoming sessions:
June 5 - 5 p.m., St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga.

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Bishop's Schedule

May 18 – 12 p.m., Mass and lunch with the Memorare Society at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay, St. Francis Xavier, Redwood and St. Mary's, Clayton at St. Cyril's Church

May 19 – 11 a.m., Memorial Mass for Reverend Victor Lamore at St. Mary's Church in Brushton

May 20 - 4:30 p.m., Confirmation for St. Cecilia's, Adams and Queen of Heaven, Henderson at St. Cecilia's Church

May 21 – 10 a.m., Confirmation for St. Bartholomew's, Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua, Inlet at St. Bartholomew's Church

4 p.m., Confirmation for St. Alphonsus & Holy Name, Tupper Lake and St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake at St. Alphonsus Church

May 23 - 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Patrick's, Chateaugay, St. George's, Burke, St. Francis of Assisi, Constable and Our Lady of Fatima, Westville at St. Patrick's Church

May 24 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

7 p.m., Confirmation at Holy Family Church in Watertown

To Report Abuse

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



Environmental Stewardship

Desertification

Since the dawn of agriculture, poorly implemented farming practices remove vital nutrients from the soil and promoted the excessive loss of moisture from the ground. When large areas of land in semi-arid regions of the world experience this type of land degradation, it is known as desertification, and it is occurring more regularly across the planet, particularly in areas that do not promote responsible farming techniques.

As any society grows in population, its demands for food increases, which causes an expansion of farming. In semi-arid regions, brush and small trees are cleared for the planting of food crops. Because this woody vegetation provides a far more effective covering of shade compared to food crops, the sun can more effectively bake the ground promoting the loss of soil moisture. If fertilization, and irrigation are not provided, nutrients and water in the soil are quickly depleted after several growing seasons, causing repeated crop failures and the eventual abandonment of the fields. Changing rainfall patterns resulting from climate change often exacerbates the drying process and creates desert conditions.

The United Nations has stated that the acceleration of desertification in recent decades is one of our planet's most pressing problem. Over 2 billion people reside in regions where farmland is diminishing in quality and quantity. Food shortages are already occurring in many of these impoverished locations that lie just outside the boundaries of large deserts, yet which formerly were able to produce adequate amounts of food to sustain the livelihood of its inhabitants.

As Catholics, we have an obligation to attempt to reduce our carbon footprint in order to limit the affects of climate change. We also have an obligation to assist "cultures-in-need" with financial support for programs that help improve agricultural education and reclaim farmlands that have been lost. Catholic Relief Services provides help in many underdeveloped regions of the world, so that people there can learn to better care for themselves. And along with financial assistance, your spiritual help is also needed. Never forget the value that prayer can have in helping to alleviate human suffering.

Called to holiness... as a priest

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

ADAMS—When Father Martin E. Cline was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg June 11, 2005, he swears it was the hottest day ever in Ogdensburg.

Twelve years later, any sweat or discomfort is long forgotten, as the priest lives in daily gratitude for the vocation he followed.

A native of Winthrop, Father Cline is the son of David and Valerie Cline, parishioners of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls.

Although he entered Wadhams Hall immediately after graduation from St. Lawrence Central School, the path towards ordination wasn't a straight one. After two years of the seminary, he dropped out to study nursing. When that didn't work out, he returned to Wadhams Hall, completed theological studies at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York, and then was ordained.

Today, Father Cline is pastor of St. Cecilia's in Adams with its mission in Henderson.

Here, he responds to questions about the growth of his vocation as a priest:

When did you first consider becoming a priest?

I remember growing up in my parish in Brasher Falls, and Father Jim Shurtleff always had a prayer in the Prayers of the Faithful for vocations. I remember thinking that maybe that could be me.

In the fifth grade we had to write essays about what we wanted to do when we got older. I wrote about the priesthood. My mother still has it. From that moment on it was always a possibility. Then of course middle school and high school happened.

Within this time I had a couple experiences that truly influenced the decision to go to seminary: a strong youth group, and Camp Guggenheim. Both of these challenged me to come out of my shell and be more outgoing which made other people see that possibly I could be a priest.

Why did you want to be a priest?

This is an interesting reflection for me. Part of answer is that everyone thought I would be good at it, so I thought well maybe they know something. There was always great support, not only from family, but also from high school friends. I went to public school and still almost everyone I went to school with expected me to give the seminary a shot.

I attended my 20th high school reunion in my Roman collar and thought it would be strange. But I definitely had a feeling that it was what I was supposed to do, and my classmates knew it too.

The other part comes sometime later. I first was hired for Camp Guggenheim staff in the summer of 1999; I had not done well in nursing school, and had no idea what was next. I went to staff week and Father Roger McGuinness was the priest that week.



Father Martin Cline - a big sports fan who's shown above with hockey's Stanley Cup during a visit to Toronto - loves being a priest. "In 12 years I think maybe there have been five days that I wished for something else. I certainly have had a fair share of challenges but, man, I love being a priest!"

During Mass one day, he talked about gifts we bring, and asked each of us what we brought to the camp staff - each of us said something, and he mentioned that he brought the body and blood of Christ - the Eucharist.

I was hit; I was going back to seminary. I called my parents that afternoon and told them that was my decision.

I became a priest to give the Eucharist to the people who need it. I wanted to be a priest so that I could provide the spiritual food for the people of God. I have never looked back or doubted that moment.

When did you start exploring this vocation?

I guess this was always going on as I was growing up. I think most encouragement came from the priests in the parish, from Fathers Jim Shurtleff, Clark White, Steve Gratto but also the retired priests, Msgr. Hannan and Father Earl Nicholas.

These men showed joy in the priesthood with a sense that good would always be there in midst of frustration. Being an altar server for most of my life - from first communion all the way until the weekend I was ordained a deacon - I was attentive to the priest.

Who had the greatest influence in your vocation journey?

I guess again the parish pastors. But also the priests I experienced at Guggenheim- Fathers Chris Carrara, John Yonkovig, Tim Soucy, Roger McGuinness, Mike Gaffney, Howard Venette and many more. These guys made the priesthood just something I had to get involved in!

I also had the great influence of my parents. They never forced it. Actually I don't remember

my parents saying anything about it. They were just always getting us to church, meetings and youth group events, and they were active themselves. They were involved in St. Vincent DePaul, altar and rosary, and many community organizations. My parents have always been around church and always brought me along.

One of the big things I remember about my dad was when I flunked out of nursing school; I had the hardest time telling him. Nursing was something I wanted to do so I went full in (well obviously not *full*), and it was one of the first times I failed. So telling him was hard. But his response was amazing. He told me to enjoy my summer (on staff at Guggenheim) and we would worry about the future later.

With that I was open to hear the call to go back. If he had been angry or disappointed I would have gone back and did the nursing, but I was able to listen and hear God calling me back.

What do you enjoy about your life as a priest?

Every day is different. I always say that the only thing you can schedule is your Mass time, after that you must be flexible. Every time the phone rings I get attentive, because it will be something that needs my attention.

I also enjoy just being a priest. I love the interaction with people, even the people you have never met, who might not be your parishioners. You walk into a room and people know you. I have walked into Taco Bell and had a long talk about faith. You never know where people are at and what they need. That's the priest's life - open to what the people need.

I also enjoy my parishioners. Oh believe me they can challenge you, but that is a good thing. They challenge you to be better, to be human, to be with them. In all my assignments there have been amazing people to make me a better priest.

What challenges do you face?

Well most of my challenges are self inflicted-self-doubt, always something I don't know, relating sometimes. I think these are my challenges. I feel that one challenge is making decision for a parish- someone is not going to be happy. But I try to always have the best interest of the people in mind; that way they are guiding you indirectly.

What advice would you give to a young person?

When I was at Wadhams and Christ the King, I had a poster on my wall. It was Nike's advertisement Just Do It! I always think of that when people ask me for advice on vocations. If you feel God is calling just do it, enter the discernment process, and let the seminary and vocation people help you sort it out.

If you are called and try to ignore it, you will always have a sense of something missing. I felt this myself, I was happy in nursing and I looked forward to it, but I was not at peace. Something was missing, I didn't realize until later, but I was not doing what God had called me to. If you answer the calling of God, whatever it may be, then will have an incredible sense of peace.

Called to holiness... as a Sister

Sister Patricia Carmella Urbinelli, SSJ, looks back on the growth of her vocation

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Little Patty Urbinelli was just a four-year-old entering kindergarten when she told her parents that she was supposed to go to Sunday school too.

"I knew from an early age that I wanted to have a deep relationship with God," she said. "My grandmother, Carmella Urbinelli, showed me the importance of faith and the Church. My parents did enroll me in Sunday school and I was elated."

Today, Patty is St. Joseph Sister Patricia Carmella who serves the Ogdensburg area as regional youth minister working with the parishes in Ogdensburg, Heuvelton, Lisbon, Morristown, Hammond and Rossie.

College and a career

She was a teenager herself, growing up in Mamaroneck, New York, (in Westchester County) when she first thought about entering religious life.

"I pushed it to the side and



St. Joseph Sister Patricia Carmella Urbinelli is pictured with two St. Bonaventure college friends after the Mass at which she professed first vows Aug. 13, 2016. Tara Korn is at left and Franciscan Father Peter Schneible is at right. Sister Patricia reflects on the growth of her vocation and her decision to join the Sisters of St. Joseph in this article.

decided to pursue a career," she said. "The thought would come up from time to time, but I kept making excuses for it, saying I was not worthy of being called, or that it was only on my mind because I was not happy in my job."

A graduate of St. Bonaventure University with a degree in business administration, she "had a good career, a house, great friends and I loved my parish in Kannapolis, North Carolina."

But, she said, "in 2011 the thought of becoming a sister would not go away."

At that time she was working as an analyst for Duke Energy in North Carolina and a friend asked, "if money was no object what would you be doing?"

"After hesitating I told him that I would give myself over to God, and serve Him," she said, "Carl, my friend, then asked me why I was not doing so. I gave him a laundry list of reasons (bills, cats, house, job, etc.) but both he and another friend Collis encouraged me to think about it and to pray about it."

"From that point forward I couldn't not think about it," she said. "It felt right; I felt truly called to it."

Sister Patricia was also support on her path to religious life by Redemptorist Father Al Riqueme, her parish priest in Kannapolis.

"He encouraged me every day and gave me some of the best advice when I spoke with him about my vocation," she said. "He told me to ask God for a sign that I was being called. I did and God provided."

"After just a couple of days the lyrics 'do not be afraid I am with you,' from the hymn *You are Mine* began playing in my head," she said, "and I knew that this was the path I needed to follow."

Coming to the SSJs

"When I finally accepted that I was being called to the religious life I thought I was meant to be in a contemplative order," Sister Patricia said. "I did not think cloistered, as I knew that was not exactly where I was called, but to a community who had a substantial focus on the prayer life."

"I visited with four communities - the Redemptoristines, a cloistered community, located at that time in Esopus, New York; the Benedictines, in Lisle, Illi-

nois, a monastic community; and two Sisters of St. Joseph, here in Watertown and in Philadelphia. The Sisters of St. Joseph are an apostolic community."

"Though I very much enjoyed my time with the Redemptoristines, I realized, with the help of their vocation director, that though I could love the life for several years, I needed more, I needed to be doing more," Sister Patricia said. "The Benedictine community was just not the right 'fit' for me, I did not feel like that is where I was supposed to be."

"I visited Watertown in 2012, after many conversations with Sister Mary Gregory over the phone," Sister Patricia said. "I knew the moment I walked into the mother house in - before I arrived actually - that this is where I was meant to be. I felt a peace about coming and being here."

"I think what drew me here, other than God, was the balance that is emphasized in our community, a balance of prayer and ministry," she said.

"Our community strives not to allow one to overtake the other but for each to feed

the other," she said. "This is the life that I was looking for."

First steps

Sister Patricia entered the Sisters of St. Joseph as a candidate on April 28, 2013. St. Joseph Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, major superior at the time, accepted her into the community.

She became a novice on April 10, 2015, before the current Major Superior St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, and professed first vows Aug. 13, 2016, also before Sister Mary Eamon Lyng. Bishop LaValley was the main celebrant at the Mass at which Sister Patricia took her vows.

Her first job after entering was as an assistant at Jefferson Lewis Childcare Project at the Community Action Planning Council in Watertown. Sister Patricia also taught religion at Immaculate Heart Central School and worked as a catechist at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown for 7th and 8th grades before coming to Ogdensburg this past September.

Joy of religious life

What does Sister Patricia enjoy most about her life as a Sister of St. Joseph?

"This is difficult to say as there are so many reasons," she said. "Probably the one thing that comes to me most predominantly is that I know, that I am finally following God's will. My life has a greater purpose because I am doing God's will and not my own."

"I was happy in my career," she said. "I did well, I advanced, but I was doing it because that is what I felt society expected of me so that happiness was external."

"Now I have an internal happiness that cannot be taken away by the world, because it comes from God," Sister Patricia said. "This call comes from God."

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Called to holiness... in single life

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing writer

Singleness can be a difficult vocation to describe so, I'll start by saying that it is different than simply "not currently dating." It may start as such, but it can grow into a longer period in your life, eventually spanning your entire life.

Singleness becomes a vocation only when consciously accepted as a life that remains permanently open to the needs of the greater community.

There is no particular personality type or disposition necessary to live out a life of singleness. However, the person who lives out this call is active in the community and lives a vibrant life with cultivated, dynamic relationships. They are known, active, perceptive, joy-filled, and genuinely helpful.

On the contrary, someone who is single but does not consciously engage reality at large and fully embrace this state of life as a vocation is more commonly called a couch potato.

Being open and willing to serve people is the defining characteristic of the vocation of singleness. Personally, I spend a lot of time with my great aunt, who lives in a nursing home.

My brother, who is married with three going on four kids, has many demands from his vocation to be a husband and father that limit his ability to take

care of my aunt.

It is not that the rest of my family somehow doesn't have any responsibility in taking care of our elderly, but very simply, I have the time and energy necessary to complete such a task.

Singleness becomes a vocation only when consciously accepted as a life that remains permanently open to the needs of the greater community

This is true too of how I can take care of my niece or nephews in a pinch or take an extra trip to the grocery store for milk or pick up a guest from the airport, which is far away.

There is a seemingly infinite list of needs that I can willingly meet in my family and greater community in which I live.

Singleness is a vocation when it brings me into a closer relationship with God. Very simply, all this family and community work perfects me. It isn't just that I am "the available one with no other responsibilities". Rather, I am a human person who needs community and work that will bring me purpose in this life and ultimately to my salvific end.

And being aware of my larger purpose is not only a spiritual responsibility, but it also has emotional effects; doing things for other peo-

ple brings me great joy. Sometimes there is a tendency to say that "I just like to help people" and while I am sure I am naturally wired like that, I also know that there is a reason why I am wired like that. That reason is to serve others like Christ served. And this is not always easy.

I receive some very interesting comments from my friends and family who are in different states of life as to how they perceive my singleness. They tend to see my life as perpetual "free time" because I have "no responsibilities".

And while there is particular mobility in my life that I have come to enjoy being sans children, there is also none of the stability that comes from being married.

I may not need physical support in my daily life like a young couple with a growing family, but I still need emotional, spiritual, and psychological support, of

which is not provided to me by my life partner, but rather provided by others who I have had to find on my own.



Andrew Lauria

This can be a great challenge, especially because most of the people around me are married and are already that support system for their spouse and children.

Add to this the near impossibility to find support from other

Catholics who consciously live such a vocation, and the Cross quickly comes into view. Unlike marriage and religious life, there is no recognized custom, ritual, or rite of passage to acknowledge and identify a person living a vocation to singleness.

There is a huge temptation to despair of life purpose for a Catholic trying to live fully the vocation of being single because our religious culture epitomizes marriage

and children and the secular culture that of extreme narcissism and total self-absorption.

Everybody in life just wants to be at peace, meaning to love and be loved. We are called to be in the place and space where we currently find ourselves. Peace finds us in our circumstances because God never leaves us.

We are all a mystery in so many ways but when it comes to our personality aligning with the will and work of God unfolding in the world at this present moment, there is very little personal mystery there. Rather, the mystery lies in the unfathomable omniscience of God to understand this about us personally and the profound reality that we are in fact supposed to be who we are, where we are, right now.

And it is in the here and now, the good and bad, the Good Fridays and Easter Sundays of our life that we encounter the person of Christ.



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Priest news: A retirement, two new pastors and a first assignment

Bishop announces changes in assignments

OGDENSBURG—At the meeting of the Committee on Assignments with Bishop Terry R. LaValley May 11 the following changes were confirmed:

- Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno will be retiring as pastor of St. James Church in Cadyville.

- Father Scott R. Seymour, pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph has also been named pastor of St.

James Church in Cadyville. This change will take effect June 30.

- Father Christopher J. Looby, administrator of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills with missions at St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia and St. Theresa of Avila Church in Theresa has been named pastor of these churches effective immediately.

- Deacon Michael J. Jablonski, who will be ordained to

the priesthood on May 27, 2017, will be assigned as Parochial Vicar to the Church of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence and to St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena effective June 21.

A tribute to Msgr. Deno and an introduction to Father Jablonski will be published in upcoming issues of the *North Country Catholic*.

Profiles of the new pastors follow:

Father Seymour

Father Seymour, who has served as pastor in Morrisonville and Treadwells Mill since 2010 takes on additional responsibilities as pastor in Cadyville

A native of West Chazy, Father Seymour was born Sept. 9, 1970. He graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora before his ordination May 29, 1999 by Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

Father Seymour's first assignment was a parochial vicar at Notre Dame in Malone. In 2002 he became parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, a position he held 2005 when he was appointed administrator St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro and St. Joseph's in Essex. In April 2006 he became pastor in Willsboro and Essex, a position he held until 2009 when he was named administrator in Morrisonville and Treadwell Mills for one year until becoming pastor.

Father Seymour has been active in ministry with the Catholic Daughters of America serving as a chaplain for local courts and is a past New York State chaplain.

An accomplished musician, Father Seymour has directed choirs for major diocese events including the INSPIRE vocation summit held in Lake Placid in September.

Father Looby

Father Looby, new pastor in Evans Mills, has served as administrator for the parish with its missions in Theresa



Father Scott Seymour



Father Christopher Looby

and Philadelphia since June, 2015.

Born July 26, 1970, he grew up in Harrisville and studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Father Looby was ordained May 12, 2001, by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

Father Looby has served as parochial vicar at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, Holy Family, Watertown; and St. Peter's, Lowville. In June, 2009, he was named administrator in Brushton and North Bangor and, one year later, pastor of the parishes until his 2015 appointment in Evans Mills, Theresa and Philadelphia.

Father Looby was raised in a family filled with religious vocations – his father Deacon Philip Looby, uncle Father John Looby and aunts Grey Nun Sister Mary Looby and Carmelite Sister Ellen Looby.



Office of Vocations
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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Struggle against the 'culture of destruction,' pope tells teens

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis told Italian students he was shocked when a massive U.S. bomb used in Afghanistan was referred to as "the mother of all bombs. They called it 'the mother of all bombs,'" the pope told the Italian youths. But "a mother gives life and this brought death." The 7,000 young people were participating in a course on peace and human rights sponsored by the Italian ministry of education. Pope Francis told the young people they should be worried about the state of the world, which seems to be embracing a "culture of destruction" when God made human beings "to build, give life, move forward, create community and live in peace." At the same time, he said there are millions of people in the world giving their lives in service to others. The vast majority of them are "hidden" and never make the news, but they exist and the young people should join their ranks.

New York center reaches people 'about the genius of Catholicism'

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Theater is the lingua franca of New York City and the Catholic Church has used art in myriad forms through the centuries to spread the message of the Gospels. But it was not until 2015 that the Archdiocese of New York jumped with both feet into a bold effort to evangelize through the theatrical medium. It repurposed one of its many decommissioned schools as the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Center for Thought and Culture. From the outside, the unassuming building on Bleeker Street in Lower Manhattan still looks a lot like it did when it educated generations of Sicilian-American children as Our Lady of Loreto School. Inside, two theaters, a gallery and rehearsal space host plays, movies, lectures, discussions and art. Each program is selected to serve the center's mission to highlight the true, the good and the beautiful. "It's a way to reach people about the genius of Catholicism," William Spencer Reilly, executive director, told Catholic News Service. "Telling stories well is at the core of what we can be doing and should be doing." Plays and lectures "get people inside the tent," where he hopes they will be surprised, excited and engaged by what they discover, Reilly said. The target audience is millennials, many of whom live in the gentrified neighborhood.

Vatican conference unites science and religion's search for truth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Science and religion are not at odds but are united in the continuing search for truth in unlocking the mysteries of the cosmos. The scientific conference titled, "Black Holes, Gravitational Waves and Space-Time Singularities," is an opportunity to show that "the church supports good science," said Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory. "We are hoping that this meeting will also be an encounter of people with very different opinions but very close friendships that come from having the same common desire to understand the truth of the universe and how we can understand that truth," he told journalists May 8. Renowned experts from around the world were to meet at Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo for the May 9-12 conference, which seeks to bring together science and religion in the continuing search for truth in understanding the mysteries of the universe, he said. The 2016 discovery of the existence of gravitational waves, predicted nearly 100 years ago by Albert Einstein in his general theory of relativity, was to be one of the topics of discussion. The discovery could open a new chapter in understanding celestial events and black hole regions in the universe, something that previously could only be hypothesized.

Pope: Pilgrimage to Fatima a time of prayer, encounter

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

LEIRIA, PORTUGAL (CNS) - Pope Francis said his two-day pilgrimage to Fatima would be a time of prayer and encounter with Jesus and Mary.

The visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima "is a bit special," he told reporters aboard his flight from Rome May 12. "It is a journey of prayer, an encounter with the Lord and the holy Mother of God."

After a three-hour flight, during which Pope Francis greeted each of the 69 journalists traveling with him, the papal plane landed at Monte Real air base, about 25 miles from Fatima.

The pope's trip was planned for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Mary's apparitions to three shepherd children in Fatima.

On the actual anniversary, May 13, Pope Francis was to canonize two of the three young seers, Blessed Jacinta Marto and her brother Blessed Francisco Marto, making them the youngest non-martyred saints in the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state and the pope's closest collaborator, said Pope Francis' visit would "express his own love and devotion to Mary" and

his great respect for the Marian devotion of Catholics around the world.

In the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children, Pope Francis sees an example of the Mary described by the Magnificat, the biblical hymn of praise for the great things God has done through her, Cardinal Parolin told L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

At Fatima, "Our Lady of the Rosary appeared not to the rich or powerful, nor to people who were influential, but to children," he said. The children were from simple families and were illiterate, "like the least of society or, to use the terminology of the pope, the 'discarded' of society. And Mary wanted to favor this category of people, giving the little shepherds a countercultural message."

In 1917, World War I was raging and people and public discourse was filled with words of hatred, vengeance and hostility, the cardinal said. "Mary, on the other hand, spoke of love, forgiveness, self-sacrifice and giving oneself to others. It was a total reversal of all the values, or anti-values, that prevailed at that time."

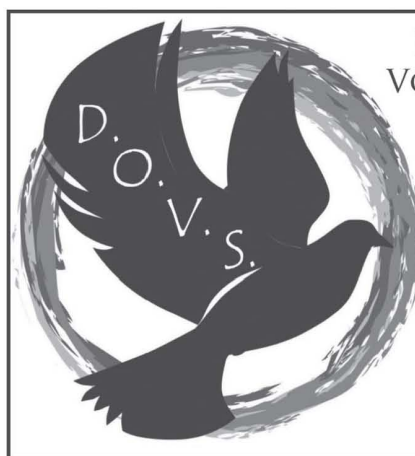
The two lessons Pope Francis draws from Fatima for the world today, he said, are the need to value the least of

one's brothers and sisters and the need "to live those authentic values that can be the basis for peaceful coexistence and solidarity within a nation and among countries."

Bishop Antonio dos Santos Marto of Leiria-Fatima, also writing in the Vatican newspaper, said the Fatima message has touched so many people around the world for generations because it spoke and continues to speak about strengthening faith when the world around one is in turmoil.

The messages given by Our Lady of Fatima to the three children in 1917, the bishop said, spoke of "the two world wars and the suffering of humanity, with a specific mention of nations like Russia; the persecution of the church with the mention of the martyrs of the 20th century and of the pope himself; and of the great cause of peace among people."

"All of that," Bishop Marto said, "was accompanied by a very strong warning to not resign oneself to those situations as if they were normal" and not to give into a sense that evil will determine human destiny. "It is possible to defeat evil by starting with the conversion of hearts to God, prayer and reparation for sins."



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"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you"

John 15:16

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

We need to ready ourselves for the Holy Spirit

For the last five Sundays, we have been inspired by Scripture stories from the Gospels about the many appearances of the risen Lord to the Apostles and many, many others.

Gradually we have listened to passages from the Acts of the Apostles in which the early Church came to understand how closely identified Jesus is with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

He is both the human teacher and friend they had come to love - and also divine and really God.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, tells a story that shows how the apostles, following Pentecost, were able to perform miracles and healings very similar to the ones Jesus

Himself worked while yet with them. These signs gave such strong credibility to their preaching that

crowds of people immediately believed in Jesus, and were baptized. The story itself tells us that Philip the Deacon, filled with the Spirit, goes to Samaria and converts these traditional enemies into enthusiastic believers. When the apostles heard this astounding news, they immediately

sent Peter and John to lay hands on them so they could receive the Holy Spirit.

It was in Samaria that a certain magician names Simon, revered there as a god, was converted to Jesus. Unfortunately, he made a serious mistake by

offering to "buy" Peter's power. Even today, we refer to that as the sin of simony. Peter excommunicated him on the spot, but invited him to repent of this grave sin. We never do find out what happened to him.

The second reading today, from a letter attributed to St. Peter, gives the early Christians a rule of conduct as they set out on their mission of truth and service. "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

They should have no fear of their enemies, but be prepared to pay the price of discipleship. If they unite their sufferings to those that Jesus endured, then their personal reward in heaven is assured.

The Gospel is part of Jesus' Farewell Address to

MAY 21

Sixth Sunday of Easter
READINGS

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

his apostles at the Last Supper. There, he prepares them for his death, resurrection, and ascension. He tells them they should be happy that He is leaving them, for now God the Father will send them an Advocate. As Jesus Himself was the first "Paraclete," so God the Father will now send the Spirit of Truth who will complete their education, reminding them of all that He said while on earth, and giving them full understanding and skill to preach the Word with great power and wisdom.

This Holy Spirit will make it possible for Jesus along

with God the Father to come into their hearts and dwell there. In this way, Jesus will be present to them always.

Further, this Holy Spirit will fill them with courage to witness to the Truth. He will console them with great joy, and help them to live always in hope of their own resurrection.

This Thursday is Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation and the beginning of our nine-day preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

As a people of hope, we need to ready ourselves for the Holy Spirit entering more fully into us. Why? Because not only those of us today who are in Holy Orders, but all the baptized are the modern day apostles to whom God has entrusted the spreading the Good News that redemption and forgiveness of sin comes only through Jesus Christ.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

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- ♦ Build a marriage that has a less than 3 percent chance of ending in divorce?
- ♦ Learn how you can strengthen your marriage and your family?
- ♦ Know why families fall apart and what you can do to prevent this?
- ♦ Benefit from a network of support with other faithful families in this diocese?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, contact:



Steve Tartaglia
Director of Family Life
Diocese of Ogdensburg
(315) 393-2920
startaglia@rcdony.org

AT THE MOVIES

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Early on in "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" (Warner Bros.), the audience is treated to the sight of magically generated giant elephants swinging boulder-size wrecking balls at the ramparts of Camelot. It's an apt visual considering how ponderous this action fantasy turns out to be.

Rearranging some of the traditional elements of the Arthur legend - which may or may not be rooted in actual history - director and co-writer Guy Ritchie comes up with a sort of "Prince and the Pauper" version of events.

Thus, not long after those lumbering pachyderms depart, toddler Arthur's father, Uther (Eric Bana), dies as a result of his evil brother Vortigern's (Jude Law) violent - and ultimately suc-

cessful - bid to usurp the throne. Arthur evades a similar fate by being set adrift, Moses-like, in a boat which eventually finds its way to a bustling version of medieval London still called by its Roman name, Londinium.

There Arthur, dispossessed of his rights and with no recollection of his real identity, is raised as a brawling street urchin by the inhabitants of a brothel.

Once grown, and now portrayed by Charlie Hunnam, the rightful heir comes almost accidentally into possession of Excalibur - here essentially a weapon of mass destruction so powerful that it mows down Arthur's opponents by the dozens.

Aided by a so-called Mage (Astrid Berges-Frisbey), who otherwise goes unnamed, Arthur learns how to wield the super sword and uses it to battle Vortigern for the crown.

Along with the supernatural support of the Mage, Arthur gets human backing from Bedivere (Djimon Hounsou), once one of Uther's advisers, and expert archer "Goose-Fat" Bill (Aidan Gillen).

Together with his script collaborators, Joby Harold and Lionel Wigram, Ritchie works the occasional witty exchange into the dialogue. But otherwise his film is a grueling ordeal of nonstop noisy fighting.

Since the dust-ups are mostly gore-free, however, and the only flourishes of sensuality come in the form of occult visions, some parents may consider "King Arthur" acceptable for ma-



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Charlie Hunnam stars in a scene from the movie "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword"

ture teens.

The film contains pervasive combat and other violence with little blood, a prostitution theme, brief partial nudity, fleeting sexual humor, and occasional crass language.

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.

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pdonahue@rcdony.org, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org
www.rcdony.org/formation



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CLINTON

GARAGE SALE

Plattsburgh – Annual Seton Garage sale to be held.

Date: June 3 and 4

Place: Seton

Features: Drop offs are scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from the 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 and 2:30 p.m. to 5. For the final two weeks leading up to the garage sale, the storage unit will be open every day. Heavy items will need to be scheduled through setonschools-family@gmail.org. We will accept most items with the exception of TV's, computers, printers and mattresses. Please try to price your items.

HEALING MISSION

West Chazy – A Healing Mission to be held.

Date: June 19, 20 and 21

Time: All three evenings begin at 7 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Speaker: Paul Rymniak

Features: The Sacrament of Confession will be available during the Mission.

SETON GALA

Plattsburgh – Seton Roaring Twenties Gala is set

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 has advertising opportunities

Features: Accepting donations for live and silent auction

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

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Plattsburgh – Graduates from St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute and Seton Catholic Central are planning a joint reunion.

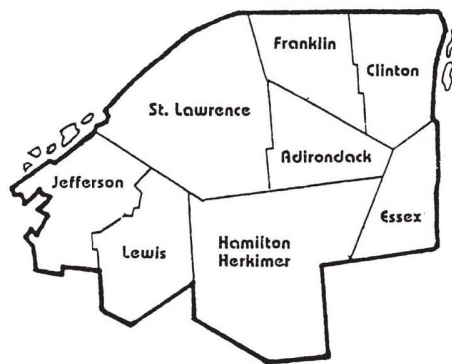
Date: May 26-28

Schedule: Weekend opens with a Seton Golf Tournament May 26, followed by a Reception at Valcour Brewing Company. Saturday there is a bike ride from the Plattsburgh State Field House to Seton Catholic where alumni memorabilia will be available. Saturday evening, features dinner at Harmony Golf Course and Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Church

Contact: Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, spellerin@thesetonschools.org with contact information

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Bill McBride Jr. Memo



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.

orial Golf Tournament is set

Date: June 16

Place: Adirondack Country Club.

Features: The tournament is dedicated to its former chairman, Bill McBride Jr., who died Feb. 28. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 593-2652 or email gnetlombard@charter.net

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Plattsburgh – The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p

FRANKLIN

CELEBRATION OF FATIMA

Westville – CCWTR will have a celebration honoring the 100th Anniversary of Fatima.

Date: May 20

Time: 5:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: Our Lady of Fatima Church

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Malone – Five first Saturdays in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are set

Schedule: 7:40 a.m., Rosary; 8 a.m.,

Mass

Place: Notre Dame Church

HEARTS ON FIRE

Malone – Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.

Schedule: 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks

Place: Notre Dame Church

SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

JEFFERSON

ANNUAL HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service to be held.

Date: June 10

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The Celebrants will be Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Christopher Looby. During Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered and immediately following Mass will be prayer teams, to pray for individual needs. A social time will take place in the Parish Center. The Tetrault family will be available to share stories about their grandfather, Antoine.

Contact: St. Mary's Parish Office at 315-686-3398 or visit the website www.stmarysclyton.org

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – Ecumenical Bereavement meeting to be held.

Date: May 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Hospitality Center at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Speaker: Father William Muench, writer for the North Country Catholic, retired priest who lives in Sackets Harbor

Topic: "Jesus comforts those on their way to Emmaus"

MINISTRY FAIR

Clayton – The Parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's to hold a a Ministry Fair.

Dates: 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. (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.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: May 25

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

Place: Mrs. Sechi Hall

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Anthony's Church

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sackets Harbor – St. Andrew's has scheduled weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Mon.-Fri.

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

CURSILLO MEETINGS

Carthage - The Jefferson/Lewis Cursillo holds its monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Community Room of St. James

Features: All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend. We also welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Contact: Anne Seegebarth
ams2962@gmail.com, 315-783-4596

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

Features: pro-life videos, books and educational materials for borrowing.

Contact: Phone 315-788-4359

LEWIS

ST. PETER'S MAY FESTIVAL

Lowville - Plans for St. Peter's May Festival have begun.

Dates: May 19, 20 and 21

Place: Lewis County Fairgrounds

Features: Ontario Amusements will provide Carnival rides. There will be a special Saturday matinee with unlimited rides from 1 p.m. to 5. Friday is the Grand Opening at 5 pm; All weekend, the Festival will feature homemade food specialties including Shiskabob, Pizza, Chili, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fried Dough, and Pie & Ice Cream. Other booths will include "This-N-That", a Giant Bake Sale, and Games, Friday from 5 p.m. to 7, John

Secor of Back of the Barn Antiques will be on hand to appraise treasures. Saturday features is a Craft Fair that opens at 11 a.m., Mass will be celebrated on the grounds at 4 p.m. Sunday we feature a Chicken Barbecue from 11 a.m. until all are gone! Cake walk will be at noon. At 3 p.m., the drawings begin for cash prizes totaling \$2000.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June.

Date: June 4

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: At 2:25 p.m. before the monthly devotions, we will view the 4th DVD entitled "Faustina and the Spread of Divine Mercy" from the series entitled; Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. At 3:00 p.m. the program includes: Vespers, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: May 18

Time: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction.

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, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org

A prayer for mission vocations

A Prayer for Mission Vocations

*God Our Father, You will all men and women
to be saved*

*And come to the knowledge of Your Truth.
Send workers into Your great harvest
That the Gospel may be preached to every
creature and Your people,*

*Gathered together by the Word of life and
strengthened by the power*

*Of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of
salvation and love.*

*I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son, who lives and reigns with you
And the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. Amen*



This summer, the Pontifical Mission Societies will once again sponsor an appeal to support Mission vocations – in the developing lands. Please help support this very important cause. Give generously. Give local and glean global goodness. God Bless the young men and women following their vocation both near and far.

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

OBITUARIES

Bloomingtondale – Annie Nelly Gabrielle Eugenie Deleury Murphy, 85; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

Bloomingtondale – Shirley Teresa (Howard) Woodruff, 80; Funeral Services May 16, 2017 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Brasher Falls – Norval A. Bennett, 93; Funeral May 13, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brasher Falls – Lillian E. Lapensee (LaFave) Grow, 92; Memorial Services June 17, 2017 at Patrick's Church.

Cape Vincent – Rockne Edward Burns, 84; Funeral Services May 13, 2017 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Carthage – Susan Camille Joynt, 60; Funeral May 18, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chasm Falls – Leon H. Wemette, 88; Funeral Services June 2, 2017 at St. Helen's Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Antoine D. Barber, Jr., 73; Funeral Services May 12, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in the Military Cemetery.

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Keeseville – Margaret E. "Peg" (Fleury) Rock, 87; Memorial Services May 9, 2017 at St. John's Church.

Massena – Paul A. Fleury, 87; Funeral Services May 8, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Patrick's parish cemetery, Brasher.

Massena – Francine Dagmar (Pedersen) Pomainville, 69; Funeral Services May 13, 2017 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moors Forks – Daniel E. Willett, 87; Funeral May 10, 2017 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Moria – Iris M. (Powell) Martin, 90; Funeral May 8, 2017 at Flint Martin home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lorraine (Gagnon) Davis, 86; Funeral Services May 9, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Catherine "June" (Wallace) Farrell, 102; Funeral Services May 12, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Debbie Lee (Hendrie) Fountain, 55; Funeral Services May 13, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Richard L. Lancto, 71; Funeral Services May 6, 2017 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh – Walter E. Lashway, 89; Funeral May 8, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Rose Marie Fay, 74; Funeral Services May 10, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Kenneth J. Snyder Jr., 73; Funeral Services May 10, 2017 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

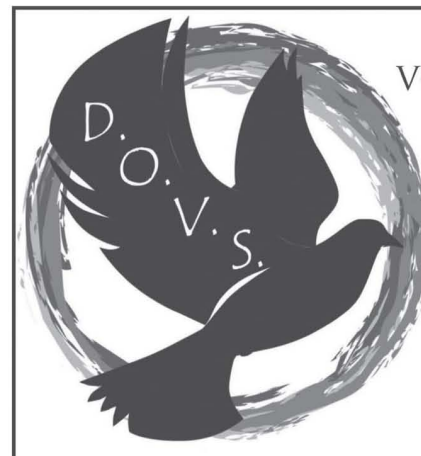
Waddington – Lorraine M. McDonell, 88; Funeral May 13, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

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To encourage and promote
vocations to the priesthood,
permanent diaconate, and
consecrated religious life in
our diocese.

"It was not you who chose me, but I
who chose you"

John 15:16

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

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.

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Massena – The Massena Catholic Community Book Club meets once a month to discuss various works of fiction and non-fiction that have importance to the Catholic Church and relevance in our daily lives.

Date: The third Thursday of each month
Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Rectory

Features: Copies of book are often available on Kindle through our parish's Formed.org subscription or through purchase with Amazon.

Contact: visit website at: www.massenacatholics.com or email: smarian@massenacatholics.com

ROSARY PRAYER SERVICE

Gouverneur – St. James Church is holding a Rosary Prayer Service.

Date: May 28

Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Opening; 9:30 The Joyful Mysteries; 9:50 The Luminous Mysteries; 10:10 The Sorrowful Mysteries; 10:30 The Glorious Mysteries
Features: in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of The Fatima Apparitions. We will join for prayer, a brief tutorial on Our Lady of Fatima and the May Devotion to Mar y. Participants are Welcome any time during this event or for its entirety.

Contact: Brandy Parshley 287-7384, 908-299-5831, prinnnygr@aol.com

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Massena – Friday Devotions are set featuring Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Friday of every month

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Church.

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

FIRST COMMUNION SMILES



Five children made their First Communion at St. Cyril's Church in Alexandria Bay May 7. Holding their banners, from left, are Brody Hilts, Ty Stiefel, Lillian Spies, Madison Bradley and Allison Broadbent.

Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CATHOLIC MEN'S RETREAT

Saranac Lake – A diocesan Catholic Men's

Retreat is set

Date: June 9-11

Place: Guggenheim Center

Features: Theme is "Be A Man: Becoming the man God created you to be."

Contact: Steve Tartaglia (startaglia@rcdony.org) or John Miner (jdminer@roadrunner.com)

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.

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