

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Catholic Home
Mission Appeal
May 27-28 | PAGE X

A president and a
pope to meet in
Rome | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 8

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 24, 2017

'God dreams big'

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— God is right by the side of each person on earth, seeing each individual's pain and wanting to bring hope and joy, Pope Francis said.

"He calls us by name and tells us, 'Rise up, stop weeping, because I have come to

free you,'" the pope said May 17 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope continued his series of talks on Christian hope by looking at the Gospel of John's account of St. Mary Magdalene visiting Jesus' tomb.

Mary Magdalene was the first to go to the tomb after his burial, the pope said, pointing out that the same love and loyalty can be seen today in the many women who head to the cemetery, visiting their dearly departed for years, showing how not

even death can break the bonds of love.

In Mary Magdalene's case, however, she experienced not only the sadness of Christ's death, but also the discovery that his body had disappeared, Pope Francis said.

Ordination set for Saturday

Bishop LaValley will ordain Deacon Michael J. Jablonski to the priesthood Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.

A native of the Diocese of Albany, Deacon Jablonski has been studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio.

He was ordained a deacon May 28, 2016 at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh and has served as a deacon in Columbus, Ohio, for the past year.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Bishop names new vicar

Father Christopher Carrara to replace Father James Seymour as episcopal vicar for pastoral personnel

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

AT THE YOUTH RALLY



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Five girls from St. Mary's Parish in Ticonderoga are shown with keynote speaker Paul Kim at the 2017 Youth Rally held May 7 at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. From left are Aurelia Leerkes, Riley Abare, Kathryn Moran, Paul J. Kim, Raelyn King and Bayleigh Clark. See page four and five for full coverage.

FATIMA SEERS

Church's youngest non-martyred saints



CNS/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis uses incense as he venerates a statue of Our Lady of Fatima during the canonization Mass of Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the three Fatima seers, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, May 13. The Mass marked the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Marian apparitions, which began on May 13, 1917.

JOURNEY OF FAITH: Deacon candidate reflects on his vocation... pages 8-9

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Compelling reasons to say thanks!

This week's *NCC* includes a feature that's rare in the pages of this diocesan newspaper: a centerfold filled with the story of just one person.

As my writers know, I'm pretty strict about an 800-word limit for articles in the paper. This week I broke my own rules.

The Journey of Faith story of Tom Yousey of Lowville was originally submitted for the *NCC*'s Called to Holiness vocation issue, published last week.

Yousey, who is scheduled to be ordained a permanent deacon in the fall, answered all the questions I sent to him and

also included a talk he had given in his parish during Lent.

I started reading his story and couldn't stop.

If any readers wondered why last week's vocation issue didn't include personal reflections from a deacon, this is the reason. I decided to save Yousey's compelling story – from his first encounter with a bishop (as a Methodist

teenager) to his upcoming encounter with a bishop in ordination – for an issue with a little more space.

There still wasn't room to print every story he shared

(you'll have to ask him yourself about his efforts to avoid kissing that first bishop's ring) but what you'll read should give every Catholic hope.

Yousey's journey of faith is unique of course, but, in so many ways it is typical of the men who will be ordained this year as priest and deacons, and of the scores who will be commissioned for service as lay ministers in their parishes.

The depth of faith, the commitment to prayer and service, the courage to reach beyond the safety of their family circles: this is what we'd find in the faith stories of each and every one of them.

How blessed we are to have Tom Yousey, Deacon Michael Jablonski and every future dea-

con and priest in our midst.

And, how blessed we will be to have newly commissioned lay ministers. We know that the gifts they will bring to the church will be a further witness to God's abiding love for our diocese.

Life in the Church in the North Country may not be perfect; the list of pastoral concerns is extensive but there is so much for which we can be thankful.

This Saturday, our diocese will welcome Deacon Jablonski as our newest priest.

At the end of June, we'll see new lay ministers and, in October, some brand new deacons.

So far, 2017 is giving us plenty of reasons to say thanks!



Mary Lou
Kilian

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

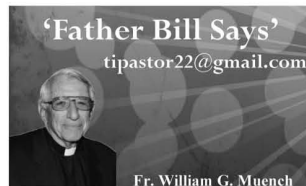
Ever grateful for my life as a priest

Editor's note: This column is reprinted from a May 27, 2015, issue of the North Country Catholic at the request of Father Muench who is recovering from appendicitis.

My anniversary of my ordination as a priest is during this month of May. Actually, I know that many priests were ordained during the month of May. The seminary schedule each year ends classes in the spring so, for most dioceses, this means ordination follows in May or June.

I do remember most of the details of the day of my ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. I suspect that most of you remember the events of your wedding day. I also remember the various emotions that hit me that day – even after all of these years.

I – like many other priests – prepared for ordination day with a week of retreat. Over my years in the seminary, I had read a great deal about the priesthood of Jesus Christ. I had heard many priests talk about their lives as a priest and I had meditated often on the Gospels and discovered Jesus'



message to his apostles.

That final retreat became a time to consider a life time of dedication as a Catholic priest.

The ordination ceremony was a celebration for me, for all of my classmates that day and for the Church.

That celebration would continue with my First Mass that I celebrated at my own home parish, Holy Cross Church in Dewitt.

There were so many details that occupied me and there were so many people, family and friends, who occupied my attention.

So, there I was – facing a life-time decision with all sorts of other things going on.

Sometimes I am asked if I ever thought on that day of my ordination that I should decide not to go on, to raise my hand and say this is not for me, I am out of here.

Thinking back all these years I don't think I thought of anything other than "I was ready."

I truly longed to be a priest and couldn't wait for the moment when the Bishop's hands touched my head.

Now I must admit that there were certainly times over the years that I thought I had had enough, that I wasn't doing very well and I really should not continue in this ministry. However, the Lord was good to me and the Holy Spirit continued to enliven my life and priesthood with new strength, with peaceful help and with confidence that this is where God wanted me to be.

So, I look back with gratitude. The Lord has blessed my life with unique opportunities to use the gifts that are mine. I know only too well, that it was the Lord's action in my life.

I have had the privilege of offering the Holy Mass many times. I am constantly reminded by the Lord of the sacredness of the Holy Eucharist; there is something very sacred at those moments when I am at the altar.

I have come to recognize Jesus' great love in giving us,

his people, this Blessed Eucharist. I understand his desire to be present in our lives in such a wonderful way with his people. And, I have seen his love for me, allowing me to celebrate this Eucharist often and to minister to his people in so many wonderful ways.

So, another anniversary, another time to realize that another year has gone by in my journey as a priest. I suppose that I really could tell you of a my assignments over the years. I can remember so many of the people I was privileged to work with, to help, to know I remember all those many families I was allowed to be part of and from whom I learned so much about life.

As I get older, my gratitude grows and I must admit, my hopes do also. I have hopes that there will be a few more opportunities left for me to help and to accomplish something to make my life better and my world a better place.

I thank Jesus for the gift of these opportunities to bring his message and love to his people. Thank you, Lord, for guiding me and guarding me and leading me.

Dcn. Jablonski to be ordained a priest Saturday

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the priesthood ordination of Deacon Michael J. Jablonski Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.

A native of St. Johnsville, N.Y. in Montgomery County, Deacon Jablonski was born Feb. 26, 1981, the son of Joseph and Rachel Jablonski. He grew up on the family dairy farm.

He graduated from high school in 1999 from Oppenheim-Ephrataha Central School and earned an associate's degree in social sciences from Herkimer County Community College, a bachelor's degree in history from Utica College of Syracuse University and a master's degree in education from the Francis-

can University of Steubenville, Ohio before beginning studies for the priesthood.

He graduated this month from the Pontifical College Josephinum with a master's of divinity degree.

Bishop LaValley ordained Deacon Jablonski to the diaconate May 28, 2016 at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. He has served as a deacon at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, from August, 2016 to April of this year.

His first assignment as a priest will be as parochial vicar of the Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence and to St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Massena, effective June 21.



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Deacon Michael J. Jablonski, center, who will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday is shown reading the petitions at the Jubilee Mass held May 16 at the Presbyteral Assembly in Lake Placid. Also pictured is seminarian Nicholas Olley of Carthage and Bishop LaValley.

SSJ LEADERSHIP TEAM



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Liturgy at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown and presided at the Sisters of St. Joseph Chapter of Elections of the Major Superior. Bishop LaValley reminded the Sisters of the call to be living stones that continues to build on the foundation of the Sisters who have gone before us. "We are to continue to 'solidify' the Foundation of the Sisters of St. Joseph to carry forward the charism and mission that has been established for generations," said Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, major superior. Elections of the Leadership Team of Councilors followed including, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, as well as Sister Shirley Anne Brown, first councilor; Sister Marie Cordata Kelly, second councilor; Sister Jennifer Votraw, third councilor; and Sister Annunciata Collins, fourth councilor. Pictured, from left, are Sisters Annunciata, Shirley Anne, Mary Eamon, Marie Cordata and Jennifer.

Fr. Carrara is named vicar for pastoral personnel

Bishop LaValley has announced that Father James W. Seymour will step away from his position of Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel this Fall. Father Seymour has held this position for the past 12 years.

"I am most grateful to Father Seymour for his competent and loving service as Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel," said Bishop LaValley. "Father Jay wants to return to full time parish ministry, which is understandable since he is a pastor at heart."

The bishop announced that Father Christopher C. Carrara, pastor in Lowville will become Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel this Fall.

In making the announcement Bishop LaValley said, "Father Carrara is an experienced and wise pastor who has the skills to handle the important and diverse responsibilities of this position. I am grateful for his willingness to accept this

challenging ministry."

The change will not become effective until later this Fall, after a transition period that will enable Father Carrara to work with Father Seymour to learn the position.

"Father Seymour and Father Carrara will work together in the coming months to give Father Carrara the opportunity to learn the position and benefit from the wisdom and experience of Father Jay," said Bishop LaValley.

"This position entails a variety of duties and responsibilities and there is much to learn," he said.

"No matter what assignment Father Jay Seymour holds, he will always be an effective, loving pastor of souls and a strong, positive influence in our diocese," said Bishop LaValley.

"I know he will prepare Father Carrara well for this position so that he can continue the top notch leadership and service we received from Father Jay," he said.

Diocesan Youth Rally held May 7 at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown

'You Were Meant to Live For More'

By Kelly Donnelly
Diocesan director of youth ministry

WATERTOWN – Young people from across the diocese gathered at Immaculate Heart Central School May 7 for the annual Youth Rally.

The theme for the day was "You Were Meant to Live for More, and the youth in attendance shared in a day of prayer and fellowship, and left the day inspired to live for more.

The moving keynote presenter, Paul J. Kim, gave an excellent presentation. His balance of humor, personal testimony, beatboxing (and getting some youth volun-

teers to participate in beatboxing), and a beautiful guided meditation was truly inspirational.

The day continued with a break for lunch and an opportunity for the youth to visit the interactive park, exhibits, and take part in Adoration and confession.

A variety of exhibitors were present with materials and information for the youth. There were also activities taking place during this time, such as 3-D 4-Square and string art.

In the afternoon, participants were able to attend two workshops, including sessions on prayer, vocations, caring for creation, Theology

of the Body, helping peers in crisis, and a question and answer with Paul Kim.

The day concluded with small group discussions and prayer, and Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley.

Kathryn Moran, of Ticonderoga, said, "What I liked about the Youth Rally was the speaker who talked all about God and how He's always there. Another thing I liked about the youth rally were all the fun activities."

Shacoria Jackson, from Gouverneur stated, "I don't normally talk about my religion, but I think this youth rally was the best one I've been to yet. It really made me look at life differently,



Keynote speaker Paul Kim

open my heart fully to the Lord, and learn that I'm meant to live for more."

From start to finish, youth

enjoyed the day and were able to come together with peers from across the diocese to grow in the faith.

A card of thanks for the Youth Rally

Dear Bishop LaValley, Kelly Donnelly and the Youth Rally Committee,

We at St. Mary's school in Ticonderoga would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with the Youth Rally on May 6. What a wonderful chance for St. Mary's students to connect with other students from across the diocese and to hear such a dynamic speaker as Paul J. Kim. He had the students beatboxing, laughing, thinking and praying all within one presentation. His message of building a relationship with Christ by opening the door and letting him in was so relevant for all ages, including the chaperones!

We know a program such as this takes a lot of work and we'd like to thank all those involved: Bishop LaValley and the Diocese of Ogdensburg for providing the funds to have programs such as this Rally, Kelly Donnelly and the planning committee including Michelle Watkins, Sharon Turner, Jen Campbell, Lisa Parsons, and Seth Conklin, for organizing this event and Lisa Parsons for the use of the High school and the beautifully set up altar for our Mass, and for all of the people that helped and worked at the stands, during lunch and behind the scenes.

Seeing the reaction of my 6th graders and hearing their comments afterward, I can tell you your efforts paid off.

We already can't wait until next year!

Sister Suanne Johnson, SSJ

Here are some of their reactions in their own words----

"At the Youth Rally, there was this guy named Paul J. Kim and he was really funny. He was serious too, whenever he started talking about God. I learned at Mass that when Bishop LaValley was younger he went to castles and one castle he went to had a throne. He said he wanted to sit on the throne so he sneaked under the rope and sat on the throne but later he got in trouble. I thought it was funny that he sneaked into a castle to sit on a throne!"

Camryn Parrish

"I learned at the Youth Rally how to make the string finger rosary. Now I'm going to make a bunch of finger rosaries at home."

Skylar Barber

"What I learned at the Youth Rally is that sheep will only listen to a farmer's voice. This relates to Jesus in a way because we don't want to follow a stranger's voice."

Bayleigh Clark

"A guy named Paul J. Kim talked to us at the beginning of the Youth Rally. He did beatboxing, talked about his faith, why faith is good and how some people just don't care and why, for instance, people get bullied. He was also making fun of the girls when they are getting ready to cry and they wave their hand in front of their face. He also said he used to go to church for the girls and donuts. He was hilarious. Overall the Youth Rally was amazing!"

Riley Abare

"One thing that I learned at the Youth Rally is what God wants us to do which is, while we grow up, God starts telling us what he wants us to be."

Kennedy McKeown

"When we went to the Youth Rally, I learned about vocations and how to pray for my vocation. I also learned that there are different ways to pray from Paul J. Kim. At the end of his session he did a prayer that everyone could actually see God on the mountain and it was like a story. I really loved it."

Aubrey Whitford

"At the Youth Rally, I learned that your heart has a door and there is only one handle on the inside so only you can let God in. Paul J. Kim, our keynote speaker, talked about this in his speech. Paul said it is hard to let God in but you work through it."

Raelyn King

"When my class went to the Youth Rally, I learned about a quote from St. Catherine of Siena that says, "Be who God meant you to be and you will see the world on fire." This states if you do what God wants you to do and if you be who God wants you to be, you will be the best you. I also like this quote because it relates to me because I know what I want to be but I don't know if it is what God wants me to be so I'm going to wait to get my call."

Aurelia Leerkes

A SPECIAL DAY FOR DIOCESAN TEENS MAY 7 IN WATERTOWN

THE YOUTH RALLY!



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Among the young people who took part in the 2017 diocesan Youth Rally held May 7 at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown were these three from St. James Parish in Carthage. From left are Juliet Tavernier, ninth grade; Katherine Richards, seventh grade; and Gary Clarkson, eighth grade.



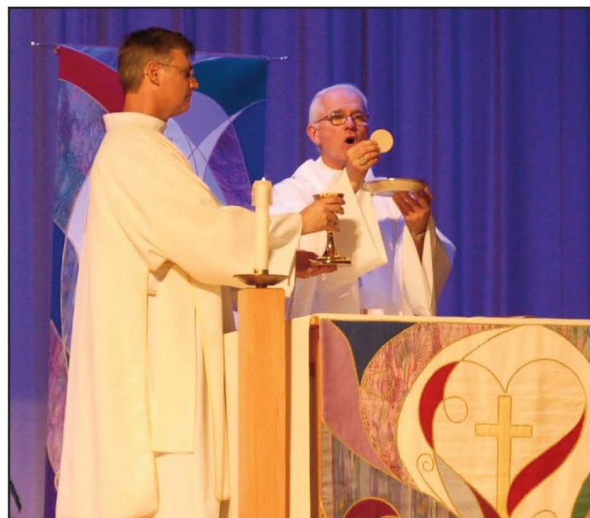
Hope Leader and Gracie Manning came to the Youth Rally from St. James Parish in Gouverneur.



Kelly Donnelly, diocesan director of youth ministry, chats with Megan Stark who volunteers in youth ministry in Malone.



Maureen Pierce, Heuvelton, reads from the Scriptures at the Youth Rally Mass.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley spent the day with the young people at the Youth Rally and presided at the closing Mass. Deacon Henry Leader of Gouverneur assisted.



Joey Izzo of Lake Placid and Michelle Watkins of Croghan, both longtime Guggenheim staff members, are pictured at the Youth Rally's interactive park.

Rosary makers honor Mary

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

This month marks the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's 1917 appearances to three young children in Fatima, Portugal. There the Blessed Mother asked the faithful to do penance in reparation for sin, to pray the Rosary daily, and to promote devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1949, in Louisville Kentucky, Xaverian Brother Sylvan Mattingly responded to those requests by teaching children how to make Rosaries for overseas missions, an effort which grew quickly and became known as Our Lady's Rosary Makers (olrm.org).

Through their bimonthly newsletter, Our Lady's Messenger, the apostolate connects members with organizations requesting rosaries; members purchase supplies, make the rosaries, and ship them at their own expense to the destination of their choice.

Our Lady's Rosary Makers, currently 15,000, thus offer time, talent, and treasure to send Rosaries—important symbols of the faith and aids to prayer—wherever they are



Linda Jock of Bombay holds 300 rosaries she recently completed; they are destined for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and a mission in South Carolina. A parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls, Mrs. Jock is a member of Our Lady's Rosary Makers and has created rosaries for over 30 years.

needed.

To date, members of this apostolate have distributed more than 200 million rosaries free of charge to missions, prisons, hospitals, religious education programs, and military installations across the country and around the world.

Among those involved in this ministry is Linda Jock of Bombay Who recently com-

pleted 300 rosaries destined for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and a mission in South Carolina.

A parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls, Mrs. Jock has made rosaries for the last 30 years.

An active member of Our Lady's Rosary Makers, she works tirelessly to share with others her own devotion to the Blessed Mother.

CHWC at Seton

PLATTSBURGH – Registration is still open for the Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) session to be held at Seton Catholic Central School June 25-33.

The week-long service camp is open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2017) and college students.

The mission is to inspire young people to live as disciples of Christ through serving others and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant.

During the week, campers will volunteer at various sites throughout the Plattsburgh area during the day and participate in fun, faith-building

programs in the evening. Daily Mass, Adoration, Penance and prayer nourish campers for their work in the community.

Father Bryan Stitt, parochial vicar in Rouses Point and Champlain, will be pastor for the week.

The cost is \$375 per person, which includes food, lodging, transportation to the work sites and t-shirts.

Registration may be made through Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786.

Additional information about CHWC can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com.

Bishop's Schedule

May 25 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown at St. Patrick's Church

May 27 – 11 a.m., Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Mr. Michael J. Jablonski at St. Mary's Cathedral
4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

May 28 – 12 p.m., 50th Annual St. Mary's Memorial Day Parade in Champlain

May 29 – 2 p.m., Memorial Day Ceremonies in Inlet

May 30 – 7 p.m., Confirmation for Immaculate Conception, Brownville and St. Andrew's, Sackets Harbor at Immaculate Conception Church

May 31 – 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Edmund's, Ellenburg and St. Bernard's, Lyon Mountain at St. Edmund's Church

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

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.

Environmental Stewardship

Rising Sea Levels

As the climates of the planet have changed over the past century and a half, many regions have experienced significant warming, especially near the poles. Along with changing weather patterns which influences all forms of life, our actions of burning fossil fuels have contributed greatly to the erosion of the surfaces of most glaciers which has added substantial amounts of fresh water to the oceans.

Coupled with the expansion of water as it warms, sea level has already risen approximately 8 inches over the past 14 decades. Scientists that have monitored this situation have also noted that the rate at which the oceans are rising is accelerating at an alarming pace, as estimates range from an increase of 2 to 6 feet over the next 8 decades.

This means that a baby born in 2017 could witness the vanishing of the present day coastline across the planet, unless some drastic action is taken to curtail carbon emissions.

40% of the population of our nation is located in areas along the coast and would be at risk of being devastated by flooding by the turn of the next century. Scientists that study climate and weather have also noted that as the oceans warm, they are better able to fuel more intense coastal storms which bring tidal surges that can further exacerbate the problem of shoreline flooding.

The Holy Father has urged Catholics to adopt a more simple life style. While this has many spiritual benefits, it also can reduce an individual's carbon footprint and help limit the many problems of climate change. Driving smaller, more fuel efficient cars limits our consumption of oil, and the pollution that these vehicles emit to the atmosphere.

Turn down the thermostat in winter, especially at night, and during the day if no one is at home, and insure that your home is as well insulated as it can be.

Even your selection of food can have an impact on your carbon footprint. Purchasing local products from the store saves in transportation costs and reducing the roll of meat in your diet can also help limit carbon emissions to the atmosphere.

Also, pray that our leaders recognize this problem, and will strive to develop global solutions.

COLLECTION TO BE HELD MAY 27 AND 28, 2017

SUPPORT

THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL



STRENGTHENING the CHURCH AT HOME



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From a Methodist upbringing to a Catholic marriage to RCIA to the diaconate

On a journey of faith

LOWVILLE-Thomas Yousey has worn many hats in his life – husband, father, teacher, mayor, foundation director and chaplain.

In October, he expects to add another when Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordains the St. Peter's parishioner for service as a deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

In a talk for an ecumenical Lenten service for the women of Lowville this past April, Yousey shared the story of his journey to ordination.

Bishop's message for a Methodist

Yousey opened his talk with a description of his encounter with the Bishop Thomas Donnellan in 1966 when, as a Methodist and high school senior, he played the timpani (kettle-drums) for a centennial celebration at St. Peter's.

At the end of the Mass, Yousey said, "the bishop said something to me that sent me to prayer for the next few days: 'You played that Mass so well; your sense of the music and the other musicians is unique for one in high school. When the plaster started falling on our heads from the rolling sound of the drums, I had a thought: God has called you to minister using your special talent. Please thank your parents and your pastor for allowing you to share your ministry and your vocation with us today.'"

"Vocation? Ministry? No one had ever used those words when addressing me," Yousey said. "What did he mean? A seed had been planted that has taken over 50 years to begin to grow."

The deacon candidate continues his story here:

A life with Linda

After high school, God placed Linda Erhardt in my path. Together we began a journey that lasted 44 years.



Thomas Yousey, who is a member of the deacon formation class preparing for ordination in October, is pictured above with his wife, Linda, on their wedding day and at the Deacon Convocation held earlier this month. On these pages he reflects on the growth of his vocation starting with his encounter with a Catholic bishop while he was a Protestant teenager.

We discovered that we were two different people driven by three passions that were exactly the same: we cared deeply about children, particularly the children that our society seemed to "put aside." Also, we cared deeply about family life (later to discover the beauty, strength and power of a life lived fully built from a sacramental marriage and God's love.) And, we cared deeply about living a life guided by Christ's example.

Our passions overwhelmed our differences so that after 44 years, they did not seem to matter. From the beginning of the relationship, I worshipped with Linda at her church, the Newman Center, Potsdam, while continuing to follow the teachings of my church, the Methodist Church.

We were married on June 13, 1970 at St. Peter's Church, Utica. The priest, Father Lorenz, at the only meeting that we had with him before the ceremony, made two points to us that stayed with us for the next 44 years: "You are obviously two faithful people; now the

work begins to make that faith one, together. And, "Remember, you are now entering into an *intrafaith* marriage, not interfaith. Keep Christ at the center of your marriage as each of your churches keeps Him at the center of their church lives."

On my wedding day, Father Lorenz invited me to receive Holy Communion with Linda (yes, my "First Holy communion in 2004 was technically not my first time receiving the Eucharist" to begin our faith journey together.

That evening as we said our evening prayers together for the first time, I remember thanking God for his presence with us particularly at that moment in the wedding ceremony. I had experienced the power of the sacrament, knowing nothing about the teaching of the Church.

Hearing a whisper

For the next 34 years, the call to the ministry left my "radar screen" until Father Tim Soucy whispered in my ear.... or did it?

My life as a husband, dad, educator and community



leader became my ministry. I stopped attending my protestant church when my two children became significantly involved with Linda in the St. Peter's parish community. By that time, Linda and I had become involved in Christian Family Movement and had accepted the Leader Couple role for our Pre-Cana team after about 10 years being members of the team.

It originally started with the team inviting us to participate because they needed a "token Protestant" in an intrafaith couple on the team. They asked us to talk about our faith and the "challenges" of living a "double-faith" life. We reframed that talk, like Father Lorenz had for us, describing how we lived an intrafaith life centered on Christ and how the "challenges" seemed to turn into "joys".

Linda and I had been a part of a Marriage Enrichment Group for 30 years and we began to lead retreats. We also offered marriage enrichment programs in churches, literally all denominations.

Linda was the planner! I

was the voice! Together we shared what we had learned studying our own relationship for 25+ years.

We shared what we wished we had learned sooner in our relationship. We urged couples to talk and to pray together. We emphasized how a Christ-centered family travels on a clearer, more loving path.

We shared with many different Catholic communities from Saranac Lake to Watertown and from Syracuse to Utica. Throughout it all, I began to question Linda on Catholic teaching. If I was going to be the voice, I needed to understand it better. It became clear to her, to us, that we had some learning to do – she just could not answer all my questions.

Throughout this time, I sensed the presence of Christ in our school life, our family life, and our family-teaching life. All of that nurtured my faith, but, to be honest, that faith still felt empty and alone.

Why Catholic?

Finally, after 30+ years of marriage, the opportunity came to truly begin to understand: *Why Catholic!* Linda and I committed to a *Why Catholic* group. Father Tim participated with us and three other couples in that group. He participated; he did not teach (except when we pressed him and the pressing often came from me).

God graced me through that *Why Catholic* group over three years in two ways: I began (only began) to sense the power of Catholic liturgy for bringing to me and renewing in me the presence of God in my life. And, I experienced the power of a small faith community building up the faith of the entire community while nurturing each individual's faith.

Journey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I felt invited and welcomed like I truly belonged!

In the last year of *Why Catholic*, a Jesuit from Philadelphia came to St. Peter's to lead a Lenten Retreat speaking on the theme: the Mass.

Nothing has prepared me more for the diaconate than 44+ years growing into a 'relationship of faith' with my wife Linda

My revelations that evening: Christ has been here all this time while I sat with my wife and children and never opened my mind, heart and soul to invite Him in AND The Word of God is speaking to me throughout the Mass and I have never heard it AND what else have I been missing?

Linda's work kept her away from the next two evening sessions. I moved my work aside; there was no place I needed to be more than there at that Lenten Retreat. By the end of the third evening, I heard His call to come into full communion with my Catholic brothers and sisters.

Faith journey of RCIA

Linda had never, even subtly, urged me to convert. But when I told what had happened, she beamed with joy. Immediately she asked to serve as my sponsor, of course. She attended each and every RCIA session with me for 14 months. I felt like I was starting over on an entirely new faith journey and like we were really traveling the same road in faith together for the first time.

Bea Ocampo led the RCIA team that prepared me for Holy Communion and Confirmation. At first, she spent considerable time after class helping me to truly understand the teachings of the church.

She discovered that, with my strong scripture background from Methodist and



The Yousey Family of Lowville are shown at a family wedding. In front are Emma and Jack; back, Henry, Pam, Chris, Nathan, Kimberly, Linda and Tom.

Mennonite Sunday Schools, we could explore the scriptures together, coming to a greater understanding.

Bea was not subtle; she often pointed out to me that, maybe, I should consider ministry, the diaconate.

For the last three years of her life, I served Bea, in the nursing home, as her extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, prayer companion, health care proxy, and power of attorney. I began to really think that God was calling me through Bea to the diaconate.

Formation for Ministry

During this time at the invitation of St. Peter's pastor Father Chris Carrara, I started Formation for Ministry. I thought I was hearing God's call and he suggested that Formation provided the perfect opportunity for discernment.

He strongly urged me to see this as a time for prayer and reflection, taking full advantage of the program.

What an experience!

Formation required undertaking a new ministry. At the same time, our hospice chaplain requested that a co-chaplain be recruited. I heard this immediately because I sat on the board when his request was an-

nounced. When I heard it, I heard God's call. My reaction: "Who me? Am I ready for this?"

I made an appointment with Father Carrara. I ask if he thought I was ready for this ministry. His response, "Just be the faithful person that you are and let God do the rest." So I did.

I transitioned directly from Formation for Ministry to Formation for the Diaconate, along with three other men who had walked the Formation journey with me. By that point, I truly valued them as brothers walking this journey together.

A relationship of faith

At the same time, Linda was diagnosed with MDS, a blood disorder. The only cure: a bone marrow transplant.

Linda audited almost every Formation class with me (it was a long drive from Lowville to Ogdensburg and she "enjoyed" riding along).

Formation, together, helped to us to finally build a "relationship of faith" as Father Lorenz had advised us. That "relationship of faith" lives on with God's grace, even though Linda died on April 28, 2014 after a year-long fight with the final five months confined

in isolation (with me) at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City.

I had come to know the strength and power of faith through the Christ-led, Christ-fed people I met through hospice. Through Linda's suffering and death, we experienced the same in a most powerful way.

Linda's final days

After listening to the medical team and prayerfully seeking the help of God, we, my son, daughter and I, decided to end active treatment for Linda on Good Friday, 2014. Linda lived for another eight days peacefully on palliative care and with the love and support of a faithful, loving Dominican priest.

On the Monday after Easter, the parish across the street planned to end Mass with Benediction and Adoration. Father Jordan, the faith-filled priest who prayed with Linda each day for eight days, was standing by the door of the church as I rushed out before Benediction to be with Linda. His comment to me, "Christ is with Linda; we both know that. Should you be spending some time with him in thanksgiving for his grace and mercy?"

I experienced, that day,

the grace of God that comes from the quiet of Adoration like I had never before or again. This was another discerning experience for a diaconal candidate right in the middle of pain and suffering!

The diaconate program had begun while Linda and I were in New York City. The instructor for my coursework at Wadhams supported me by allowing me to complete the course without attending the classes (with the help of another candidate's wife who took notes for me). I had never met most of the men in the class until they appeared at Linda's funeral. What a powerful statement of love, Christian love!

Faith-filled, humbling experience

The journey of "relationship faith" with Linda prepared me for the diaconate. Christ calls us to one body in faith; Linda and I learned what that means together with His guidance and the guidance of the ministers of the church. Nothing has prepared me more for the diaconate than 44+ years growing into a "relationship of faith" with her.

As I near the end of the Deacon Formation program, I often take just a few seconds away from my studies to sit back and smile at myself. What a faith-filled, humbling, challenging experience it has been and continues to be.

Faith-filled? I walk with God almost every moment of every day and night like I never did before.

Humbling? More than at any other time in my life, I matter to me less and less. The people around me and away from me matter more and more.

Challenging? After six years of formation, I still question if I am ready.

However, I find myself confidently fearful after living Father Chris Carrara's advice, "Just be the faithful person that you are and let Christ do the rest."

SPRINGTIME SACRAMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

FACES OF FAITH



Fifteen children from Sacred Heart Church in Chazy received their First Holy Eucharist April 30. They also participated in the May Crowning. Pictured with Father Ted Crosby, pastor, and Noreen Barcomb, director of religious education, are, from left, Seraphina Pearo, Logan Clukey, Linzy Pheneuf, Allison Bochart, Jack Bell, Stephanie Barriere, Sophia Lynch, Marin Juneau, Paige Dumars, Luke Basso, Landon Duprey, Camilo Rodriguez, Zachary West, Sequoia McChesney and Jack McAuliffe.



On May 7 at Immaculate Conception Church, Brownville, Father J. Michael Gaffney blessed a statue of St. Jude donated by James and Lisa Montrois in honor and memory of their daughter Karen Montrois. Karen passed away Nov. 16, 2015 at the age of 49, suffering from cholangiocarcinoma, a bile duct cancer.



A "Tupper Triad" hike brought priests and discerners together for bit of prayerful fraternity. Pictured on Mt. Arab are Father Philip Allen, Lukas Gruber, Father Justin Thomas, a Herald of the Good News priest; Father Howard Venette, and John Ojuok.



The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay celebrated First Communion May 7 with 11 children at St. Patrick's Church. From left are Quin Helm, Jenna Decosse, Jamie Lynn Helm, Madison McComb, Payton Parmeter, Kelly Vanier, Paul Dwyer, Ashton Paine, and Jacob Decosse. First Communion teachers for the parish are Mr. and Mrs. Crawford.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishops tell lawmakers to focus on poor in upcoming budget

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Decrease military spending and help the poor, said the U.S. bishops in a May 19 letter addressed to Congress, before lawmakers prepare to work on the federal budget for the upcoming 2018 fiscal year. The budget requires difficult decisions, but lawmakers must "give central importance to 'the least of these,'" said the letter sent to all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and signed by the chairmen of six USCCB committees. The letter urged lawmakers to "promote the welfare of workers and families who struggle to live in dignity." Increasing funding for defense and immigration enforcement while cutting "many domestic and international programs that assist the most vulnerable, would be profoundly troubling," said the letter signed by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishops Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont; Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida; George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio; and Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas. Decisions should be "guided by moral criteria that protect human life and dignity," they said, and making deep cuts to programs that help the poor "would harm people facing dire circumstances."

At anniversary Mass, officials recall spiritual roots of Montreal

MONTREAL (CNS) -- Montreal's 375th anniversary celebrations kicked off inside Notre-Dame Basilica with a celebration emphasizing that Montreal was not born out of violence or greed, but as a spiritual endeavor. The Mass celebrated the birth of Ville-Marie -- Montreal's original name -- in 1642. Archbishop Christian Lepine of Montreal recalled the memory of the founders of Montreal, "those adventurers of hope" who dared "set out without being sure of tomorrow." It is through "their faith in the beauty of the project of a city founded on spirituality, togetherness and solidarity" that Montreal was born, said Archbishop Lepine. These "founding values have gone through time and are still current," he said, recalling that "the value of living together is part of the genes of Montreal and its history." In a message to Archbishop Lepine, Pope Francis also noted the solidarity that drives Montreal and its inhabitants. "In fidelity to the evangelical intuitions of the founders of Ville-Marie, the Holy Father encourages all inhabitants of Montreal to build bridges between men, respecting their differences and thus contributing to the building of a more just and fraternal society," read Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, apostolic nuncio to Canada.

Reports: Callista Gingrich will be nominated as Vatican ambassador

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Callista Gingrich, wife of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, will be Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, two U.S. news outlets are reporting. The New York Times and CNN reported May 14 that the official announcement of the nomination is waiting to be approved by the Office of Government Ethics. Callista Gingrich, 51, a former congressional aide, is the president of Gingrich Productions, which produces documentaries as well as other materials related to her husband, Republican Newt Gingrich, who served from 1995 until 1999 as the 50th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2010, the company released the film "Nine Days That Changed the World" about Pope John Paul II's nine-day pilgrimage to Poland in 1979 and how it played a part in the fall of communism in Europe.

Search for common ground will be key to the pope's meeting with the president

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Despite a few pointed comments in the past and fundamental differences on issues such as immigration, economic policy, military spending and climate change, sparks are not expected to fly May 24 when Pope Francis welcomes U.S. President Donald Trump to the Vatican.

The two will have a private conversation, with interpreters present, and while anything is possible, protocol dictates that the joint statement issued after the meeting will describe it as "cordial."

Going into the meeting, Pope Francis made it clear he hoped it would be.

On Pope Francis' flight back to Rome from Portugal May 13, a reporter asked him, "What are you expecting from a meeting with a head of state who seems to think and act in a way contrary to your own?"

The pope replied, "I never make a judgment about people without hearing them first. It is something I feel I should not do. When we speak to each other, things will come out. I will say what I think; he will say what he thinks. But I have never, ever, wanted to make a judgment without hearing the person."

Pope Francis said he would look first for areas of agreement and shared principles - his basic recipe for creating "a culture of encounter."

"There are always doors that are not closed," the pope said about his meeting with Trump. "We have to find doors that are at least a little open in order to go in and speak about things we have in common and go forward. Step by step."

The key, he said, is "respect for the other, saying what we



CNS PHOTOS/REUTERS AND PAUL HARING

U.S. President Donald Trump and Pope Francis are seen in this composite photo. The two leaders are scheduled to meet at the Vatican May 24.

think, but with respect, walking together. Someone sees things in a certain way: say so, be honest in what each of us thinks."

Honesty, even if not completely diplomatic, characterized a couple of pointed remarks Pope Francis and then-presidential candidate Trump made in reference to the other's positions.

Flying in February 2016 to Rome from Mexico, where he had just paid homage to people who have lost their lives trying to cross into the United States, Pope Francis was asked about candidate Trump's promise to build a wall the entire length of the border.

"A person who thinks only of building walls, wherever it may be, and not of building bridges, is not Christian," the pope said. He added that he would not tell anyone how to vote and that he would "have to see if he said these things, and thus I will give him the benefit of the doubt."

Trump responded by saying that the Mexican government had given Pope Francis only "one side of the story" and was "using the pope as a pawn."

Also, he said, "for a reli-

gious leader to question a person's faith is disgraceful. I am proud to be a Christian and as president I will not allow Christianity to be consistently attacked and weakened, unlike what is happening now."

Efforts to protect freedom of conscience for employers and health-care workers and the need to defend religious freedom are likely to be a starting point for finding common ground.

A discussion about religious persecution could open the door to Pope Francis restating his conviction of the moral obligation to welcome strangers, especially those fleeing persecution, terrorism, war and abject poverty.

Protecting the unborn is another common concern and would provide an opening for Trump to talk about his Supreme Court nominee and his steps to halt funding of abortions overseas. It also would give Pope Francis an opening to talk about the protection of all life - especially the weakest - with health care, education, job opportunities and a clean environment where people can thrive.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Finding strength after Jesus' Ascension

This past Thursday, we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord in heaven. Up to that time, the Apostles were gradually getting used to their fleeting glimpses of the Risen Christ, appearing here and there so dramatically.

They never knew when he would appear next with new commands to preach the Good News everywhere.

Now, he suddenly ascends into the air before their eyes, and is lost to sight in the clouds. Being admonished by an Angel to focus now on the mission Jesus had given them, they

went back to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to pray and prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

They were even more frightened now, for it was one thing to label themselves followers of the Christ when he was not too far away. It was quite another to think of facing the Jewish leaders without Christ's earthly presence.

Wisely, they kept near his mother,

Mary in those nine days of waiting.

They must have remembered what Jesus had said to them: "If you really love

me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father." In other words, I have a better way to remain with you. I will live in you and in the Church through my Spirit.

And did they remember his wonderful farewell address in that same upper room just a few weeks before at that strange, sacred meal the night before He died?

Did they now understand the reason for his institution of the Eucharist, that He might remain with them always?

They also knew that to be followers of Jesus would involve much suffering.

Just a few weeks ago on May 13th, Pope Francis flew to Fatima to celebrate one

MAY 28

Seventh Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 1:12-14

1 Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11a

hundred years since Mary first appeared to Lucy, Francis, and Jacinta to urge them to pray every day for peace.

She urged them to offer their own sufferings to Jesus in reparation for the sins of the world. Finally, she told them to recite her rosary every day.

Through Mary's intercession, we all have hope of receiving God's infinite mercy.

Her message is so desperately needed today.

Like the Apostles, we need to prepare ourselves this week for a renewal of all those gifts we received at our Confirmation. We must not act as though he were present.

He is present. His being present in the Spirit is far more powerful than his earthly presence would have been.

We must go simply and deliberately into our souls daily - into the core of our being - and there listen to Him in silence.

Strengthened by His grace, and assisted by Mary, we can courageously live a life of witness for peace throughout the world.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

RESPECT LIFE

Wishes for my first-born child

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
NCC columnist

This summer my oldest son will be getting married. I am thrilled for him, and for his fiancé, a bright young woman who is as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside.

For months I have been pondering the perfect wedding gift.

If I could give them any gift in the whole wide world, anything at all, what would I give them?

I have come to this conclusion: I would give them a life just like the one my hus-

band and I have been blessed to live.

Our 30 years of married life have been marked by days that were better and days that were worse; days that were richer and days that were poorer; days in sickness and days in good health - just like the vows had foretold.

And I wouldn't wish it any other way.

Marriage is a process; it is not an immediate step into "happily ever after." There are twists and turns and stages. Sometimes the better and the worse come very close together.

Two years after we were

married, Joe and I signed the papers to purchase our first house. We were so elated I don't think our feet were touching the ground.

The very next day Joe lost his job and I miscarried our first baby. I did not think we could sink any lower.

The only reason we were able to pick ourselves up and start again is because God is the foundation of our relationship, the glue that ties our bond and makes us whole.

His love and His grace saw

us through. Just a few short years later our second baby was born into this world - Joey - fruit of our love and our ultimate joy, the clearest reflection of God.



Kathleen
Gallagher

I pray that Joey and his bride will be blessed with the gift of children, little ones who will spill their Cheerios all over the pews at Sunday Mass, who will challenge their parents every waking moment of their teenage years, and who will grow

into kind, generous, honest human beings just like their mom and dad.

And once the married couple find themselves in an empty nest, I hope they will fill it with new adventures, fresh additions, a deeper sense of connectedness and mature love.

I wish I could tie a ribbon around the simple things in life to give to them on their wedding day. I want them to

burst with pride when their child graduates from kindergarten;

exhale with relief when they pay off their mortgage;

fortify each other when they hold hands and pray the "Our Father";

laugh...at the dog, at the world, at each other, at themselves;

appreciate when their spouse cleans out the closet, even if they make a mess of it;

talk through their disagreements and forgive each other;

not sweat the small stuff; and

know that they were destined for each other, not for anyone else -- called by God to the beautiful vocation of married life.

I do not wish them esteemed positions, a prestigious address or an unlimited bank account. I wish them a lifetime to have and to hold, a lifetime of love and faithfulness to each other and to the Lord.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

AT THE MOVIES

SNATCHED

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

There's a kernel of goodness at the heart of the mother-daughter comedy "Snatched" (Fox). But the minority of grown viewers for whom the film is acceptable will have to wade through a veritable cesspool of bad taste to approach it.

That's a pity, because this fast-moving feature is occasionally amusing and marks a welcome return to the big screen for Goldie Hawn as Linda, an overprotective but sensible and loving mom.

Linda never condones the lewd antics of her estranged daughter, Emily (Amy Schumer). Instead she labors patiently for Emily's redemption from evil and selfishness.

That's no easy goal to achieve, and their relationship is put to a further test when Emily persuades her mother to join her on a getaway to Ecuador.

Emily intended to go with her rocker boyfriend, Michael (Randall Park), but he dumps her on the eve of

their departure. With a non-refundable vacation package, and no friends willing to go, Emily takes pity on her mother.

Linda is a free spirit and homebody, caring for her cats and her agoraphobic son, Jeffrey (Ike Barinholtz). Afraid of her own shadow, she's an unlikely candidate for a South American adventure. "Help me put the 'fun' in 'nonrefundable,'" Emily pleads. So off they go to a fancy resort on the edge of the Ecuadorian jungle.

Linda is content to sit by the pool and read her book. But Emily seeks romance, and soon hooks up with handsome stranger James (Tom Bateman).

This Mr. Wrong lures Emily and Linda into the jungle with the promise of waterfalls and rainbows. It's a setup, and mother and daughter are kidnapped and held for ransom by the treacherous Morgano (Oscar Jaenada).

"Snatched" wastes no time

with the perils of these Paulines, piling on the slapstick (and vulgarity) as they escape into the bush. Help comes from a mysterious guide named Roger (Christopher Meloni), and fellow resort guests Ruth (Wanda Sykes) and Barb (Joan Cusack).

As directed by Jonathan Levine ("50/50"), from a screenplay by Katie Dippold, "Snatched" is a slapdash, cliché-ridden send-up of exploitation movies. It's only redeemable feature is a message about a mother's unconditional love and the enduring family bond, which manages to shine through a very dirty exterior - as indicated by the warnings below.

The film contains brief nudity, persistent sexual humor and innuendo and pervasive rough language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L - limited



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Amy Schumer and Goldie Hawn star in a scene from the movie "Snatched."

adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R - restricted.

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Admission by Donation

More information - contact: (518) 225-1902

www.townemeeting.com
www.ncmissionofhope.org



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CLINTON

GARAGE SALE

Plattsburgh – Annual Seton Garage sale to be held.

Date: June 3 and 4

Place: Seton

Features: Special Drop off after Mass on May 28. Other drop offs are scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for 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 MASS

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will host a healing Mass.

Date: May 27

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: Communal Anointing during Mass and the option of private prayer after Mass. Lunch will follow.

Contact: Reservations necessary, please call 518-594-3253

IGNATIUS PRAYER

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will host 2 workshops on Ignatius Prayer.

Date: June 17

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: First workshop on Meditation followed by lunch and then the second workshop will be on Contemplation.

Contact: Reservations necessary. Please call 518-594-3253

HEALING MISSION

West Chazy – A Healing Mission is set

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.

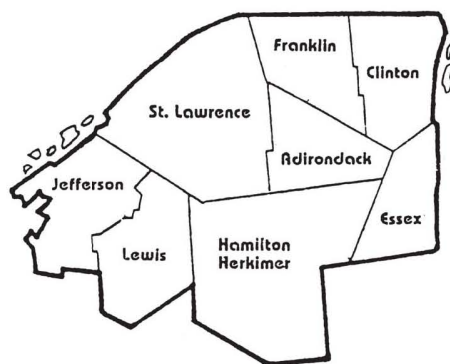
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Bill McBride Jr. Memorial 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



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.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.m.

FRANKLIN

GARAGE SALE

Malone – St. Andre's Parish is holding its GIGANTIC Annual Garage Sale.

Date: June 7 - June 19 (Closed Sundays)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church parking lot

Features: Furniture, household goods, tools, baby items, toys, books, bedding, miscellaneous. New items daily.

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Watertown – 4th Annual IHC Memorial Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: May 25

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Ives Hill Country Club

Cost: \$400 per team; 4 person Captain and Crew, Food and Prizes

Contact: Ives Hill Country Club Pro Shop

:315-775-4653 or Bobby Fox 315-523-

1075 Please Make Check Payable to IHC

Booster Club. For more information:

http://www.ihcschool.org/athletics/ihc-memorial-golf-tournament

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.stmarysclayton.org

MINISTRY FAIR

Clayton – The Parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's to hold 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 EUCCHARISTIC 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

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. viewing 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration set

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.

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.

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 Mary. Participants are Welcome any time during this event or for its entirety.

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

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

Vocations: Growing the faith

Growing the faith....

Our own faith journey seems like an ongoing cycle of growth: seeds of faith planted by our parents, nurtured by family and friends, strengthened by the seasons of our lives. At times of trial, we cling close to the Lord's love and hope. It is that love of God and the Hope that calls us to be servants.

When you are called to serve, there are many benefits, but the best may be the feeling of joy. It is that small voice you hear in your head saying to you "faithful servant, well done". Being a servant or being called to a vocation could possibly be by virtue of our baptism. Our baptism calls us to be missionaries. Being a missionary is one of the ultimate sacrifices one can make.

When one thinks about a vocation, many things can come to mind. But if you are thinking about it, it must mean that there has been an inherent desire within you to explore, much like a missionary does, when they set off on a journey to a developing land like Peru or Mongolia to aid, assist and grow the faith.

If others around in your life notice that you may have a vocation, this is also a sign that you may be on a path or a journey, much like a missionary. Through this calling, you can be yourself and not have to hide from your true self. But it won't be easy. Easy does not exist for missionaries in the developing lands.

Those who are called to a vocation often experience a peace or calm when thinking about their calling. Sometimes a coincidence of factors pushes you towards a vocation that you don't yet realize. These are just a few of the ways one's growing the faith of a vocation add up to signs that one is being called to God.

As things become clear, the thoughts of a vocation seem like the right choice. Just as missionaries know in their hearts it is what they must do. As one gives their control over to God, one become free to serve and help and assist in the work of God, just as missionaries do every day.

Being a missionary and growing the seeds of faith through vocations help one to realize that the World is a big place: a place where you can find a sense of belonging to a community for the greater good.

When one can understand and discover what is within, it is then that one finds a vocation.

"Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically." Romans 12:11. Never give up and never stop having faith. The faith will grow as you see how God needs you and you need God.

Just as a seed needs soil and the soil needs nourishment like water and sun in order to grow, your vocation will seed the journey of faith.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>

OBITUARIES

Altona – Elizabeth "Jane" (Trudo) Sayah, 79; Funeral Services May 20, 2017 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton – Linda L. Curran, 78; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton – Rose B. (Kelley) Soulia, 89; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in East Road Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Chasm Falls – Col. (Ret) Jarold L. "Jerrie" Hutchinson, 82; Funeral Services May 26, 2017 at St. Helen's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Chaumont – Marlow Germain Burt, 81; Memorial Services at All Saints Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, McKeen, PA.

Copenhagen – Norma F. (Kellogg) Young, 78; Funeral Services May 20, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Tylerville Cemetery, South Rutland.

Edwards – June C. (Moore) Chapin, 83; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Gates Cemetery.

Gabriels – Shirley (Parker) Claremont, 79; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Hattie A. (Cree) Bashaw, 58; Funeral Services May 16, 2017 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid – Saige Marie Borden, 20; Funeral Services May 16, 2017 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid – Donald J. Malone, 91; Fu-

neral Services May 27, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in Pine Lawn National Cemetery,

Lake Placid – Audrey Ann Brown Personius, 87; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.

Lake Placid – Elizabeth Claire Coyle, 86; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Saranac Lake

Lake Placid – Beverley Anne Bromley Sprague, 79; Funeral Services May 17, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

Malone – Roger A. Keating, 69; Funeral Services May 20, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone – Jerome J. "Jerry" McNulty, II, 90; Funeral Services May 22, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Henry R. Dobbins, Jr., 58; Funeral Services May 17, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery II, Norfolk.

Morrisonville – Milton "Mickey" H. Lapham, 86; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood – Ellen A. Claffey, 93; Funeral Services May 15, 2017 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Port Henry – Veronica T. (Barcomb) Brasseur, 87; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam – Robert H. Scott, 74; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Norwood – George Eng, 59; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Henry C. VanAcker, Jr., 74; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

Ticonderoga – Elizabeth "Betty" Bernadette Burleigh, 75; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Jamie Rose Martin, 33; Funeral Services May 17, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Heather Mae Maroun, 74; Funeral Services May 13, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Anthony P. Oddi, 86; Funeral May 18, 2017 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary T. (Lettiere) Soares, 100; Funeral May 20, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*



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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

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:

smarion@massenacatholics.com

GARAGE SALE DAYS

Raymondville - The Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond will be having a garage sale.

Schedule: June 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and June 3, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Raymond's Church

Features: 50/50 raffle to be drawn at 3 p.m. Saturday (Need not be present to win). Food and drink available each day

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Massena - Friday Devotions are set fea-

tureing 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 Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

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

Date: June 3

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

Place: SUNY Potsdam

Cost: \$35, includes materials and lunch
Features: A hospitable community doesn't "just happen." Hospitality takes effort and intentionality and work. It isn't just the responsibility of a select few on a hospitality committee. It requires each and every parishioner.

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

JESUS LOVES CARBS... AND COLLEGIANS!



PHOTO BY AMANDA CONKLIN

What started as a joke among members of the Catholic campus ministry group in Canton was made permanent on t-shirts as the school year ended. With their "Jesus loves carbs" shirts, in back from left are Alena Ragan (St. Lawrence University), Katie Lloyd (SLU), Alice Antoniou (SLU), Nikki Zeitzmann (SUNY Canton), Allie Withee (SLU), Sarah Campbell (SLU). In front is Luke Nolan (SUNY Canton)

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 (jminer@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.

GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.
E-mail cward@dioogdensburg.org
to sign up today.

LATIN MISSA CANTATA

Ogdensburg - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preach at a Sung Mass, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the *Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum*

Date: July 7

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: *Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum* is an Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI in which he expanded the circumstances in which priests of the Latin Church may celebrate the Tridentine Mass. Music for the liturgy will be directed by Lukas Gruber, current Director of Music at St. Mary's, Potsdam, accompanied by Marie-Claire d'Arcy, Director of Music and Organist at St. Andre Bessette Parish, Malone. A picnic on the cathedral lawn will follow

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Saranac Lake - Registration for 2017 season for diocesan summer program, Camp Guggenheim is open

Dates: First of six weeks is July 1-7

Cost: \$300

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 diocesan Office of Youth Ministry at

315-393-2920 or vlalonde@rcdony.org or visit camp website: rcdony.org/camp/gugguy

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

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Family Guggenheim registration is now open.

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

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

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

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