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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 13

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 19, 2017

'Exciting time to be an evangelist'

ORLANDO, FLA. (CNS) - Delegates at the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders. The Joy of the Gospel in America" have their work cut out for them but they are equipped to do it, said speakers at the final plenary session July 4.

"The saints always loved a

good fight and we should like a good fight too," said keynote speaker Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles.

At the start of his talk, he cited sobering church statistics about the decreasing number of Catholics today

that some delegates heard at some of the breakout sessions.

For every Catholic who joins the church, six leave, he said, and also the number of "nones"-- those who claim no religious affiliation even if they were Catholic - is grow-

ing. The bishop let this sink in and then went straight to encouraging delegates to move forward saying: "It's an exciting time to be an evangelist."

(See Bishop LaValley's reflections on the convocation on page 3.)

NFP Week to be held July 23-29



The 2017 Natural Family Planning Awareness Week will be celebrated July 23-29. NFP Week is a national education campaign to celebrate God's vision for marriage and promote the methods of NFP.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-10

NCC summer schedule

The bi-monthly publication of the *North Country Catholic* continues, the next issue of the paper will be dated Aug. 2

GUGGENHEIM GRINS



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

The 2017 camping season is well underway at the Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake but there are still a few spots remaining in most sessions. Registration for a week of "hiking, swimming, praising" may be made through www.rcdony.org/camp or by contacting the Department of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or vlalonde@rcdony.org. Five of this year's staff members are shown above. From left are Lillia Woolschlager, Croghan; Ellen Miner, Saranac Lake; Grace Leader, Gouverneur; Johnny McBride, Waterbury, Vermont; and Kevin McCullough, Watertown.

ENTERTAINING ANGELS

For parish
hospitality



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

The Diocesan Office of the New Evangelization sponsored a day-long session on parish hospitality titled "Entertaining Angels" June 3 at SUNY Potsdam. Sherri Wohlfer, a program specialist for the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute, led the workshop which included a invitation for the participants to pray with and for each other. Above Doreen Garrett of St. Mary's Clayton; and Tammie Eggleston, St. Mary Evans Mills, are shown at prayer. About 150 Catholics from 50 parishes in the North Country took part in the day.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

MISSION TIME: MPDO focuses on Lattakia, Syria, this year... p. 15

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EDITOR'S NOTE

No whining? Yes, Pope Francis

Pope Francis has never been shy about sharing his wisdom with leaders of the church and leaders of the world.

He never hesitates to offer solace to those who are suffering and encouragement to those who struggle as a loving, holy father should.

But this week, a photo on the Vatican Insider website features a papal message that I know that this Catholic woman, who lives in one of the best places in the world, needs to take to heart.

And I know I'm not alone.

A sign tacked to the door of the pope's apartment features

the international sign for "no" (a backlash in a circle) with the Italian words for...

No Whining!

There's an added warning: "violators are subject to a syndrome of always feeling like a victim and the consequent reduction of your sense of humor and your capacity to solve problems."

I'll be the first to admit that the level of whining coming out of my mouth during this rainy, rainy summer

has reached near record levels... "it's too wet to walk the dog or take a swim or get in the boat," blah, blah, blah...

The closing line of the pope's placard offers the only advice

that makes sense: "stop complaining and take steps to improve your life."

And while I haven't figured out how to improve the weather, I can certainly improve my reaction to it just by letting my personal history repeat itself.

This year's pictures from Camp Guggenheim brought me right back to the first year I worked there – a couple generations ago – which, though, even colder and rainier than this year, turned out to be the best summer of my life.

Campers may have booed when I let them know who's turn it was to swim with me. We may have depended on the warmth from the fireplace in lieu of warmth from the sun. And we definitely "needed a lit-

tle Christmas" to brighten chilly Adirondack days. But these realities never stopped us from repeating - and repeating - our camp motto that year: "the sun always shines at Guggenheim."

The faith and fun and ever-growing friendships that marked those weeks at camp, far outweighed our disappointment in the weather. There may have been a bit of whining (our clothes *never* dried out!) but it didn't rule the day.

I'd be willing to bet that the staff and campers of Guggenheim 2017 are moving through their rainy challenges with the same level of joy. After all, there's no time to whine when there are friends to be made, faith to be shared, projects to finish... and so much love.

Mary Lou
Kilian

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

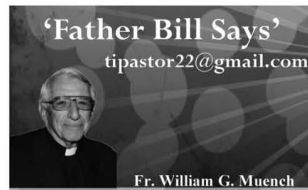
Becoming a bold disciple of Jesus

On the Fourth of July, I walked down in the evening to watch the fireworks. I discovered that people-watching was an interesting part of the experience. When the fireworks did begin, I ended up standing near a father who was corraling two little ones. After a few minutes into the fireworks I overheard this fellow's three-year-old son say to him "Dad, I am not afraid at all."

We all have various ways of dealing with the fears of life. I am certain that Jesus must have noticed this about us humans – our various fears.

He certainly wanted to make us realize that God the Father is deeply concerned for us and wants to support us in our fears. The Gospels tells us that Jesus often assured his disciples "Do not be afraid."

Matthew's Gospel tells us the story of the time the apostles were in a boat by themselves during a storm and Jesus came toward them walking on the water. We are told that the disciples thought it was a ghost



and were terrified. Jesus shouts out to them, "Get hold of yourself! It is I. Do not be afraid."

How many times has Jesus come to me and you during times of personal storms to calm us and support us in our fear. We have only to recognize him and call to him.

I now remember that on a recent Sunday, one of the hymns chosen for Mass was, "Be Not Afraid." You have heard it often. In that same Mass, the Scriptures reminded us that we can trust Jesus to support us and protect us in times of fear.

I would like to suggest here that often our fears are what keep us from being good, bold and brave enough to live well as disciples of Jesus.

Our Lord wants to remove all those fears from our hearts, and banish all that may keep us from bringing the love and peace of God to this moment.

Today, I want to emphasize our call to become a bold disciple of the Lord. This means that we must be courageous and unafraid to live well and bring Christ's message of love and peace to all that we do.

Pope Francis challenges us all – to be as disciples of Jesus, disciples who live our call without fear recognizing that Jesus will support us. St. Paul recognized the importance for the Church of the many men and women who live as disciples of the Lord Jesus.

He prays in gratitude in Ephesians 1:15 – "For my part, from the time I first heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the members of the Church, I have never stopped thanking God for you and recommending you in my prayers." This is a prayer for us also.

So, I join St. Paul in gratitude

to God for you, the many men and women of our parishes today, who are truly bold and unafraid disciples of the Lord. May you all truly recognize the Spirit of our Lord constantly supporting you in your efforts to making your parish alive in the Lord.

We are all challenged to make our Catholic Church and our own parishes alive as bold disciples of the Lord.

I was truly impressed with the large number of men and women who gave two years of study in the Formation of Ministry Program. They are now commissioned by Bishop LaValley as active disciples in parish ministry. These folks are important to the life of each of our parishes and to the life of our diocese as bold disciples of Jesus.

However once more I want to remind you all that each and every one of you is called through your Baptism to be a good disciple – unafraid to live out your faith and bringing the Lord Jesus into all that you do.

FOLLOW ME

The Joy of the Gospel in America

Orlando would not be my preferred destination for the Fourth of July. Nevertheless, Marika Donders, Cathy Russell, Maura and John Fehlner and Father Doug Lucia joined me and 3500 other Catholics from across the country at the *Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America* from July 1-4 down in the Sunshine State.

Such a gathering had never occurred before. I'm glad I went.

The days were truly grace-filled. We heard uplifting, challenging presentations and homilies. We participated in beautiful Masses, a powerful Evening of Reflection, and a moving Rosary prayer experience.

We listened to inspiring witness talks and enjoyed an evening of powerful witness and praise accompanied with great music.

We attended various workshop sessions which became opportunities to learn, share best practices and affirm our own diocesan efforts in evangelization.

Among the many topics were: *The Church in the Current Political and Cultural Climate; The State of the Family; The State of Catholic Education; International Solidarity; the*



Bishop LaValley is shown with the diocesan delegates to the Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America held July 1-4 in Orlando, Florida. From left are Cathy Russell of the diocesan vocation office; Bishop LaValley, Maura and John Fehlner of Lake Placid, Marika Donders of the evangelization office and Father Douglas Lucia, judicial vicar.

"Throwaway Culture;" Ministry with Inactive and Disconnected Catholics; Discernment of Vocations and Charisms; Ministry to the Incarcerated; and Reaching the Margins in Rural America.

Participants came from various dioceses, ministries

and cultural families. The Bishops of the United States had planned this convocation years ago, envisioning it as an opportunity for the Catholic faithful to come together in the Lord, to affirm our unity in the joy of the Gospel and to seek a renewed outpouring of the

Holy Spirit upon our Church. We looked at the landscape and "mission field" in which Catholics in the United States live today.

We were inspired and motivated to renew our commitment to the Gospel as missionary disciples.

In our final session on the

last day, our diocesan participants had an opportunity to assess what we heard in our time together and discuss how this can impact our ministry in the North Country. We were particularly interested in how we might apply what we learned to our Diocesan Priorities: *Creating a Culture of Vocation, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes as Living Stones.*

In his message to the participants, Pope Francis stated that he hoped the days of dialogue and prayer would enable the delegates to return to their Catholic communities and "read the signs of the times joyfully" and follow God's call to be missionary disciples."

The Holy Father is challenging you and me to creatively address our Diocesan Priorities and make a real difference in our families, parishes, the North Country, even our world, as disciples in mission.

In the process, more and more, we'll come to know real joy, even in the midst of so much uncertainty in our world today.

The Fourth of July in Orlando—the place to be this year!



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Diocesan Office of New Evangelization holds day of parish hospitality training

Entertaining Angels

By Marika Donders

Diocesan Director, New Evangelization

POTSDAM - With humor and storytelling, speaker Sheri Wohlfert led some 130 Catholics from 50 parishes in the diocese to a greater understanding of the meaning of what hospitality is and who is supposed to take care that our parishes are hospitable (all of us!).

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares

Hebrews 13:2

Wohlfert, program specialist for the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute, from Westphalia, Michigan, was the presenter at a parish hospitality conference called Entertaining Angels held June 3 at SUNY Potsdam.

The Entertaining Angels hospitality institute is an outreach of St. Paul's Street Evangelization, a grassroots Catholic evangelization organization dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking Catholic faith to the streets.

Those involved in the street evangelization saw the need for practical support in the parishes. Many noticed that people whose interest in the faith was awoken through their street evangelization and subsequently went to their neighborhood parish, were often ignored or worse, made to feel unwelcome.

We have all been in places where we felt out of place, or perhaps even have been in the situation of going to a new parish where we didn't know anyone where no one



PHOTOS BY TOM SEMERARO

Sheri Wohlfert, a program specialist for the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute, traveled from Westphalia, Michigan, to SUNY Potsdam to lead a June 3 conference on parish hospitality. Among the participants at the program sponsored by the diocesan Office of the New Evangelization, were Amanda Morgan and Denise Wallace from St. Cecilia's Parish, Adams; and Brandy Parshley, St. James, Gouverneur.

said hello.

As practicing Catholics, we at least know the rhythm of the Mass, but think of the person who is new to the faith, just beginning to explore the possibility that God exists and loves them, and when they ask a question of a parishioner, they are told to come back on Tuesday afternoon when Father is in the office...

Welcoming people is the responsibility of all of us. Each one of us can take a minute to stop and listen to the story of a neighbor and offer a prayer for them, a word of welcome, invite them to coffee after Mass or, at the very least, show them the parish bulletin and where they can find more information.

The workshop on June 3 was designed to help people with some simple exercises and training to develop atti-

tudes and behavior that will help us be intentional about creating warm and welcoming parishes.

Each of the four talks focused on an aspect of hospitality and gifts that we can develop to become Christ to others who may need a welcoming smile.

During the first session, Wohlfert pointed out that each of us is called to holiness. We are to allow Christ to work through us, so that we can be images of Jesus to others. She showed us that through our experiences of our own brokenness and surrendering ourselves to Jesus, we have been given a unique perspective that will allow us to welcome and connect with others.

In the second session, we were called to share. We looked at the gifts of evangelization, the gospel and

prayer. We were asked to share our favorite scripture story at our tables and why it was our favorite. It was so easy to share these stories at the table, but how often do we resist sharing our faith with others because we think we need to be scripture scholars or theologians.

Next, we were taught to pray with others which was amazingly powerful. First, we prayed to the Holy Spirit to pair us up with someone with whom we would pray. Then we were "set free" to find someone to pray for/with.

After the event we found out some amazing connection that were made: a person with a medical condition paired up with a doctor who treats that specific condition; someone who had gone through addiction counseling wound

up with a former counselor who helped her on the path to healing. There were many other pairs who had remarkable connections or such things in common that their pairing up for prayer could not have simple been "coincidence." When the Holy Spirit is involved, there are no coincidences.

The third session addressed our call to serve, specifically by serving with joy to bring peace through forgiveness and mercy.

The last session was about being called to Building God's Kingdom on earth, one relationship at a time. The talk focused on connecting, comforting and being merciful. We were given practical ideas of how we can make strong connections: from not criticizing, condemning or complaining to being a good listener, being genuinely interested in others, trying to see things a new way, not being afraid to challenge others and to remember that prayer is powerful.

In the end, I think most participants came away with the idea that a welcoming parish is one where people care about each other and yet still notice those who are new, who are visitors or who may simply be on the margins as Pope Francis so often speaks about.

Most importantly, they learned that it is not the responsibility of a committee or the parish staff or the pastor to create this welcoming, hospitable parish.

Rather, each one of us needs to recognize Christ in the stranger, in our neighbor, and in the person we see every Sunday sitting next us in the pew.

Each one of us is called to holiness, to share our faith, to serve our neighbor and to build God's Kingdom on earth.

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“Give and receive,
learn and teach”



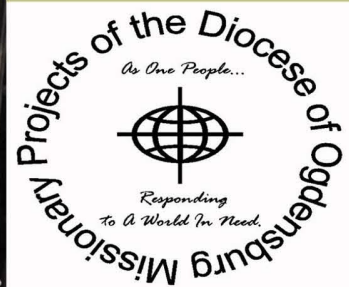
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O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.

August
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AUGUST 2017

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Bishop's Schedule

July 20 – 12:30 p.m., St. Lawrence Deanery Priests Listening Session at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk

July 21 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

July 22 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. George's Church in Burke

July 23 – 12:15 p.m., Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage to St. Ann's Shrine in Isle LaMotte

July 30 – 8:30 a.m., Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Brownville
10 a.m., Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Brownville
11:30 a.m., Mass at St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor

July 31 – 10:30 a.m., Adirondack Deanery Priests Listening Session at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

Aug. 1 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg
4:15 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

Aug. 3 – 3:30 p.m., Clinton & Essex Deanery Priests Listening Session at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

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:
July 23 – 11 a.m., St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake
Aug. 9 – 5 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

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CHEVROLET

Rest in Peace

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

July 19 – Rev. Francis E. Gilbert, 1939; Rev. James Karlton Dewey, 1963; Rev. Arthur J. Trudel, 1967; Msgr. Donald M. Kelly, 1969; Rev. Thomas A. Moody, 2010

July 20 – Rev. Francis Leo Desrosiers, 1956; Rev. J. Carlton Dewey, 1963

July 21 – Msgr. John H. O'Neill, 1938

July 23 – Rev. Pierre Casenave, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Francis J. Casey, O.S.A., 1958

July 24 – Rev. George Burque, 1897; Rev. James Joseph Gainor, 1946; Rev. Bartholomew Aloysius O'Connell, 1963; Rev. Henry Wilcott, 1965; Rev. Francis Edic, O.F.M. Conv., 1975

July 25 – Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941

July 26 – Rev. J. Owen Barry, O.S.A., 1978

July 27 – Rev. John B. Chappel, M.S.C., 1884; Rev. Matthew J. Sweeney, 1935; Rev. Daniel A. Harron, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Harold J. P. McCabe, 1976; Rev. Daniel F. Lyddy, 2002

July 30 – Rev. Francis Smyth, 1902; Rev. Patrick Majock, O.S.A., 1922; Rev. Jeremiah P. Murphy, 1925; Rev. Moses Minnie, 1935

July 31 – Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980

Aug. 1 – Rev. J. Everett Denesha, 2013

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Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr. James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

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Environmental Stewardship

A theological response to what's happening to our 'common home'

(Part 2)

This is part two in a series of three reflections on what is our responsibility as Catholic Christians in responding to what is happening to 'our common home.' Laudato Si.

These reflections that are rooted in the biblical and theological of our Catholic faith are offered by Father John Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

In the Book of Genesis, where the creation story is told, we hear God pronouncing "it was good." "When humans were given dominion over creation they were assigned as stewards or caretakers. We were called to cultivate and care for God's creation.

A people of faith, we are convinced that "the earth is the Lord's and all it holds." Our Creator has given us the gift of creation: the air we breathe, the water that sustains life, the fruits of the land that nourish us and the entire web of life without which human life cannot flourish. All of this, God created and God found it very good.

But sadly it is clear that God's creation is in jeopardy. Pope Francis said, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth... once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish."

Cardinal Martino of the Vatican Peace and Justice Commission states, "We can no longer pretend that human activity has little or no impact on worldwide changing climate conditions. Global climate change is a matter of or justice and our response should be based in our love for God and our respect for God's creation. Global climate change is a moral issue, a justice issue, a religious issue."

CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the North Country Catholic will be dated Aug. 3

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Natural Family Planning

Annual NFP Awareness Week is set for July 23-29

Say 'yes' to God's plan for married love

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

"It's Time! Say 'Yes' to God's Plan for Married Love." The theme for this year's National NFP Awareness Week (July 23-29) challenges us to embrace God's beautiful plan for marriage.

It's time!

It's time that we reacquaint ourselves with God's design for marriage that has been revealed to us in the Scriptures and Church teaching.

It's time that we, as parish families, married couples and as individuals, recommit ourselves to teaching our youth the beauty of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

It's time to look critically at what society is telling us about love, marriage, and sex in light of God's law of love. Yes, we know it's time.

In fact, that is one of the reasons why we have chosen *Strengthening Faith Formation in Family*

Life as an important diocesan priority, particularly through family catechesis. It's time!

We need to reclaim our rich faith heritage concerning the Sacrament of Marriage and God's loving plan for husband, wife and children. It's time to support and embrace the precious gift of the family.

Whenever we try to bring God into the public square, we are often scolded for "imposing" our beliefs, our individual morality on others.

More and more, expressing concern for the common good and any discussion of right and wrong bring a negative response.

It's Time! Say 'Yes' to God's Plan for Married Love.

In their pastoral letter, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, the U.S. Bishops write that "God's plan for marriage is a firm foundation, a truthful guide, a trustworthy light for the way."

So, we continue to preach the truth about marriage and responsible parenthood. It remains a trustworthy light for our world, darkened by sin and self-gratification, by fostering faithful and

generous life-giving spousal love.

This week, the Church engages in a national educational campaign on the gift of Natural Family Planning. NFP is about giving oneself freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully to another person in marriage.

To many, such a commitment seems nearly impossible today. To make oneself totally vulnerable, to sacrifice for the love of another is the heroism of the marital vocation. Such a self-less witness for life is a tangible sign of hope.

Please visit our NFP office at our diocesan website: www.rcdony.org to learn more about this important element of the Church's teaching on marriage.

We are truly blessed to have Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli serve as our diocesan directors of Natural Family Planning.

Please contact them at the NFP office at 518-483-0459 or via email at apietropaoli@rcdony.org for more information or assistance in this important ministry that makes for stronger marriages and healthy, happier families.

'The week we were pregnant'

By Josh Noem
USCCB contributor

Stacey's cycle was off-kilter last month, and when we couldn't ignore it any longer, we made a big step and bought a pregnancy test. Every marriage has a few memorable "freak-out" moments, and taking this test was one of them: Stacey was pregnant.

To say the bare minimum, this raised a whole host of questions for us. We've been successfully practicing Natural Family Planning (NFP) to both postpone and achieve pregnancy for our whole marriage.

With three kids (all of

school age), we are decidedly using NFP to postpone pregnancy right now. We've been priding ourselves on having paid our dues in the infant/toddler years, and are enjoying the fact that our children can do some things on their own, like take themselves to the bathroom and make themselves toast.

It was more than a little overwhelming to consider how this development would change the trajectory of our lives. We no longer own a stroller, infant car seat, crib, diapers, high chair, etc. I began to notice babies and toddlers everywhere - crying in Church, laughing on a playground,

throwing a fit in a store. This was going to be our world again soon.

And though it was confusing, it was also just as exciting. It was an immediate infusion of new life into our family. We knew this new life would throw everything upside down, and there was something romantically wild and unruly and holy about that.

We were being led in a new and unexpected direction, and it felt like an adventure.

From the very start, Stacey and I understood NFP to be, at bottom, about bringing our whole lives - including our sexuality - into cooperation with God's

plan. In an effort to be good stewards of our energy and resources, we have an ongoing conversation about the size of our family. We thought we had that part figured out (though admittedly, we stretched NFP rules slightly in this case), but it turned out that God had something else in mind.

We told our children immediately - we wanted them to be a part of this new life from the start. Their reactions to the news spanned the spectrum. Lucy, our youngest, was plain confounded - she couldn't understand what it meant that she might have a new sibling. Simon, our middle child, was ecstatic - he

wanted a younger brother. Oscar, our teenager, had mixed feelings - he felt like it was good news, but understood that it would change our family drastically. We told them we felt all of these reactions as well.

Looking back, the most important thing in this whole experience remains our conviction that NFP is a way for us to cooperate with God's plan. When our plan and God's plan seemed different, we felt anxious but also hopeful because we knew that God is faithful. So we began to prepare our hearts and minds for a new baby.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

NFP: married love in God's plan

Theresa Notare, Ph.D.
USCCB contributor

Catholic teaching on love, sex, and 'responsible parenthood' is a resounding "YES!" to God's plan for husband, wife, and marriage. When a man and woman marry, their "Yes" to each other should also include their "Yes" to God's plan for married love. Why?

God is the author of marriage
God is the creator. He cre-

ated men and women in his image (Gen. 1:27). And, God is the author of marriage as well.

God designed married love to be total, fruitful, faithful, and exclusive. Marriage was created to mirror God's own Trinitarian love.

Married love therefore rejoices in the other and is respectful of God's design. This means that husband and wife offer themselves to each other as a gift.

There is no "taking" here, just "offering" and "receiving." There is no exclusion,

like denying God, one's person, or one's fertility.

Anything that counters the meaning and beautiful integrity of the marital act and God's call for life is avoided (e.g., contraception, sterilization, pornography, IVF, or surrogacy).

God willed that married love involves the whole person, including reason, fertility, and a conscience well-formed in God's truth (that's what Church teaching is!). It also means that husband and wife understand that openness to new life is

not an "add-on" but an essential element of married life. Married couples ought to prayerfully discern when God is calling them to bring new life into the world, not treat it in a casual way.

What does all this have to do with Natural Family Planning?

Catholic teaching on the nature of human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood reflects God's loving design.

The significance of NFP methods is that they are the tools to help husband and

wife live that reality. This is because the methods of NFP respect God's plan for married love. They do nothing to harm God's design. That is why the Church supports NFP use in marriage.

NFP—good medicine

Natural Family Planning is the general title for the scientific and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples either achieve or postpone pregnancy. NFP methods provide

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

It was one week later when Stacey noticed that her cycle was returning - she was experiencing an early miscarriage. If we had not been practicing NFP and tracking her cycle, we might not have even noticed that the pregnancy had happened. We felt equally relieved and saddened.

We told the kids as soon as we were able to, and we all prayed for the little one. We also made a point of having a special night out to celebrate the life that baby brought into our family, even though it was for such a short time.

Our dominant feelings about this experience have to do with gratitude and surrender. We remain grateful to have another little one in heaven praying for us, and we continue to appreciate NFP as a tool to help us align our will with God's will in a responsible way.

The experience rekindled our willingness to be led, and to put our lives in God's hands. We are unafraid to do so because we know that God is faithful!

Natural Family Planning Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Used with permission.

It's time!

Say "Yes" to God's plan for married love.

Natural Family Planning

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www.rcdony.org/nfp

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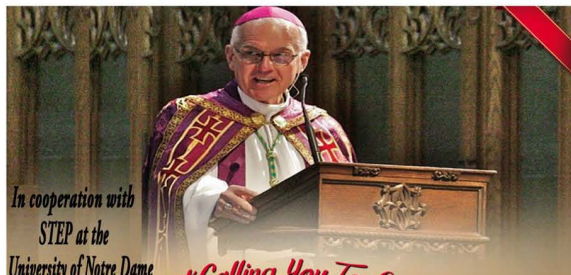
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DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF ADVISORS



The Diocese of Ogdensburg Development Office and Board of Advisors honored outgoing chairperson John Mullikin of Long Lake for his six years of service on the board and five years as chair at their annual meeting held June 28 at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake. Pictured, front from left, are Mullikin, Brenda Smith, Keeseville; and Judy Pearson, Watertown; back, Father Douglas Decker, Tupper Lake; Joey Trombley, Chazy; Scott Lalone, Diocese of Ogdensburg Executive Director of Development; Jack Backus, Ogdensburg; and Jim Murnane, Saranac Lake. Also serving on the Board of Advisors are Deacon James Chaufy, Port Leyden; Gayle Frank, Clayton; Father Joseph Giroux, Malone; Thomas Hannan, Ogdensburg; Father Raymond Moreau, Brushton; Father Steven Murray, Watertown; and Michael Roberts, Mooers Forks.

NFP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

fertility education that is informative and practical. NFP helps husband and wife to live healthfully and honestly with their combined fertility.

The facts of human reproduction form the basis of all NFP methods. Specifically, NFP methods identify the "fertile window" of husband and wife.

The fertile window is the combination of information about the woman's day of fertility (ovulation, which occurs in one 12-24-hour period each cycle) and that of the man's fertility (sperm, which can live in a fertile woman's body for up to 5 days).

When a woman is fertile, her reproductive hormones cause specific and observable physiologic signs. Recognizing these signs forms the basis for NFP methods.

NFP methods

The majority of NFP methods are based on the daily observation of the woman's signs of fertility. This takes some effort to learn.

NFP methods provide guidelines to help couples

identify the fertile and infertile time in the wife's cycle. Pinpointing their "fertile window" (the days in the cycle when she is likely to conceive) is central to NFP.

Being able to accurately identify the couple's fertile window is key to successful NFP use. When a couple realizes that God is calling them to have baby, they may use the fertile window to conceive.

When spouses decide that it is time to avoid a pregnancy, they will abstain from sex during the fertile time. Periodic sexual abstinence is the NFP means to avoid a pregnancy.

No drugs, barriers, devices, or surgical procedures are ever used.

NFP works!

Any couple can use an NFP method. The key is to learn the method well, be aware of God's will for your marriage, and apply the guidelines consistently.

When looking for an NFP method to learn, you should know that there is no "best method." All NFP methods are based on solid science. Choosing a method depends

upon how much fertility information a couple needs and can live with!

NFP, it's time!

It's time to give NFP a chance! The benefits are many.

NFP provides sound fertility education. It is environmentally safe and has no harmful side effects. NFP education is also economical. Most providers charge a fee for classes and any resources—that's it!

Most importantly, NFP respects God's plan for married love. It promotes respect for one's spouse, the virtue of chastity, self-sacrifice, and mindfulness regarding the meaning of married love.

It may not always be easy, but if a couple perseveres, NFP can help deepen their relationship with each other and with God!

"How Natural Family Planning Methods Can Help Married Couples Live God's Plan for Their Marriages." NFP/United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.: USCCB 2017.

Used with permission.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

New path to sainthood: heroic act of loving service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has approved a fourth pathway to possible sainthood -- giving one's life in a heroic act of loving service to others. In a new apostolic letter, the pope approved new norms allowing for candidates to be considered for sainthood because of the heroic way they freely risked their lives and died prematurely because of "an extreme act of charity." The document, given "motu proprio" (on his own initiative) went into effect the same day of its publication July 11, with the title "Maiorem hac dilectionem," which comes from the Gospel according to St. John (15:13): "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Archbishop Marcello Bartolucci, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the addition is meant "to promote heroic Christian testimony, (that has been) up to now without a specific process, precisely because it did not completely fit within the case of martyrdom or heroic virtues."

Bishop sees little improvement in latest effort on health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Senate Republicans' latest effort to overhaul the Affordable Care Act is "unacceptable" and shows little improvement over the lawmakers' first attempt to reform the federal health care law, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee. "On an initial read, we do not see enough improvement to change our assessment that the proposal is unacceptable," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. "We recognize the incremental improvement in funding the fight against opioid addiction, for instance, but more is needed to honor our moral obligation to our brothers and sisters living in poverty and to ensure that essential protections for the unborn remain in the bill," he said July 13. Bishop Dewane said the USCCB "is reviewing carefully the health care bill introduced by Senate leadership earlier today."

Joy is what church needs, Cardinal Dolan says

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) -- Catholic leaders attending the opening Mass of the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" were urged to reflect joy -- a sign of God's presence -- and not exclusively focus on the world's problems. "A big part of the reason behind this promising convocation, folks, is that we, your pastors, believe with Pope Francis, that a renewal of joy is essential for a deepening of Catholic vitality and confidence today," said New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, homilist at the July 1 Mass. The hotel ballroom in Orlando was transformed into a spacious church for the congregation of about 3,500 delegates -- invited from dioceses around the country -- who were urged to view their time at the four-day convocation as a journey, not just a conference, by Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns in remarks before Mass. The Mass was concelebrated by 150 bishops. Cardinal Dolan emphasized that during the gathering people would come to know each other better and also get to know Jesus more, which would be make them effective and joyful in their mission of spreading the Gospel message. He said this renewal of joy was especially needed at this moment in the church. Catholics, the cardinal said, can be tempted to "concentrate on problems, worries, bad news, scandals (and) darkness" which he said can't be ignored but also shouldn't dominate people's lives.

Catholic convocation: Combination pep rally, retreat inspires leaders

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

ORLANDO, FLA. (CNS) -- From July 1-4 the main floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Orlando was transformed into a huge parish hall with places for worship, prayer, discussion, and even coffee and doughnuts during the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America."

At the convocation 3,500 church leaders - men and women religious, bishops and laypeople - gathered to set a new course for the U.S. Catholic Church.

Following a retreat format, each day started and ended with group prayer. Mass was celebrated each day in the hotel ballroom, and there were plenty of scheduled times for the sacrament of reconciliation and private prayer in a room turned into an adoration chapel.

Many of the keynote sessions took the form of pep talks encouraging delegates to share their faith boldly with the world at large and within their own families and parishes. The numerous breakout sessions provided the working aspect of the gathering: closely examining what the church is doing and where it can do more.

More than 155 bishops attended the gathering, sitting with their delegations for meals and breakout sessions. Cardinals and bishops who spoke at keynote sessions or in Mass homilies encouraged participants that this was their time, their moment, stressing the urgency to bring God's message of love to a divided world.

At the final Mass, described as a "Mass of Sending," Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said the church is called

to achieve great things in the face of the impossible -- to unite people together by going to the peripheries of society and sharing the good news of Jesus through action rooted in faith.

"Sisters and brothers, we are in a very, very significant time in our church in this country," said Cardinal DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and he urged the delegates to receive God's grace for the work ahead.

None of the homilists or keynote speakers sugar-coated the challenges for the modern church and more than once speakers pointed out that Catholics are leaving the church in greater numbers, particularly young adults, than those joining the church.

But as Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles pointed out: "The saints always loved a good fight and we should like a good fight too." The bishop, who addressed the crowd through a video hookup July 4, told them it was an "exciting time to be an evangelist" but that they also should pick up their game to evangelize effectively.

Throughout the convocation Pope Francis was pointed out as a model for modern Catholics to follow in inviting others, especially those on the peripheries, to Christ. Speakers also were quick to quote his 2013 apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), which lays out a vision of the church dedicated to evangelization - or missionary discipleship - in a positive way, with a focus on society's poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged, unborn and forgotten.

Two homilies during the convocation specifically quoted the pope's admoni-

tion in "Evangelii Gaudium" that Catholics shouldn't be "sourpusses" but should reflect joy.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl acknowledged that Catholics are not always comfortable with the idea of evangelizing, but said they need to be willing to step out of themselves and talk with people about their faith as part of an encounter the pope speaks about.

Part of this simply involves listening to people, caring for them and leading them to Jesus, said speaker Sister Miriam James Heidland, a sister of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

Delegates were repeatedly encouraged to reach out to the peripheries especially to immigrants and the poor but also to all members of the church's diverse family - people of all races, women and young people.

Hosffman Ospino, associate professor of theology and religious education at Boston College, said it is time for the church to start building a "language of communion" rather than dividing the church community into different groups and individually responding to those needs. "It's the church serving the church," he said. "We all are the church."

At the end of the closing Mass, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, who attended all four days of the convocation, congratulated attendees for the invigorating discussion.

He called it a "kairos," or opportune moment, in the life of the U.S. church and said he would tell Pope Francis: "the Spirit is alive in the church in the United States."

"I will tell him of the commitment of many missionary disciples and their love for the church," he added.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Living with mercy, gentleness and humility

The theme of Scripture readings this Sunday is: "Use power with clemency."

God has given us wonderful gifts that we must use with gentleness and humility. In the Book of Wisdom, the writer praises God: "But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency"

Our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, is a great example of this. He spent a whole year teaching the world about the mercy of God, and that

God expects all of us to imitate his patience and justice.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable of the weeds and the wheat. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went away."

Then Jesus likens the weeds to evil around us. This evil can prevent the Word of God from growing in our hearts

and minds, just as weeds drain energy from the wheat.

Add to this our own giving in to evil temptations and sinful actions.

Do you remember that wonderful comic strip POGO? One of Pogo's famous sayings was, "We have met the enemy, and it is us." By our sin and pride, we join the enemy by planting weeds in God's garden of grace.

And we can then be judgmental and lacking in mercy toward others. Sometimes it's through bad example, or through our failures to instruct our children, or when

JULY 23

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

we fail to help our neighbor in need or in distress, when we fail to support Catholic teaching in our conversation or in our actions. We need to look into our hearts to see in what ways we are responsible. What then?

We ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to repent, to make

a good confession, and to change our attitudes. As for the evil around us, be patient.

Notice what advice the farmer in the parable gives his workers? He tells them to let the weeds grow with the wheat. The harvest-time is coming (in other words, the final judgment).

Jesus tells us. Work and pray to change hearts, Heavy-handed crusaders sometimes do more harm than good.

Use charity, gentleness, good example and prayer. Maybe they will have a change of heart before God has to take action.

OUR READERS WRITE

About the president

As a follow up to my last letter.

These are some more areas that have made pro-life workers pleased. President Trump not only signed the Mexico City Policy but expanded the policy to 8.8 billion to defund international organizations that fund or promote abortion. The tie-breaking vote cast by Vice President

Mike Pence to allow states the right to defund Planned Parenthood of Title X funding.

President Trump, as an aside, calls Education" the civil rights issue of our time. He thinks the money should follow the child.

SINCERELY,
JOAN C BOULIO
WATERTOWN

Fatima: the third apparition

The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of Our lady of Fatima Apparitions.

This is the third of a series featured from May 2017 to October 2017 in the North Country Catholic to honor the Blessed Mother's monthly appearances to three children in Fatima, Portugal.

The third Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima; July 13, 1917.

The children had been emotionally distraught as many others doubted, ridiculed and even said the visions were from the devil. Lucia and her cousins shed many tears and had great worries. However, when the day arrived, they were filled with courage and joy to see Our Lady again!

This time, on the 13th of July a large crowd had joined the children in the Cobra de Iria which included the pastor.

Many years later, Lucia gave the details of this extraordinary apparition; "With the unbounded love of a mother wishing to console the children in the truth of the apparitions, the

beautiful lady engulfed the three in Her immense light and rested Her loving eyes on Lucia. The girl could not speak for joy. Jacinta prodded her. "Lucia, go ahead, speak to her. She is already speaking to you."

"Lucia with loving devotion asked, "what do you want from me?"

"I want you to return here on the thirteenth of next month." The Lady said." Continue us to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace in the world and the end of war; for only she can help you."

Lucia shared the doubts and ridicule from others. Our Lady replied."Continue to come here every month. In October, I will say who I am and what I desire and I will perform a miracle for all to see, so that they believe."

"Lucia had asked for the conversion of some people "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners; and say often, especially when you make some sacrifice: 'O my Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation of sins committed against the Immaculate

Heart of Mary I offer this sacrifice to Thee."

"As our Lady said these words Lucia described the scenes.

"She opened Her hands again as She had done previously. " Lucia went on to describe a frightful view of hell. Frightened and deathly pale, the little ones raised their eyes to Our Lady for help as Lucia cried out; "Oh...Our Lady!" Our Lady Explained:" You have seen hell -where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them God wills to establish throughout the world the devotion to My Immaculate Heart. ...

She went on to explain God's mercy and also what will happen if people do not stop offending God. "He is going to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, hunger, persecution of the Church and of the Holy Father. To forestall this, I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays"

(excerpt derived from: The True Story of Fatima by John de Marchi, I.M.C.)

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AT THE MOVIES

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

There's much to like about the vibrant comic-book adaptation "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (Columbia). Besides an un-slacking pace and a clever central plot twist, there's the fact that the mayhem on display is kept virtually bloodless.

And the film showcases both loyal friendship and restrained romance.

As detailed below, however, some of the dialogue places this summertime diversion off-limits for the many youngsters who would otherwise likely enjoy it. That said, at least some parents may consider it acceptable for older adolescents.

With 33-year-old Andrew Garfield, star of the last two Spider-Man films, having

presumably outgrown the persona of eternally 15-year-old Peter Parker, and with a relatively new collaboration between Sony and Marvel Comics now controlling the character, it's time for some changes in the longstanding franchise.

So Tom Holland steps into the shoes - make that boots - of the world's most famous web-slinger, and we start the story afresh.

Some elements of Peter's familiar saga endure. Thus, he continues to lead a double life in an effort to keep his extra-curricular crime-fighting activities concealed from his easily worried guardian, Aunt May (Marisa Tomei).

While she provides him with guidance in everyday life, as tipped in last year's "Captain America: Civil War," Peter's alter ego has acquired a mentor in the person of industrialist Tony

Stark, aka Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.). Peter also has developed a new ambition: he yearns to secure a place among the elite Avengers with whom he mixed in that 2016 outing.

Given his youth and inexperience, Stark urges Peter to focus on thwarting petty neighborhood misdeemeanors. But an irresistible target of a very different kind emerges when Peter stumbles across the dangerous schemes of mechanically winged villain Adrian Toomes, aka the Vulture (Michael Keaton).

Toomes is busy selling high-tech weapons on the black market, and has no intention of having his commerce interfered with by Spidey.

In between nocturnal battles with the bad guys, Peter prepares to lead his school's team at an academic decathlon to be held in Wash-



CNS PHOTO/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Tom Holland as Spider-Man stars in a scene from the movie "Spider-Man: Homecoming."

ington. Teammates include his best pal, Ned (Jacob Batalon), and Liz (Laura Harrier), the senior for whom sophomore Peter pines.

The film contains much stylized violence, including gunplay and a beating, a single gruesome image, brief sexual humor, a couple of mild oaths, several crass

expressions and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-p - adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

ALSO PLAYING.... BABY DRIVER



CNS/SONY PHOTO

Ansel Elgort and Lily James star in a scene from the movie "Baby Driver," a stylish, high-octane crime drama in which an otherwise decent young man (Elgort) is forced to serve as the getaway driver in a series of bank robberies in order to pay off his debt to a callous mobster (Kevin Spacey). As he works with a variety of lowlifes (most prominently Jon Hamm, Eiza Gonzalez and Jamie Foxx) to pull off the heists, the better part of his nature is expressed in the care he gives his deaf and ailing foster father (CJ Jones) and in his romance with a sprightly diner waitress (James). Yet, while the central relationship remains chaste, late plot developments involve a quantity of bloodletting that will seem excessive to many moviegoers. Momentary but intense gory violence along with much gunplay, several uses of profanity, frequent rough and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



Happy 70th Birthday
Fr. Mike Gaffney



From the parishioners of
Immaculate Conception
Church, Brownville

ADIRONDACK

SUMMER RETREAT

Saranac Lake - Summer retreat "Praying with the Psalms of Creation" is set

Date: Aug. 11-13

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Facilitators are Paul Gibaldi, Adirondack Guide and photographer & Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ. Father Paul Kelly will celebrate Mass on Saturday evening.

Cost: Suggested offering: \$145 (includes all meals Friday evening through Sunday afternoon).

Contact: srbethssj@gmail.com or 315-212-6592, by Aug. 9

CLINTON

FOUNDER'S DAY

Ellenburg - OLA House of Prayer will observe Founder's Day.

Date: Aug. 12

Schedule: Presentation by Father Jack Downs on "Mary, Mother of Jesus - New Insights" at 10 a.m.; Mass with Bishop LaValley at 11 a.m.; Lunch will follow.

Contact: Reservations required please call 518-549-3253

INDOOR YARD SALE

Chazy - Sacred Heart Parish to have their annual indoor yard sale.

Date: July 29

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

Place: Located in the parish center

Features: In conjunction with the Chazy Town Wide Yard Sale. Bathrooms and refreshments, Noreen's Michigans, soda, water and chips. Furniture, appliances, household items, electronics, toys, books, games, Knick Knacks, more

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Plattsburgh - Seton Catholic is in need of supplies and volunteers to help spruce up the exterior of the campus.

Features: Items needed -paint supplies, brushes, drop cloths, clean rags, Tupperware tubs to organize supplies, top soil for garden beds, gravel for asphalt repair, asphalt sealer, cement pad for a basketball area, power washers, etc. We could also use assistance with the removal of dead trees.

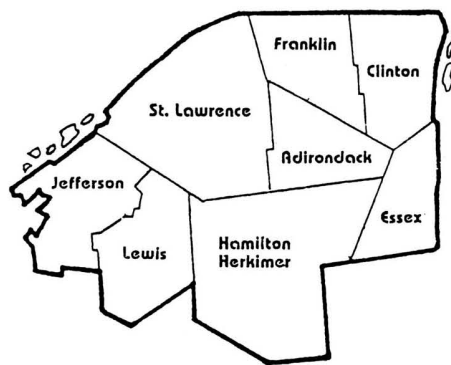
Contact: Please call 518-561-4031, Option 7 for more information.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Plattsburgh - Seton Catholic is seeking homes for international students

Features: Host Family openings available. Host Families receive a monthly stipend to offset living expenses.

Contact: Email Todd Everleth, Director



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.

of International Students, at
teverleth@thesetonschools.org or call
518-561-4031.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Altona - Holy Angels Church to have a breakfast and Blueberry Festival.

Date: July 30

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

Features: Silent auction, theme baskets, pie raffle wheel, tour of the Power House at Feinberg park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be tours, speakers and exhibits as well as Alice T. Miner Movie.

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

PARISH PICNIC

Speculator - St. James' and St. Ann's Sixth Annual Parish Picnic will be held.

Date: July 23

Time: 2 p.m. to 5

Place: Speculator pavilion

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Lake Pleasant - St. Ann's and St. James' will be holding their 6th Annual "Summer Heat" Golf Tournament.

Date: July 29

Time: 8 a.m. Shotgun start

Place: Lake Pleasant Golf Course
Cost: Foursome/Scramble. \$65 per person includes cart

Features: Breakfast and Lunch. Snacks and Drinks all day. Many prizes. 50/50 Raffle. Reserve your spot for a team of 4 or we'll team you up. Be a Tournament Sponsor: \$225./\$350. 2/4 Complimentary tournament fees, One Tee box sign

with your company name, Recognition in tournament brochures, and at the event. Hole Sponsor: \$50.00- One Tee Box sign, Recognition in tournament brochures and at the event. Monetary Donations are also gratefully accepted. Checks can be written to St. Ann's or St. James' Church, P.O. Box 214, Speculator, NY 12164, as well as Donations of Food, Prizes and Raffle Items.

Contact: Call Roger - 518 548-3635 Or e mail: rsnyder304@hotmail.com

FRANKLIN

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Malone - Holy Family School Youth Group invites all children in PK-5th Grade to Camp Out VBS.

Date: Aug. 1-3

Place: Holy Family School Gym

Cost: A \$5 donation per family to cover materials and snacks is being requested, but not required. All are welcome regardless of ability to pay.

Features: Camp Out Vacation Bible School is a three-day summer adventure that will teach children about Jesus, includes meaningful projects, games inspired by camping fun and snacks

Contact: Pamela LeDuc, 518-358-0031 or Lindsey Chapman at 518-651-1122

JEFFERSON

BLOOD DRIVE

Evans Mills - Evans Mill Community Blood Drive to be held.

Date: July 25

Time: 2 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Church
Features: Consider a Power Red Cell do-

nation if you are O Neg, A Neg, B Neg or O Pos

Contact: Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Keyword IndianRiverCatholics to schedule appointment. Appointments appreciated but Walk-ins welcome. Download RapidPass on the day you plan to donate.

EUCARIST PRAYER GROUP

Watertown - Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall, St. Anthony's

Contact: Kathi Buskey 315-783-2230; Lourdes Hough 315-408-4492

LEWIS

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - Eucharistic adoration set

Date: July 20

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: one hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - Eucharistic adoration to be held on the first Friday of August

Date: Aug. 4

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To pray for vocations and world peace, you are invited to join us in Morning Prayer, Mass, and one hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy devotions for the month of August to be held.

Date: Aug. 6

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: At 2:25 p.m., before the monthly devotions, we will view the 6th DVD entitled "Fatima" from the DVD series Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. At 3 p.m. - Vespers. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

ST. LAWRENCE

PRO-LIFE FAIR BOOTH

Gouverneur - Volunteers for pro-life booth at the St. Lawrence Country/Gouverneur Fair sought

Date: Aug. 1-6

Time: Two shifts each day 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact: Christina Tartaglia at 315-704-3688 or ckaralis@yahoo.com.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Gouverneur - St. James Annual Golf tournament to be held.

Date: July 29

Time: 9 a.m. registration; 10 a.m. shotgun start

Place: Emerald Green Golf Course

Cost: \$50 per person/\$200 per team

Contact: For pre-registration & Contact information, contact St. James Parish Office, (315)287-0114, Catholic@twcny.rr.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Family Guggenheim registration is now open. Two weekends will be held in late summer and a third in the fall.

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>

K OF C PILGRIMAGE

Isle la Motte, Vt. - The Knights of Columbus from the Diocese of Ogdensburg will hold their 24th annual bus trip to St. Anne's Shrine.

Date: July 22 and 23

Cost: \$150 person includes the bus, all meals and the overnight lodging in the new cabins at the Shrine.

Features: The trip will depart from IHC Intermediate (St. Pat's) at 9 a.m. and will return around Sunday at 9 p.m. Pick up points will be along the way. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday at 12:15 p.m. with Bishop Terry LaValley.

Contact: William Ose of Adams at 315-232-4433 for information and to register.

DOVS PILGRIMAGE

Syracuse - Join Bishop LaValley and DOVS (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) on the annual pilgrimage to pray for vocations.

Date: Oct. 10

Place: We will visit St. Marianne Cope's shrine and museum and have Mass and holy hour at the newly renovated cathedral in Syracuse.

Contact: To reserve a spot or for more information, call Mary at 315-268-1016 or Connie at 315-265-2762.



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

A special focus on Lattakia, Syria

Over the weekend of July 29-30, 2017, the Eastern Deaneries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg which includes Adirondack, Essex, Franklin, Clinton, and Hamilton-Herkimer will participate in the annual MPDO or Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg collection.

Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

This is a collection held annually every July that unique only to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The collection typically provides financial support to "projects" that the Mission Office, with guidance from the Bishop, deem worthy and a part of our evangelization efforts.

For instance, our Diocese continues to support in many ways the former mission parish in Mollendo, Peru. You may recall the drive to purchase a replacement vehicle for them two summers ago which was a great success indeed. Last Fall, we helped with the drive to help purchase a bus for the Working Boys Center in Quito, Ecuador. You may also be aware of our continued support for things like the Collection for Latin America or the North Country Mission of Hope.

With prayers and resources, the Diocese will continue to be able to make strides in these areas through support from readers like you.

At the Chrism Mass in April at the Cathedral, Bishop Terry LaValley made a special request. He spoke of our twinning initiative with the Diocese of Lattakia in Syria. A Catholic stronghold in a war torn part of the world, it is home to some of the oldest catholic communities and churches.

Located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Lattakia is experiencing a large influx of refugees that has depleted their resources.

The initiative "Our Solidary in Faith" will endeavor to provide concrete ways for the faithful of our Diocese to learn about Lattakia while supporting their relief programs and furthering pastoral goals like catechism for children and adults, formation programs, and marriage preparation.

Back home, by supporting the MPDO collection, we can also offer prayers and sacrifices for the Diocese of Lattakia as we emphasize relationships over resources, practice mutuality and equality, seek to give and receive and while we are educated about the faith of the Church in the Middle East.

As always, as in the past and now, the Mission Office remains grateful for the ongoing support by all of you. This year, we have a focus, a goal, an initiative to fulfill.

Our needs are specific. It is our hope that this year, you are able to listen to our plea and answer the call for the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

OBITUARIES

Helen M. Fish

WILLSBORO – A Mass of Christian Burial for Helen M. Fish, 93, mother of Father Alfred H. Fish of St. Regis Falls, was held July 7 at St. Philip of Neri Church. She died July 3 at her home in St. Regis Falls under the care of her son and Hospice of the North Country. Burial Was in Calvary Cemetery in Willsboro

Mrs. Fish was born in Willsboro, March 27, 1924, the daughter of Ernest and Margaret (Christian) Mero. She grew up in Willsboro and attended Willsboro Central School. She married Henry F. Fish, April 14, 1942 at St. Philip of Jesus in Willsboro. He predeceased her April 22, 1999.

In the 1960's, Helen worked as the school cashier in the cafeteria at Willsboro Central School. She later worked for Reader's Digest in Pleasantville, N.Y. for 15 years prior to retiring in 1986. She was a past president and former member of the Catholic Daughters in Willsboro. Mrs. Fish loved her Catholic Faith, was very devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and said her Rosary every day.

In addition to Father Fish, she is survived by a brother, Roy Mero of Naples, N.Y.; sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Walter Baumann of Willsboro; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by brothers, Lyman and Charles Mero; and sisters, Grace Maddaloni and Mary Jean Sprague.

Donations in her memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Adams – Leona M. (McNulty) O'Sullivan, 84; Funeral Services July 7, 2017 at St. Cecilia's Church.

Bombay – Robert James Derouchie, 85; Funeral Services July 7, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Fort Covington.

Brasher Falls – Sandra A. (Ploof) McLaughlin, 76; Funeral Services July 3, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Richard G. Bertrand, 101; Fu-

neral July 17, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Nancy (Dutton) Fayette; Funeral Services July 8, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Dannemora – Dr. Joanne Glasgow, 73; Funeral Services July 15, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church.

Dannemora – Francis J. Rock, 91; Funeral July 10, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Fort Covington – Phyllis J. Marshfield, 76; Funeral Services July 13, 2017 at the Capiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Glenfield – Doris Y. (Jones) Kogut, 81; Funeral Services July 5, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Constableville.

Houseville – Joseph Zeosky, 82; Funeral Services July 6, 2017 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Turin Cemetery.

Keeseville – Alfred J. "Fred" Chiapalone, 90; Funeral Services July 11, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Keeseville – Constance Margaret (McCormick) Hamilton, 92; Funeral July 13, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Keeseville – Anna M. (Thompson) Rock, 93; Funeral Services July 14, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Jane (McDevitt) Eagen, 89; Funeral Services July 15, 2017 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid – Michael Eugene Shea, 77; Funeral July 10, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lisbon – Lodine F. McNeil, 93; Memorial Services July 15, 2017 at Ss. Philip and James Church.

Lowville – Wayne Anthony Marcotte, 85; Funeral Services July 21, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Gregory A. Dame, 68; Funeral Services July 11, 2017 at Notre Dame

Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Bertha A. (Martin) Shova, 88; Funeral Services July 8, 2017 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Alice M. Page, 63; Funeral Services June 30, 2017 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Herman Rascoe, 87; Funeral Services July 18, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – James T. Vann, 92; Funeral Services July 13, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Katherine A. "Tootie" (Scott) Welsh, 89; Funeral Services July 10, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

Norwood – Mildred L. Relyea, 99; Funeral Services July 17, 2017 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Ogdensburg – Carole A. (McGillicuddy) Barkley, 80; Funeral Services July 5, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Sunnyside Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Stephen S. Bittle, 49; Funeral July 3, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – William J. Seymour, 82; Funeral July 11, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in parish cemetery

Ogdensburg – Thomas R. Taylor, 62; Funeral July 14, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Robert George Vine, 84; Funeral Services July 12, 2017 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Mausoleum.

Peru – Ralph F. Flemming, 78; Funeral Services July 14, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Peru – Daniel James Keefe, 54; Funeral Services July 17, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery, AuSable Forks

FACES OF FAITH



Sydney LeRoy, a 2017 graduate of Holy Family School in Malone, was presented the Faith, Family and Future Award in memory of Grey Nun Sister Rita Frances Brady. Karen Reynolds, Sister Rita Frances' niece and a teacher at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh, made the presentation. The award honors those students at Holy Family School who exhibit a talent for making "...the world around them a place of peace, learning, worship, and fun." Sydney, the daughter of Jeff and Aimee LeRoy, is a parishioner of St. Andrés Parish in Malone.



Scott Lalone, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Executive Director of Development, left; and John Mullikin of Long Lake, outgoing chairperson of the Development Board of Advisors; welcome newly appointed chairperson Brenda Smith of Keeseville. Bishop Terry R. LaValley's appointment was announced at the Board of Advisors summer meeting at Camp Guggenheim June 28.

North Country Catholic has gone



Green



Here is what one subscriber has to say:

"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

To sign up to receive the NCC in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556



Following a centuries old custom - the Roman Catholic ritual intended to enliven and enrich faith and devotion to the real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist - a public Corpus Christi Procession at Sacred Heart Church in Massena was held June 18. Parishioners from all four worship sites in Massena along with neighboring areas came together while the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for song, scripture and quiet reflection. The procession outdoors traced the periphery of the Sacred Heart grounds ending back in the church where Benediction was given and the Blessed Sacrament was again reposed in the tabernacle. The procession was led by altar servers then the Color Corps from Assembly 710 Knights of Columbus in full regalia, followed by parishioners and then Father Andrew Amyot, Msgr. John Murphy, Deacon John Levison, and Father Tojo Chacko. Pictured above, Father Mark Reilly, pastor, carried the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance while under the cover of a protective canopy carried by 4th degree Knights of Columbus.

Obituaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Plattsburgh – Steven P. Anderson, 61; Funeral Services July 11, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Thelma Mary (McAllister) Neveu, 100; Funeral Services July 6, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Simone A. Renadette, 87; Funeral Services July 17, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

Plattsburgh – Wilfred J. "Pete" Trombley, 94; Funeral Services July 8, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Rita (Moricette) Collins, 92; Funeral July 14, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Frank J. Lenney, 89; Funeral Services July 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – James Harold Morey, 72; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church.

St. Regis Falls – Adam R. Cox, 33; Funeral Services July 1, 2017 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Star Lake – Matthew J. Glavin, 61; Funeral Services July 15, 2017 at St. Hubert's Church.

Waddington – Joseph I. LaDue, Jr., 78; Funeral Services July 3, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Watertown – Pasquale L. "Patsy" Carbone, 89; Funeral Services July 7, 2017 at

St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – J. Patrick Meylor, 89; Funeral Services July 11, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Geoffrey J. Wheeler, 47; Funeral Services July 12, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

West Chazy – Robert A. Seymour, 83; Funeral Services July 14, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Plattsburgh.

West Chazy – Gerald A. Sherman, 82; Funeral Services July 18, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Ingraham Cemetery.