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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 14

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 19, 2017

Pope Francis: don't be lazy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - God proposes - not imposes - his Gospel and offer of salvation, putting the responsibility of being open to and moved by his message on the listener, Pope Francis said.

Jesus doesn't draw people to him by conquering them,

but by giving himself, like a sower, spreading "with patience and generosity his word, which isn't a cage or a trap, but a seed that can bear fruit" if people welcome it, the pope said before praying the Angelus July 16.

Speaking to people gath-

ered in St. Peter's Square, the pope reflected on the Sunday reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew, in which Jesus speaks to the crowds about the parable of the sower.

The parable, the pope said, speaks more about the soil than the sower because the

quality of the terrain is critical for whether a seed will eventually bear fruit.

In Jesus' parable, the seed that falls on rich soil produces fruit, while seed that falls on hard or rocky ground or among the thorns does not.

Remembering the miners of Lyon Mt



Father Thomas Higman, pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain, led his parishioners in an observance of the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Lyon Mountain Mine.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 16

NCC summer schedule

The bi-monthly publication of the North Country Catholic continues; the next issue of the paper will be dated Aug. 16

DESIGNED BY GOD.... BUILT FOR A PURPOSE



Over 75 faces filled the hallways of St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay for Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School July 17-20. The children had fun learning that they were "designed by God" and "built for a purpose." The entire week focused on team building and learning about how unique each person is with the special gifts God has given. Pictured, in the Lego Design Factory, are Cameron DuMont, Madison McDonald, Charles Aspelund, Alison DuMont, Madison McComb, Jayden Johnston, Mya McComb and Sophia Heredia.

ON PILGRIMAGE: Knights make 24th annual trip to St. Anne's Shrine, p. 3

FAREWELL, SR. ELLEN

After 22 years of service



PHOTO BY LINDA ROSS

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue is leaving the Diocese of Ogdensburg after 22 years of service in parishes and in the diocesan offices. Most recently, she has worked as episcopal delegate for religious and director of the Office of Safe Environment. Sister Ellen responded to questions from the *North Country Catholic* about her life and ministry with a reflection on how she has been able to "stand on the shoulders" of so many people in the diocese.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you God for... summer!

The drums and the trumpets and the sirens of the Ogdensburg Seaway Festival Parade are beckoning as I struggle mightily to get this mid-summer issue of the *NCC* to the printer. Like so many other north country natives, I thoroughly enjoy our small-town summer celebrations.

Whether it's the French Festival in Cape Vincent, the big bass weekend in Waddington or Fourth of July celebrations from east to west, we know how to spruce ourselves up and greet the crowds.

For most of us, the best part

of these weekends is the opportunity to welcome our friends and family "home." I daresay that class and family reunions filled every available venue in Ogdensburg last Saturday night, (not on Friday, of course, because half the world was watching the fireworks on Friday!)

Mary Lou
Kilian

Personally, I'm always more grateful for the intimate reunions with my dearest ones.

The chance to spend a day along the river with cousins who, decades ago, learned how to swim together is a gift to be treasured.

The time spent with children while their own children are napping at Grammy's house is the most blessed of blessings.

I know that - with a healthy, growing, loving family - I have more for which to be thankful than just about anybody.

And, as time speeds along, I've learned to never to take these holy encounters for granted. Just taking a second to thank God for the people in my life makes me appreciate them all the more.

To help make my point, I decided to be a bit of a copycat and follow Father Muench's lead. In his column on this page he shares a quoteable quote from Pope Francis and then offers his own ideas.

It's not hard to track down a papal endorsement of living with a spirit of gratitude. One of Pope Francis' statements on thankfulness focuses on Mary as a model to whom we can look: *After hearing the message of the Angel, Mary lifted up her heart in a song of praise and thanksgiving to God. Let us ask our Lady to help us recognize that everything is God's gift, and to be able to say "Thank you". Then I assure you our joy will be complete. Only those who know how to say "Thank you", will experience the fullness of joy.*

I'm definitely open to adding the fullness of joy to my life so... "thank you God for summer in our city!"

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

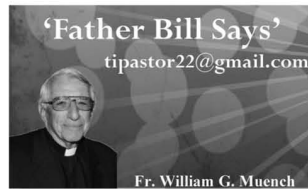
Finding strength, serenity, stability, joy

In the words of Pope Francis: "We cannot live as Christian separate from the rock who is Christ. He gives us strength and stability, but also joy and serenity."

Someone gave me one of those day calendars with a statement from Pope Francis for each day as a Christmas present. Today, I would like to share with you some ideas drawn from that recent message from Pope Francis.

Here Pope Francis tells us that for us, Christians, our only foundation is best found in Jesus. He must be like a rock for us, a rock for all that we are and do. With Jesus, our rock, we will find readiness to live out Jesus' call to peace and love. So, Pope Francis goes on in this statement to tell us of the gifts that Jesus will give us as we unite ourselves with him. This relationship means more than just praying to Jesus or going to Mass. Our friendship with Jesus should be a close one; it is Jesus who has told us that he wants to be our friend. He wants to show us the way for life.

Pope Francis continues here in making it clear that uniting



our lives with Jesus gives us strength and stability. To be a bold and dedicated disciple of Jesus, we must have the Lord's strength and stability.

Our lives as followers of Jesus are often filled with confusion, even fear and we need the Lord's strength. Our discipleship demands confidence. The Lord promises us the strength so that we can make the right decisions to live each day in the spirit of Our Savior.

In addition, Pope Francis tells us that we need, and Jesus gives us, stability. As disciples of the Lord, to be stable in faith and dedication, we need the Lord's stability. Only in this way will we be ready to live with a certain determination in making our decisions to follow Jesus.

The life of a good Christian demands an endurance, a

peace of mind, a trustworthiness in life. I believe that this stability of the Lord gives us a true maturity of life that comes from our closeness with Jesus. It is all about making proper decisions, bringing peace and happiness and love to all that we do.

Pope Francis goes on to tell us that, as disciples of Jesus, we will find joy and serenity. Finding Jesus as our rock leads to a happiness that comes from the strength of Our Lord. The Lord gives us a happiness that brings serenity.

As bold disciples of the Lord, we find purpose in life that leads not only to a certain con-

fidence as a Christian but also the serenity of being united with the Lord in a serenity of the love of our Lord.

This should lead us to gratitude for all that Jesus gives us as his disciples. Our life in this world is transformed because we are friends of Jesus.

The Lord gives us the power of the Holy Spirit - a real strength - to live well, to help others, to make a difference.

Pope Francis reminds us in any places that the closeness to Jesus leads to a happiness that nothing else can give us. This is what Jesus came to us, to our world, to bring salvation and forgiveness and love.



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN ISLE LA MOTTE, VERMONT

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S

For the 24th year, Knights from the Diocese of Ogdensburg travel to St. Anne's Shrine for day of prayer



PHOTOS BY JOHN RYAN

Bishop LaValley is shown with Knights and family members from across the Diocese of Ogdensburg who took part in the 24th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle la Motte, Vermont.



Bishop Brzana Chapter president Bill Ose from Adams, left, is shown with Edmundite Father Brian Cummings, St. Anne's Shrine spiritual director. Ose presented Father Brian a \$1,000 donation from the chapter which is made up of the 46 K of C councils in the diocese.



Allen Dixon of St. Augustine's Council 7273 in Peru, left, Northern Conference chairman, is pictured with Patrick O'Connor of Bishop Wadhams Council 469 in Chateaugay. Dixon spearheads the pilgrimage picnic each year while O'Connor, former chapter president, plays an important role in all the K of C's regional and statewide charitable fundraising.



A peaceful place for meditation



A highlight of the pilgrimage was the celebration of Mass at the shrine with Bishop LaValley presiding. The Knights, in full regalia, led the procession as the liturgy began.

Sacred pieces of St. Michael's Church in Antwerp find new homes

Keeping the memories alive

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer

ANTWERP -- At an unfortunate time of church closures, parishioners, pastors and former pastors of parishes in Northern Jefferson County have worked to keep memories alive for one small community.

Pieces of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Antwerp, sold in 2015, have been relocated to the parishes of St. Mary's of Evans Mills, St. Theresa of Avila in Theresa, and St. Joseph's in Philadelphia.

In 1998, St. Michael's became an oratory, used only for funerals for members of the small community.

Two years ago, deteriorating building conditions prompted the decision of then pastor Thomas Kornmeyer and the parish council to sell the rectory and the church.

Prior to the sale, members of the Indian River Knights of Columbus No. 7471 as well as parishioners and Father Kornmeyer moved the religious pieces from the Antwerp church.

Philadelphia resident and past Grand Knight Jerry Perkins said the goal was to honor St. Michael's and the community.

"We wanted to keep it in the hearts and minds of everyone," he said. "Everyone loved that church."

"So, we put a piece of St. Michael's in each church," Perkins said. "It keeps the memories alive."

Originally, St. Michael's began as a mission parish, as did St. Joseph's and St. Theresa's churches.

The pastor in residence covered Masses at all four churches, living in the rectory at St. Mary's.

While originally the idea to split up the sanctuary from St. Michael's came from the previous pastor Father Mark



PHOTOS BY KRISTINA DEAN

After St. Michael's Church in Antwerp was closed and then sold in 2015, the religious pieces were moved to churches in Evans Mills, Theresa and Philadelphia. The high altar is now the centerpiece of St. Mary's in Evans Mills. At right, Father Christopher Looby, pastor, stands in church. He and his parishioners will welcome Bishop Terry R. LaValley Aug. 13 to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the parish. The bishop will also install Father Looby as pastor on that day.



Reilly, (2008-2012), Perkins said Father Kornmeyer (2012-2016) spearheaded the project and "kept it alive."

The last part of the project took place after the diocese announced Father Kornmeyer's transfer to churches in Fort Covington and Bombay. Prior to his leaving in July of 2016, the priest had the high altar cleaned and oiled, Perkins said.

"As far as keeping it alive, I honestly would say Father Tom played the biggest part," he said. "He was adamant about it."

The high altar and side altar were placed in the Evans Mills church while the Stations of the Cross and the other side altar (now being used as a back altar to support the tabernacle) have been moved to St. Theresa's. Finally, the main altar and a

statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, were moved to St. Joseph's.

"My goal was to preserve the church legacy of St. Michael's by incorporating the beautiful wooden side altars and main back altar into the three remaining churches," Father Kornmeyer said. "The parishioners of St. Michael's seemed very pleased with the results."

Preparations needed

To prepare for the very tall back altar, St. Mary's underwent significant renovations. The church needed drywall work to fill in arches and vaults so the high altar could rest against the back wall.

After renovations, the altar, freshly cleaned and oiled after being transported in 60 pieces from the Antwerp

church, was installed. It fits inside the ceiling with approximately two inches to spare, Mr. Perkins said.

A six foot spire topped by a cross that previously sat at the top of the altar was given to an Evans Mills historical museum for display.

Antwerp resident Frank Laverghetta remembers attending Mass at St. Michael's after his family moved to Antwerp in 1944. He and his wife, Cindy, were married in the church in 1966. The main altar, sitting now at St. Joseph's, has a unique carving of a lamb in the front of the wooden altar. Mr. Laverghetta remembers being married in front of it.

"After the church was sold, I was concerned about what was going to happen to the religious parts of the building," Mr. Laverghetta said.

"When the church closed, we were devastated by it, like any other parishioner that's had their church closed."

"When the (main) altar went to Philly, it was really good that someone took the initiative to move it somewhere else," he said. "For me, it's good that they pulled it all out of there, cleaned it up, and are using it. It looks really good."

Philadelphia resident and parishioner of St. Joseph's, Joe Drake attended the Antwerp church as a child.

"I can remember as a little boy staring at that lamb every Sunday in church. Now with the altar being in St. Joe's, it brings back fond memories of my childhood," he said.

The current pastor Father Christopher Looby attributes the project's success to Father Kornmeyer.

"It was totally my predecessor's idea to install the altar from St. Michael's Church in Antwerp into St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills," he said. "Not only has it changed the look of the church, but it is also the perfect way to preserve the history of the Catholic heritage of Antwerp."

"I can't tell you how many times people from Antwerp or folks who grew up there have come to St. Mary's and seeing the altar here have expressed gratitude for preserving this beautiful altar piece," Father Looby said.

St. Mary's will celebrate its 170th anniversary on Aug. 13 with a Mass and parish picnic. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will attend and formerly install Father Looby as pastor.

St. Michael's was originally built in 1816 by David Parish, an early Antwerp settler and land developer as a non-denominational community meeting house. It became a Catholic mission church in 1849, and eventually an oratory in 1998.

WARM DAYS BLESSED BY WARMTH OF FAITH

FACES OF FAITH



Over 600 people crammed into St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid July 22 for the annual Iron Man Blessing. Pictured above are 75 of the tri-athletes who swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26 miles to earn the title of Iron Man. Atonement Friar Dan Callahan, the Iron Friar from Toronto who participated in this year's Iron Man was the celebrant of the liturgy. Father John Yonkovic, pastor of St. Agnes, is pictured blessing the athletes.



Seven Catholic Daughters of the Americas Courts of the Diocese of Ogdensburg attended the 55th Biennial New York State Convention held in Albany May 25-27. Courts represented were #592 Dannemora, #867 Willsboro, #1300 Ellenburg, #1548 Lyon Mountain, #2183 Lake Placid, #2598 Peru and #2663 Morrisonville. Pictured, front from left, are, Shirley Kemp, Mary Kay Doolittle, Emma Lou Smith, NYS 2nd Vice Regent and NYS Diocese of Ogdensburg CDA Supervisor, Anna Lucia, Christa Reyell, Nancy Clancy, Joan Fetzko and Deborah Miner; back, Christina Packwood, Brenda Owen, Cynthia Ryan, Anne Landry, Linda Manchester, Christina Bigelow, Judy Bombard, Elaine Willford. Immediate Past State Chaplain and Court #2663 Chaplain Father Scott Seymour and Chaplain Father Alan Shnob of Court #2598 also attended the convention.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley was welcomed to St. Regis Mission Church in Akwesasne June 3 to preside at the parish Confirmation. He is shown above with catechists Laura Morris and Irving Papineau. Ms. Morris serves as pastoral assistant/director of religious education for the parish. Below, the bishop is pictured with the Confirmation class and, in the bottom photo, Keon Mitchell and Thomas Rourke present a sweetgrass basket, made by Judy Hemlock Cole, to Bishop LaValley





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CAR RAFFLE

Our Annual Car Raffle is underway. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. They are also available at the rectory Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. The drawing will be held after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 8, 2017 and the winner may choose the car or \$15,000 in cash.

The price for the ticket is \$20 or six (6) tickets for \$100 with all proceeds going to St. Agnes School.

The car this year is a 2017 Subaru Outback fully equipped from Jerry Strack of Central Garage here in Lake Placid.

If you wish to buy tickets by mail, please fill out the form & enclose your check made out to **St. Agnes Church**

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NCC

Bishop's Schedule

Aug. 3 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

Aug. 4 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Aug. 5 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 6 – 9:00 a.m., Mass at All Saints Church in Chaumont

10:30 a.m., Mass at St. Vincent of Paul Church in Cape Vincent

Aug. 7 – 5:00 p.m., Essex Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Patrick's Parish Center in Port Henry

Aug. 8 – 10:30 a.m., Day of Reflection with the Catholic Daughters at St. Ann's Shrine in Isle LaMotte in Vermont

5 p.m., Clinton Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Alexander's Jubilee Hall in Morrisville

Aug. 9 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m., Franklin Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at the Malone Golf Club in Malone

Aug. 10 – 5 p.m., Hamilton-Herkimer Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Mary's Parish Center in Indian Lake

Aug. 11 – 5 p.m., St. Lawrence Deanery Picnic at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood

Aug. 12 – 11 a.m., Founder's Day Mass, Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer in Ellenburg

Aug. 13 – 10:45 a.m., 170th Parish Anniversary Mass and Installation of Rev. Christopher Looby as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills

Aug. 14 – 6:30 p.m., Installation Mass for Rev. Douglas Lucia as Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Waddington and St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid at St. Mary's Church

Aug. 15 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5:30 p.m., Installation Mass for Rev. Bryan Stitt as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canton

Aug. 16 – 12 p.m., Franklin Deanery Priests Listening Session at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Constable

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Aug. 16

Rest in Peace

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

Aug. 2 – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

Aug. 4 – Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

Aug. 5 – Rev. Gerald A. Sharland, 1973

Aug. 7 – Msgr. Edmund H. Dumas, 2000; Rev. Lawrence E. Cotter, 2016

Aug. 8 – Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

Aug. 9 – Rev. Edward B. May, O.S.A, 1953; Rev. James N. Flattery, 1997

Aug. 10 – Rev. Walter J. LaRocque, 1936; Rev. Joseph Bolduc, O.M.I., 1956; Rev. Cornelius Vullings, M.S.C., 1971; Msgr. Anthony A. Milia, 2010; Deacon Bruce C. Wadsworth, 2013

Aug. 11 – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; Rev. John M. Kennedy, 1979

Aug. 12 – Rev. John M. Varrily, 1913

Aug. 13 – Msgr. Bernard F. Kellogg, 1993

Aug. 14 – Rev. Patrick Foley, 1839; Rev. George Dermody, O.S.A., 1956

Aug. 15 – Rev. Alfred Onesime Boyer, 1959; Msgr. Cornelius A. Collins, 1967

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; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr. 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:

Aug. 9 - 5 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Environmental Stewardship

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

(Part 3)

This is the final column 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 Yonkovic, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

"Moral questions lie at the heart of this challenge. Pope John Paul II insisted that, "We face a fundamental question which can be described as both ethical and ecological. How can accelerated development be prevented from turning against man? How can one prevent disasters that destroy the environment and threaten all forms of life and how can the negative consequences that have already occurred be remedied?" And 20 years after these words of Pope John Paul, Pope Francis tells us, "the exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits and we still have not solved the problems of poverty." Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 2two hundred years." And as Church it is especially important for us to focus on the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable. Inaction or inadequate or misguided responses to climate change will likely place even greater burdens on the already desperately poor and most vulnerable peoples of the world.

The Church is not just another voice telling people to conserve energy and preserve the planet. The Church has the potential to bring its vast tradition to shed light on a troubled human family, to provide motivation, inspiration and love for life itself and for the earth, to genuinely love those things and care for them. We have a Christian duty to live simple, responsible lives caring for and protecting God's creation.

"God so loved the world." And in love and justice, God asks us to do the same. As Christians we must become informed and respond to what is happening to God's creation.

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Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue looks back on 22 years of ministry in the North Country

Standing on the shoulders

By Sister Ellen Donahue, S.A.

Retiring Episcopal Delegate for Religious and director of Office of Safe Environment

Nearly 22 years of my life I have ministered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I worked in Saco, Maine; Lindsey, California; and Elmira, New York; before coming to my home diocese.

I was asked to come to the diocese in 1968 and worked for the Diocesan Office of Religious Education under Father Stephen Nevin. Atonement Sisters Marcia LaFave and William James had preceded Atonement Sister Theophane and me in building up the Diocesan Religious Education office with Father Branche.

At the closing of St. Mary's Academy, Msgr. Joseph Bailey and Msgr. Robert Giroux asked me to leave the Chancery and become the coordinator of the newly formed Central School of Religion of St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church in the city of Ogdensburg with the capable assistance of Mildred LaRock, assistant coordinator and secretaries Judy Wells and Joyce Doe.



In the early 1970's Sister Ellen directed the newly formed St. Mary's/Notre Dame School of Religion in Ogdensburg. She is pictured, seated, second from right, during the annual CCD dinner. Also shown, are Mildred LaRock, Father Lucien LeDuc, Richard Winter, Mildred Gagnon and Msgr. Louis Berube; standing Father Joseph Trombley, Ronald Letham, Barbara Gilbert, Sister Marion, Ted McLellan and Richard Dupont.

I left Ogdensburg in 1975 to complete graduate studies at Catholic University and then returned to Saco, Maine for a second ministry assignment with the Holy Cross Fathers. I was released from Saco to care for my mother in her blindness.

I returned to ministry in 1993 with Father John Yonkovic in St. Peter's, Plattsburgh and was elected to Major Superior of Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in 2001.

In 2007 Bishop Robert Cunningham asked me to assume the roles of Episcopal Delegate for Religious and Diocesan Coordinator of Safe Environment in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Delegate for Religious

It has been a great privilege serving the Religious of the Diocese with Bishop Cunningham and Bishop Terry LaValley. Both bishops have great respect and love for each Religious within whatever Congregation they serve and both have a deep desire to promote the values that Religious Life offers to the people of the Diocese within



Shown with members of the Diocesan Council of Consecrated Life, Sister Ellen said the council "contributes greatly to the unification of our varied religious congregations."

the parish settings. Msgr. John Murphy, under whom I worked daily, had the same commitment and love for our Religious women and men.

The Diocesan Council of Consecrated Life contributes greatly to the unification of our varied religious congregations. The work of this group is overseen by their Presidents.

It was an honor for Bishop LaValley and me to serve officially with several Presidents: St. Joseph Sister Constance Sylver, Miriam Najimy, a Daughter of the Heart of Mary; Servite Sister Rita Mary Morrisette, and currently, St. Joseph Sister M. Annunciata Collins.

Annually we were honored to hear the remarkable faith stories of the individual lives of the Sisters as they approached their Jubilee celebrations. The greatest challenge has been to watch the diminishment of many of our religious as they age and return to their motherhouses.

It is with great joy we welcome a few new members in our established orders and pray for their expansion.

Our bishop and several pastors from our diocese have committed themselves to accept a new community,

the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod which has brought new hope and great joy into our diocesan family. We have received word this week that their I-129 USCIS petitions have been APPROVED by the USCIS for three more the Sisters of the Cross to minister in our Diocese.

Ensuring a safe environment

In light of our culture today, the rewarding part of the ministry to the Office of Safe Environment is the commitment of so many parents, teachers, catechists, lay volunteers in ministry, priests and religious to work diligently to keep our children safe wherever they are gathered.

Our commitment to youth is one of my greatest joys. It would be easy to walk away or to close down spaces where young people gather but having young people in our midst whether in our Faith Formation programs, school classrooms, summer camps or parish youth ministry is a great sign of our hope and belief in our young.

It requires risk taking but with so many of our leaders dedicated to keeping them safe, the possibilities are numerous to offer them

Editor's note

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue retired in July after 22 years of service in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, most recently as Episcopal Delegate for Religious and director of the Office of Safe Environment. Here, the Franklin County native responds to questions from the *NCC* about the joys and challenges of her life and ministry.

meaningful experiences of faith sharing events.

Elaine Seymour, our Diocesan Charter Compliance Coordinator and I are deeply grateful to our faithful facilitators who volunteer many evenings in all seasons to give of their time to train adults how to keep our children safe.

We are also deeply indebted to our regional background check screeners who cover all our deaneries in the diocese and make sure that no one gets access to our children in the many programs provided across the Diocese. We are also indebted to the heads of our Diocesan institutions especially St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin and her staff and Kelly Donnelly who vigilantly oversee great numbers of youth.

Raised in faith-filled family

In speaking of childhood, I grew up in a faith filled family. My nephew, Father Micky Demo captured our home life in words he shared at my mother's funeral. "I learned what church was from my grandparents" he said. "From the moment you arrived at their house, they were out to meet you asking, 'how long can you can stay' and closing at the end with 'when are you coming back?'"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Standing



Shown above with other Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement of Ogdensburg, Sister Ellen said, said, "I believe my desire to serve God came from the way the pastor and the Sisters (in her parish growing up) treated us and called us to share faith through helping them teach in summer programs and volunteer social services in the parish."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

It was a true hospitality home as we were always opening doors to say hello and standing out in the yard, waving goodbyes.

I attended school at Bombay High School and graduated from Salmon River Central. My greatest joy was the diversity of our school days. We were privileged to have the native American youth from Akwesasne in the school. Many of these beautiful people are still my friends and especially Hilda Herne from my high school years.

My parents shared our home with children from NY City through a fresh air program and we became a group of fun loving brown, white and black children who enjoyed summer fun together.

My mother was an immigrant from Scotland and my father was an Alcoa worker who was born in Gouverneur. I had four sisters and one brother for siblings and they were a normal, fun loving group. I missed them terribly my first year that I entered the convent and they supported my vocation.

Our parish was top of the line with the Sisters of the

Atonement who loved life and provided us with religious education, summer bible classes, high school home discussion groups and exposure to several congregations in annual retreats from grade one through high school. I believe our desire to serve God came from the way the pastor and the Sisters treated us and called us to share faith through helping them teach in summer programs and volunteer social services in the parish.

On the shoulders

I would like always to remember that "I am standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before."

I am proud of my Congregation as I am of all the Congregations that served in our Diocese.

Our community was an Episcopalian religious community which was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1909 by Monsignor Joseph Conroy who later became the third Bishop of Ogdensburg.

One hundred years later, Father Terry LaValley who would later become the 14th Bishop of Ogdensburg, Sister Edward Marie Tesiero and I joyfully traveled to-

gether to Graymoor for the 100th Anniversary ceremony of the reception of the Graymoor community into the Catholic Church.

It was noted that it took Msgr. Joseph Conroy four days to travel to Graymoor and Father LaValley and the Sisters completed their journey in a few short hours.

The Sisters of the Atonement came first to Sacred Heart Church, Massena in 1927. In 1928 the Sisters came to serve St. Andrew's Church in Norwood and the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk. In 1930, they established a mission in St. Mary's in Potsdam and in 1931 they established a foundation at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Look at the shoulders I stand on as 50 Sisters of the Atonement were stationed at St. Mary's Cathedral from 1931 to 1975.

The Sisters served 20 parishes from Ticonderoga to Adams. When you add in the missions attached to these parishes, 43 locations were served by the Sisters of the Atonement in the diocese and the Friars of the Atonement built and administered St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center in Saranac Lake.

Today as Sister Edward Marie and I leave the diocese, there is one missionary Atonement Sister, Sister Carol Daul, born in Dan-



One of the most satisfying experiences for Sister Ellen in her role as Episcopal Delegate for Religious was helping to establish a new religious community in the diocese. She and Bishop LaValley are shown with members of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod.



Sister Ellen expressed great appreciation for members of the diocesan staff, shown above in diocesan sweatshirts, a Christmas gift from Bishop LaValley.

nemora who lives and volunteers her time in Morristown and the greater Plattsburgh area.

We are grateful to so many women from this diocese who answered the call of a religious vocation to Graymoor, that we called ourselves at the Chapter of 2001 "the North Country Cousins".

I have ministered with giants among the clergy. My giants were Father Stephen Nevin, Msgr. Joseph Bailey, Msgr. Louis Berube, Msgr. Robert Giroux, Father Joseph Trombley, Father Donald Manfred, Father John Yonkovig, Msgr. John Murphy, Father Kevin O'Brien, and Father Jay Seymour. Our diocese is blessed with many clergy whose spirit attracts reli-

gious orders into ministry.

Finally, I come to my special group that I am deeply grateful for in my life and have saved for a final recognition as I can truly give them the rightful place in building the family of God.

These persons are the "secretaries" at work each day within our diocesan staff and throughout the diocese. How many projects would have fallen through without these people in our lives. Wherever you see success, look behind the leader and you will find the shoulders that held up the living structure on its way to fulfillment.

I would like to mention the women who have been my personal secretaries in my ministry.

Their names are: Diane Tynon, Judy Wells, Joyce Doe, Atonement Sister Ann Zelia, Sister Edward Marie, Barbara Hatch, Ellen Turongian, Tiffany Childs and, the last one standing, Jean Grizzuto who is steering the transitions in our offices now through the National Audit and is providing assistance to Elaine Seymour and myself as I prepare to enter a rest sabbatical approved by my community.

Thank God for all the shoulders we stand on within our diocesan family. May you always know that you are appreciated and loved.

WASHINGTON LETTER

The Social Capital Project

By Carolyn Mackenzie
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)-- Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, has initiated the Social Capital Project, a research effort that examines the importance of "associational life," which includes families, religious congregations and other communities.

Decline of civil society, community seen as 'spiritual crisis' for nation

The project found that civil society has declined in America, and a panel at the American Enterprise Institute introduced localism and federalism as two routes for combating this trend.

Lee's address and a subsequent panel discussion among a team of experts took place July 12 and explored the topics of localism and social capital.

The project also researched religion in the United States, as religious institutions naturally facilitate the types of communities that the project discovered are declining. The project cited surveys that found only 42 to 44 percent of Americans attend religious services monthly - part of a trend of fewer people being raised in religious traditions and more people exhibiting decreased confi-



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, has initiated the Social Capital Project, a research effort that examines the importance of the nation's "associational life," which includes families, religious congregations and other communities. At right, a man receives a bag of food from a volunteer at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City in 2014.



dence in organized religion.

"Church attendance and trust in organized religion have dropped sharply since the 1970s," Lee said. "The destruction of community life is a spiritual crisis for millions of our fellow citizens."

Ryan Streeter, director of domestic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, introduced Lee. Vice chair of the Joint Economic Committee in Congress, Lee began his remarks by referencing a common platform for social interactions: Facebook. Dubbed a "community" by founder Mark Zuckerberg, the site has approximately 2 billion monthly users. Lee argued, however, that Facebook is not a true community.

"Community institutions like churches and like little leagues can't be replaced by the glowing rectangles that we keep in our pockets, that we sometimes seem to check obsessively," Lee said. "Rather, community is the stage where we perform the most rewarding roles in our lives, as children and parents, as siblings, as spouses, as friends, as mentors and disciples."

The Social Capital Project

released its first report in May and found that American communities are growing weaker. Lee argued that as the federal government has expanded, offering programs more traditionally offered by religious institutions, communities have begun to come apart.

"Government crowds out civic groups by competing with them to perform civic functions," Lee said.

Lee, however, did not advocate for a repeal of government programs. Rather, he suggested a focus on initiatives at the state and local levels, which would do more to serve communities.

"The government does not have to refrain from playing a role, but it needs to aim for city hall rather than the federal government," Lee said. "It should be the people's servant."

A panel discussion followed Lee's remarks. Joel Kotkin, presidential fellow in urban futures at Chapman University and executive director of the Center for Opportunity Urbanism, moderated the panel and asked the participants for their reaction to Lee's words.

Lee Drutman, senior fel-

low in the program on political reform at the think tank New America, considered the fractured political climate in his response.

"Let's face reality," Drutman said. "We are an incredibly divided country."

Drutman described two competing visions that emerged in the 1960s and still affect America. One was diverse, urban and socially progressive; the other was rooted in faith, tradition and small-town life. Drutman explained that the 2016 election placed these two ideologies in opposition.

As a result of the election of President Donald Trump, Drutman remarked that many Democrats say they do not recognize the United States under Trump.

"Think about what that's doing to our collective psyche as a nation," Drutman said.

In response to this rise of individualism, the panelists had a debate over localism and federalism as two potential solutions. Consensus among the panelists was that the party out of power in Washington often "re-members" federalism while the opposition party does

not have as much incentive to do so, since its members can enact change on a national level.

"There are some who have been making this case for a while," Drutman said. "People who are minorities at the national level can come to set policy at the local level."

Drutman shared some caveats about localism, pointing out that voter turnout is typically low in local elections. Furthermore, he argued, people tend to trust local government more but tend to know less about it than of the federal government.

Levin, while agreeing that localism helps to foster civil society, also warned that often localism can lead to "majority tyranny," as James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 10, of the Federalist Papers.

He cited race in the 1960s as an example.

"The history of race in America offers an argument against localism that cannot be ignored," Levin said.

Scott Winship, director of the Social Capital Project, asserted that for localism to work properly, America needs strong local institutions as well as strong communities.

"Affluence has allowed us to outsource the responsibilities we used to have to each other," Winship said.

Winship explained that as Americans become wealthier, they rely less upon their neighbors for simple favors that form the foundation of community life.

"We may be materially richer than in the past," read the project's May report. "But with atrophied social capabilities, with a diminished sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves, and with less security in our family life, we are much poorer for doing less together."

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CHEVROLET

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

World 'sorely needs' Scouts' values, says nuncio

GLEN JEAN, W.Va. (CNS) -- Scouting develops generosity, service and fraternity, which are all values "our world sorely needs," the papal nuncio told Catholic Scouts gathered for a July 23 Mass during the annual Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree. "These values are the antidote to the selfishness and individualism of our society," Archbishop Christophe Pierre said in his homily. "Scouting also encourages you to work together as a team, to share adventures, and to have a greater vision of life and creation." The archbishop was the principal celebrant of the outdoor Mass celebrated in Glen Jean at the Summit Betchel Reserve in the New River Gorge area of West Virginia. The July 19-28 jamboree drew 25,000 Scouts and troop leaders from around the country; about 7,500 attended the Mass. Concelebrants included two officials of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, both of whom are Eagle Scouts: Msgr. John J.M. Foster, vicar general and moderator of the curia, and Auxiliary Bishop F. Richard Spencer, episcopal vicar for Europe and Asia. More than a dozen priests also concelebrated. As he began his homily, Archbishop Pierre thanked Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston for hosting the Mass and acknowledged Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston, South Carolina, who is episcopal liaison for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. He also assured everyone of Pope Francis' prayers and his "personal closeness to all gathered here."

British baby Charlie Gard dies in hospice care

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) -- Charlie Gard, the British baby whose legal battle caught the attention of the world, died July 28, just over a week before his first birthday, his family announced. Connie Yates, the baby's mother, issued a brief statement saying: "Our beautiful little boy has gone, we are so proud of you Charlie." Charlie, who would have turned 1 year old Aug. 4, had been transferred to a hospice for palliative care after Yates and his father, Chris Gard, said July 24 they had decided to drop their legal battle to pursue treatment overseas. The couple wanted to take Charlie home to die, but a High Court judge decided it was in the child's best interest to spend his final hours in the care of a hospice. He suffered from encephalomyopathic mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome. The situation had caught the world's attention, including the attention of Pope Francis. The day the parents dropped their legal battle, Greg Burke, director of the Vatican press office, said the pope was "praying for Charlie and his parents and feels especially close to them at this time of immense suffering. After news of Charlie's death, Pope Francis tweeted: 'I entrust little Charlie to the Father and pray for his parents and all those who loved him.'"

Bishop: Health care laws must begin and end with human person

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Throughout the summer, while Congress was looking for ways to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Catholic bishops have continually reiterated the need to put care for the human person at the forefront of any health care legislation.

"Concern for the human person is our beginning and end point," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, who has issued multiple statements on health care legislation during the past several weeks.

His July 28 statement, the day Senate Republicans failed to get enough votes to pass a "skinny" repeal to remove parts of the Affordable Care Act, pointed out that the "task of reforming the health care system still remains." But he also stressed that this should be done right. "The greatness of our country is not measured by the well-being of the powerful but how we have cared for the 'least of these,'" adding that "Congress can and should pass health care legislation that lives up to that greatness."

The bishop told Catholic News Service that even though lawmakers are "back to square one," the church and its bishops "are people of hope."

Despite obstacles in passing health care reform legislation, he said, "we continue to be optimistic."

During summer votes on this issue, Bishop Dewane repeated that Congress must address "moral deficiencies

and challenges with long-term sustainability" in the Affordable Care Act. In a July 20 letter to senators, he suggested that these changes to the legislation could be done in a narrow and bipartisan way.

Congress and all Americans need to 'set aside party and personal political interest and pursue the common good of our nation and its people, especially the most vulnerable'

Bishop Frank J. Dewane, chairman
USCCB' Committee on Domestic Justice
and Human Development,

He has frequently emphasized that any changes to the current health law should provide care to those in most need, extend Hyde Amendment protections - barring federal funds from being used to pay for abortions - and protect conscience rights.

The bishop reiterated these points in his July 28 statement and added that future health legislation proposals should:

- "Protect the Medicaid program from changes that would harm millions of struggling Americans."
- "Protect the safety net from any other changes that harm the poor, immigrants, or any others at the margins."
- "Address the real probability of collapsing insurance markets and the corresponding loss of genuine affordability for those with limited means."

He said that even those who disagree with the data given by the Congressional

Budget Office - about the increased numbers of uninsured though legislative reforms such as the skinny repeal - it's still clear that "a lot of people would have been harmed" by the bill, he said.

The church is not only concerned for the uninsured, but for those who can't speak for themselves, such as the unborn, he said, emphasizing that health care legislation should not include payment for abortions or requirements that health care providers do procedures that go against their beliefs.

During the months of discussion and debate over health care, even with its periods of rancor, the bishop said he thinks there has been a growing awareness among many people about those with health needs and a realization that not everyone has a built-in safety net when health problems increase.

In his statement after the Senate's final attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, Bishop Dewane said it was a moment for Congress and all Americans to "set aside party and personal political interest and pursue the common good of our nation and its people, especially the most vulnerable."

He told CNS that the work for the common good includes looking out for those on the peripheries, in the words of Pope Francis.

And as he sees it, it's the basic idea of simply showing "concern for other human beings," which he said he witnessed at points during the final debate in the Senate when senators weren't "willing to take a reckless gamble" on health care proposals just to see what would happen.

"A reckless gamble is not a solution" when it involves people's lives, he said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The Feast of the Transfiguration

Today, the Feast of the Transfiguration replaces the 18th Sunday of the Year.

The readings give the testimony of the prophets Daniel ('First reading), the apostles, St. Peter (Second reading), and the prophets Moses and Elijah (Gospel) to the great truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Father Himself testifies that Jesus is His beloved Son.

Daniel has a magnificent vision of the dazzling throne of God the Father in heaven, giving His triumphant Son the glory, do-

minion and kingship over all the nations of the earth. He will rule with the Father forever and ever.

In the second reading, Peter gives his eyewitness account of the remarkable event that we celebrate today.

He urges his listeners to pay close attention to the message of salvation preached now everywhere by all the apostles "until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts".

On the mountain, Peter, James and John are traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem. As they approach the sum-

mit, of Mt. Tabor, the three suddenly notice in change in the garments Jesus is wearing. They become daz- zlingly white.

The disciples then see two famous figures appear. They recognize Moses the Lawgiver, and Elijah the Prophet. They are both discussing something with Jesus.

Peter is ecstatic, and offers to build a permanent dwelling for all of them. Then their joy is turned to fear when suddenly a cloud comes between them and the sun, and a Voice thunders out, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!".

As the disciples fall to the

AUG. 6

The Feast of the Transfiguration

READINGS

Daniel 7:9-10

2 Peter 1:16-19

Matthew 17:1-9

ground. Jesus calms them, and tells them not to be afraid. The glory has faded, and they proceed down the mountain. Jesus had tried to prepare them for what lay at the end of their journey.

What does all this mean for us on our spiritual journey? Are we willing to share the Passion and suffering of Jesus in our own lives?

Will we allow ourselves to

be transformed by the incredible experience as Jesus intended? Will we be willing to let Jesus judge every- thing by Jesus's standards?

As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to listen and wait, to listen intently to His message.

We have the advantage of knowing and believing in the Resurrection. In our journey this week, we should remember Jesus transfigured on the mountain—and listen!

Whether its daily Mass, a Holy Hour, private prayer, or work, may we keep in mind that other members of the Church to our encouragement and example.



Monsignor

Paul E.

Whitmore

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Considering the options for infertile couples

When Catholic couples experience trouble getting pregnant, they often seek medical help and begin to research what options are available to them.

A number of moral considerations and questions generally emerge as options are researched

A number of moral considerations and questions generally emerge during this process: Why are techniques like in vitro fertilization (IVF) considered immoral? What approaches will the Church allow us to try? What does our infertility mean, spiritually and personally, in the face of our fervent but frustrated desire for a baby?

When a couple, after having non-contraceptive sexual intercourse for a year or more, begins to investigate

whether there are issues related to infertility, some medical professionals simply encourage them to turn to the infertility industry and try IVF or a related technique like artificial insemination.

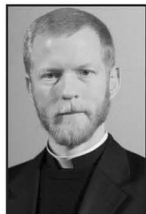
These approaches, however, raise a host of moral concerns, including that they substitute an act of "production" for the act of marital self-giving, allow a third party outside the marriage to become the cause of the conception, often require masturbation, and may result in significant "collateral damage." This could include embryo destruction, embryo freezing and disruptive effects on a woman's physiology from the powerful super-ovulatory drugs used during the procedures.

It can be helpful to keep in mind a particular "rule of

thumb" for determining whether a procedure is morally acceptable: treatments that assist the marital act are permissible, while those that replace, or substitute for, the marital act raise serious moral objections.

The ideal approach to resolving infertility involves identifying the underlying causes (endometriosis? fallopian tube blockage? problems ovulating? etc.) and addressing those causes so that marital intercourse can now result in a conception.

While this may seem sensible and even obvious, many obstetricians and gynecologists today do not offer much more than a cursory workup or exam prior to recommending that the couple approach a fertility clinic and employ their services to produce a baby via IVF.



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk
Ph.D.

Couples ought instead to look into techniques that can methodically diagnose and heal the underlying reasons for infertility, like FEMM (Fertility Education & Medical Management, <https://femmhealth.org>) pioneered by Dr. Pilar Vigil, or NaProTechnology (Natural Procreative Technology, see <http://www.naprotechnology.com>), led by Dr. Tom Hilgers,

Both are Catholic ob/gyns with great track records in helping to resolve underlying infertility issues and helping couples to conceive naturally.

NaPro has been around a little longer and employs a range of approaches which may include, for example, hormonal modulation of menstrual cycle irregularities; surgical correction of fallopian tube damage or occlusions; fertility drugs to help a woman's ovaries to release eggs; Viagra or other approaches to address erectile dysfunction; correcting

penile structural defects such as hypospadias; addressing premature ejaculation; using NFP (natural family planning) to observe naturally occurring signs of fertility during the woman's cycle to time intercourse; using LTOT (low tubal ovum transfer), in which eggs are retrieved and transplanted into the uterus or fallopian tube at a point likely to result in fertilization following the marital act; and surgical resolution of endometriosis.

Dr. Hilgers has formed and trained a number of other physicians who work as independent NaProTechnology specialists in the U.S. and abroad. FEMM is building a similar network.

On the other hand, a number of other widely-available techniques, instead of assisting the marital act, end up replacing it with another kind of act altogether, namely, an act of "producing" or "manufacturing" children in laboratories.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

THE EMOJI MOVIE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Tech savvy viewers will especially enjoy the wacky proceedings of "The Emoji Movie" (Columbia). But patrons of all stripes will appreciate the film's themes of loyal friendship and faithful romance.

Set within the smartphone of high school freshman Alex (voice of Jake T. Austin), this lighthearted animated comedy tracks the adventures of a trio of misfits on their quest to reach the internet Cloud.

Gene (voice of T.J. Miller) is a "Meh" icon meant to express only indifference. But the first time Alex makes use of him, the native enthusiasm of his personality, together with nervousness at making his professional debut, causes him to register a strange mix of emo-

tions instead of the bland apathy he was supposed to convey.

This malfunction immediately makes Gene an outcast and draws the ire of the chief emoji, maniacally cheerful Smiler (voice of Maya Rudolph). She condemns Gene to be deleted. So he goes on the run, and joins forces with upbeat hand symbol Hi-5 (voiced by James Corden) and rebellious codebreaker Jailbreak (voice of Anna Faris).

Once one of Alex's favorites, Hi-5 has fallen into disuse and longs to regain his former popularity.

Jailbreak resents the regulated life she is forced to lead on the phone, and hopes to enjoy much greater freedom by transferring herself permanently to the Cloud.

As the three newfound friends bond, and something more than friendship

blossoms between Gene and Jailbreak, the challenges of their journey force them to prove their mutual devotion.

Messages about teamwork and putting the interests of others ahead of your own goals balance the emphasis on Gene's right to break the mold and be himself.

The presence of a minor character named Poop - voiced, amusingly, by no less a personage than Sir Patrick Stewart - typifies the predictable potty humor running through director and co-writer Tony Leondis' script, penned with Eric Siegel and Mike White.

Together with episodes of peril, these jokes may make "The Emoji Movie" a less than ideal choice for the youngest film fans. The feature is preceded by an eccentric, enjoyable short called "Puppy!" which involves a young lad, a giant,



CNS PHOTO/SONY

Alex, voiced by Jake T. Austin, appears in the animated movie "The Emoji Movie."

disruptive dog named Tinkles and the boy's indulgent grandfather - who just happens to be Count Dracula.

The film contains characters in jeopardy, mild scatological humor, and a slightly crass term.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Considering

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

These techniques — like IVF; intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI); artificial insemination; hiring a surrogate to carry a pregnancy; and cloning — obviously raise serious moral objections.

In some cases, a couple's infertility will end up being irresolvable. Even as a husband and wife face the grief and sorrow of not being able naturally to conceive children of their own, they can still realize their paternal and maternal desires in other meaningful, fruitful and loving ways.

For example, they may discern a call to adopt a child, providing a mom and a dad to someone whose parents have died or felt that they could not care for the child.

They might decide to become a camp counselor or a schoolteacher, or provide temporary foster care to a child in crisis, generously taking on an authentic parenting role.

They may become a "Big Brother/Big Sister" to youth in the community who yearn for a father or mother figure in their lives.

Although these solutions do not take away all the grief, they are a means by which God helps to draw good out of their situation. By these means, couples are challenged to "think outside

the box" and enter into the mysterious designs of God within their marriage

. By stepping away from a desire to conceive and raise biological children of their own, couples facing irresolvable infertility can discover new and unexpected paths to marital fruitfulness, paths that bring great blessings to others, and that can lead to abiding joy and marital fulfillment.

Father Pacholczyk earned



his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA,

and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.nbc-center.org



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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, SSI. 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

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP

Saranac Lake - A workshop aimed at creating a more environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just world is set

Date: Aug. 26

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Program will look at what is happening to the earth, and consider ways to view it from a different perspective in light of our Faith and the efforts of a global movement that can make a real difference. Lunch using local produce will be prepared by Yvona Fast. Sponsored by: Diocesan Faith and Ecology Group. Event is FREE and open to the public. Free will offerings are accepted.

Contact: Register at 315-212-6592 or email, srbethssj@gmail.com.

CLINTON

REDFORD PICNIC

Redford - The 162 Annual Redford picnic to be held.

Date: Aug. 20

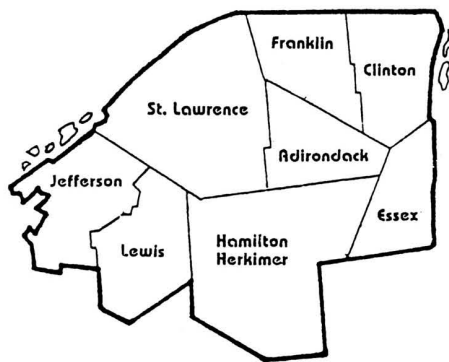
Place: Church of the Assumption Parish Center

Schedule: 11:30 a.m. Ham and Roast beef dinners will be served; variety of games for people of all ages, Skilo, Pie Wheel, Fancy Booth and the main attraction, the oldest merry-go-round in North America. A rummage sale will be from noon to 6 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with music by Roy Hurd from 2 p.m. to 4. The event will end with the \$5,000 cash raffle winners at 6:15 p.m. (need not be present to win).

FOUNDER'S DAY

Ellenburg - OLA House of Prayer will hold a two hour period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

Date: Aug. 26



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

FRANKLIN

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

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

JEFFERSON

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Watertown - The St. Joseph Cupertino fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will

have their monthly meeting.

Date: Aug. 27

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Holy Family Parish

EUCHARIST 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

WEEKLY ADORATION

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

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight 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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Monday-Friday

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

Place: Holy Family Church

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

LEWIS

POLISH BLESSINGS

Houseville - St. Hedwig's Church will observe the Polish custom of blessing flowers, herbs and grains to honor our Blessed Mother.

Date: Aug. 13

Schedule: 11 a.m. Mass; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to give the faithful an opportunity to gain a plenary Indulgence as granted by Pope Francis during this 100th year anniversary of the Fatima apparitions.; Rosary will be recited before the Mass.

EUCHARISTIC 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

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.

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Massena - The Massena Catholic Community Book Club meets once a month

Date: 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

Contact: www.massencatholics.com or: smarion@massencatholics.com

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

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

Date: First Friday of every month

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

Place: St. Mary's Church.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction, Adoration on Fridays

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Family Guggenheim registration is now open. Two weekends 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>

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.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Isle La Motte, VT - St. Anne's Shrine will be honoring the Blessed Mother on the Feast of the Assumption.

Date: Aug. 15

Schedule: 11:15 a.m. Mass with an Opening Celebration as the Edmundites celebrate 175th Anniversary of the Society of St. Edmund; 7 p.m. Mass will be followed by a Candlelight Procession.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse - The 2017 Syracuse Catholic Women's Conference, "In Search of a Servant's Heart," is set

Date: Oct. 28, 2017

Speakers: Father Michael Gaitley; MIC, Sister Ignatia Henneberry, OSF; and Michael Dopp.

Contact: see <http://www.syracuse-catholicwomen.org/>



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

Acknowledgement of thoughtful generosity

Every Summer, like clockwork, certain things happen in the Mission Office. There is a lot of planning coordinating and logistics.

Every summer, in a matter of only weeks, the Mission Office comes to you, our Diocese and faithful supporters, to ask once again for your help, for your prayers and your resources. We come to you every summer and yet you never disappoint.

We are grateful and know that the Faith here is strong and our love for those in need never ends.

This summer, as in the past, the Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., rolls out campaigns, collections and appeals that bring together all that the Mission World embodies and all that world needs.

The St. Peter Apostle Appeal, the Mission Coop Program and the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg collection are all in various stages of completion at this time. This Summer, as you know, the COOP program is being conducted in the Western Deaneries, the MPDO collection was held in the last weekend of July in the Eastern Deaneries and the St. Peter Apostle Appeal rolled out July 1 to our many new and faithful donors.

Summer in the North Country is when we get a break here. It is when our loved ones come home. It is when we celebrate weddings, reunions, baptisms and graduations. It is a time to celebrate and look ahead to the future. It is no different in the Mission Lands either.

We support the new beginnings and the possibilities in the Mission Lands when we support opportunities like COOP, MPDO or St. Peter Apostle. With all that everyone has going on in the summer months, somehow the gifts of prayer and resources are still possible. The love and support for the developing lands in places like Mollendo, Peru, poverty struck Quito, Ecuador and war torn Lattakia, Syria is not only heart warming but a sign that we are all truly missionaries in spirit and in deeds.

Again, please accept our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for opening your hearts, minds and coin purses to the Mission Office fund raising efforts. We acknowledge that times are tough and sometimes you maybe don't see the fruits of your labor.

Rest assured that the Pontifical Mission Societies is doing good works and deeds with your prayers and sacrifices both near and far. As I have stated many, many times, we are called forth by our baptism to be missionaries. Answer your call. You will not regret that you did. Making the lives of the marginalized better will makes things brighter and better for everyone here too.

Enjoy the rest of the summer days and nights ahead. God Bless.

Thank you from the Mission Lands. God bless!!

OBITUARIES

Cape Vincent – Robert E. Gosier, 85; Funeral Services July 21, 2017 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in the parish cemetery.

Champlain – John Thomas Carey, 54; Funeral July 21, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Colton – William S. Mousaw, 87; Funeral Services July 28, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan – Grace B. (Wilson) Stoffel, 88; Funeral Services July 24, 2017 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Dannemora – Donald L. Gratto, 91; Funeral Services July 25, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Ellenburg – Clarinda A. (Hebert) Boadway, 81; Funeral Services July 24, 2017 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Grace Theresa "Karoniahonte" (Thompson) Chubb, 88; Funeral Services July 25, 2017 at St. Regis Church; burial St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Steven J. Smoke, 54; Funeral Services July 23, 2017 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Carman E. Santor, 92; Funeral Services July 28, 2017 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Louisville – Christopher A. Kerr, 58; Funeral July 21, 2017 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Joseph Rozanski Jr., 96; Funeral Services July 21, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Geraldine Anne Dumas Barlow, 87; Funeral Services July 27, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Leona (White) Dumas, 94; Funeral Services July 26, 2017 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Malone – Edward James LaMay, 52; Funeral Services July 20, 2017 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home.

Malone – Richard C. "Dick" Traynor, 82; Funeral Services July 26, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Cecile E. Legault, 84; Funeral Services July 22, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena – Thomas Edward Perdue, 99; Funeral Services July 22, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Daniel P. Sanborn, Jr., 66; Funeral Services July 18, 2017 at Church of Sacred Heart.

Moers – Shirley A. (Yelle) Gonyo; Funeral Services July 19, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Jill A. Renadette, 57; Funeral Services July 28, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Morristown – Joyce A. (Mulligan) MacArthur, 84; Funeral Services Aug. 4, 2017 St. John the Evangelist Church; burial Sunnyside Cemetery

Newcomb – Marie L. Tefoe, 83; Funeral Services July 28, 2017 at St. Therese Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Carolyn Ann Dishaw, 67; Funeral Services July 26, 2017 at the LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Paul A. LaRock, 72; Funeral Services July 28, 2017 at the LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery, Eel Weir.

Peru – Anastasia J. "Sue" (Politaki) Carrow, 87; Funeral Services July 25, 2017 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Peru – William Linus Patnode, 74; Funeral Services July 18, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Whispering Memorial Garden, Ellenburg Depot.

Peru – Herbert G. Wemette, 92; Funeral Services Aug. 3, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church.

Philadelphia – Louis C. Lawler, 89; Funeral Services July 25, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

Plattsburgh – John "Jack" Miller, 99; Funeral Services July 20, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Riverview Cemetery, Chazy.

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

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

Potsdam – Francis B. Keleher, 87; Funeral Services July 21, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Potsdam – Lloyd Leland Moore, 87; Funeral Services July 31, 2017 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Lisa A. Rockefeller Schofell, 51; Funeral Services July 24, 2017 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Louis F. D'Onofrio, 96; Funeral Services Aug. 1, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Star Lake – Millard Martin Leary, Jr., 42; Funeral Services July 29, 2017 at St. Hubert's Church.

Watertown – Mary Geraldine "Gerry" (Hunt) Sagriff, 97; Funeral Services Aug. 3, 2017 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown – Janice A. (Traynor) St. Croix, 83; Funeral Services July 31, 2017 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

West Chazy – Robert A. Seymour, 83; Funeral Services July 17, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

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



AT ST. BERNARD'S PARISH IN LYON MOUNTAIN

IN MEMORY OF MINERS

Parishioners remember 177 miners who lost their lives while working in the Lyon Mountain Mine



PARISH PHOTOS

Father Thomas J. Higman, pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain, presided at a Miners Memorial Mass July 14, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the closing of Lyon Mountain Mine. During the Mass the names of 177 miners who lost their lives while working in the mines were read. Father Higman is shown above with parishioners who helped to read the 177 names, Mona Siskavich, Bill LaDuke, Mike Siskavich, Ann Marie MacIntosh, Deacon Francis Siskavich, Joey Varin and Bill Chase.



Deacon Francis (Frenchy) Siskavich, who himself worked in the mine dons his helmet which was displayed as part of the parish memorial. Below, young Francis is shown wearing the same helmet.



The Chase Family is pictured with the helmet of their father, Duke.



The artifacts used to create the memorial were on loan from the Lyon Mountain Museum.

