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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 33

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 17, 2018

The beauty of silence

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- The silence that precedes the opening prayer at Mass is an opportunity for Christians to comment to God the fate of the church and the world, Pope Francis said.

Departing from his prepared text at his weekly general audience Jan. 10, the pope urged priests "to observe this brief silence and not hurry. I recommend this to the priests.

"Without this silence, we risk neglecting the reflection of the soul," he said.

Continuing his series of audience talks on the Mass, Pope Francis spoke about the Gloria and the opening

prayer. After the encounter between "human misery and divine mercy" experienced in the penitential rite, the faithful are invited to sing the ancient hymn of praise that was sung by the angels.

FOR WORLD PEACE

Disarmament, right to life



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis addresses diplomats accredited to the Holy See during an annual meeting at the Vatican Jan. 8. Because everyone has a right to life, liberty and personal security, nations must find nonviolent solutions to conflict and difficulties, Pope Francis said. A culture of peace "calls for unremitting efforts in favor of disarmament and the reduction of recourse to the use of armed force in the handling of international affairs.

Remembering Monsignor McCarthy

Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy, who died Jan. 6 at the age of 99 was remembered at his Mass of Christian Burial July 11 at Holy Family Church in Watertown.

Msgr. McCarthy had served as pastor of Holy Family for the last 21 years of his priesthood before retirement in 1993.

A native of Potsdam, Msgr. McCarthy was known internationally for his ministry to carnival people. He was also devoted to firefighters and those who served in law enforcement.

FULL STORY, PAGE 2 & 3

Do you believe in miracles?

Old Forge/Inlet parish created one for a village in Uganda:

a new Well for the community

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

SETON IN SONG



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Students at Seton Academy and Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh shared their musical talents during the Dec. 14 Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValley and Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Latakia, Syria. Bishop Chbeir, who traveled across the North Country Dec. 11-18 as a twinning initiative between the two dioceses begins, writes about the state of Christianity in his own country in a letter that appears on page 12.

SAVE THE DATE: Life and marriage conference to be held April 14.. p. 4

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COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
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R. LAVALLEY
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Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.Telephone:
(315) 608-7556E-mail:
news@northcountry
catholic.orgEntered at the
Post Office:
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.Subscription:
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.
Paper is printed each
Monday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Rest in peace, Father Mac

It won't surprise many who knew – or knew of – Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy that his folder in the *North Country Catholic's* cabinet of priest files was the thickest of the lot... by far.

In addition to clippings and photos from the diocesan newspaper, Msgr. McCarthy, aka the Carny Priest, was an intriguing and worthy subject for newspapers and magazines across the country.

Mary Lou
Kilian

The front page of *Our Sunday Visitor* in June of 1993, for example, featured a collection of photos with an invitation to “step right up and meet the carnival workers’ favorite chaplain.”

Father Mac was the subject of a book, “The Carnival Priest,” and the recipient of countless awards.

At the *NCC*, we did our best to keep up with it all.

This past week, memories

came flooding back as our diocese said goodbye to this extraordinary priest, one who charmed clowns and clerics around the world.

In a 2015 interview, marking his 70th anniversary as a priest, Msgr. McCarthy said that his service to carnival workers was the most rewarding aspect of his vocation.

“Carnival workers were neglected because they were seen as migrants, because they would come for a few days, then pick up and leave,” he said. “They didn’t pay local taxes and they were not in-

involved in the community.

“Father Mac” traveled 100,000 miles a year saying Mass, performing marriages, baptizing children and working to present a positive image of the carnival.

“Carnival workers have always been discriminated against and looked down upon,” he said. “They’ve been thought of as ‘bad people,’ people who drink, gamble and have tattoos. I tell my audiences that carnival people are just like everyone else: good, hardworking and honest.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

The wisdom of St. John the Evangelist

St. John the Apostle, one of the twelve, is St. John the Evangelist, who wrote the fourth Gospel of the New Testament.

The Gospel according to St. John is very different from the other three Gospels of St. Matthew, St. Mark and St. Luke. John's Gospel contains several long sections – long discourses by Jesus, like the Discourse at the Last Supper.

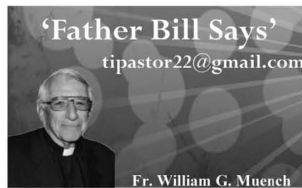
He also writes a deeply sensitive exposition of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. This St. John is the one who ran with St. Peter to find the tomb empty at the first Easter.

In addition, St. John the Evangelist wrote three letters that appear in the New Testament.

The first Letter of St. John is the more important one; the other two are very short. Segments of this first letter of St. John are the first readings at the week day Masses during the Christmas Season.

Today, I would like to share with you some of St. John's message in this First of his Letters in the New Testament. This letter is uniquely important for us.

John helps us to discover a deeper understanding of Jesus'



Fr. William G. Muench

message for us, especially his declaration concerning the humanity and divinity of Christ.

St. John begins this letter by making certain that we realize that he is sharing exactly what Jesus taught him, what he demonstrated while living with him and the other apostles.

He writes this: “This is what we proclaim to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched – we speak of the word of life.”

As we continue to read from this letter, we discover that the word is love – God's love for us all.

One of the important images for St. John as he writes about message of Jesus is light. In 1:13 of his letter, St. John writes this: “here, then, is the message we have heard from him and announce to you: that

God is light; in him there is no darkness.”

Our God is light for us. We are able to know God. John wants us to know God by forming a deep and important relationship, even a friendship with God. We know God with our heart.

In this letter and through his Gospel, John makes it clear that God loves us. Jesus came to our world to demonstrate how much God loves us.

In another way, St. John shows us God's great love for us by teaching us that we are children of God. We are so loved by our God that our relationship with God is as his children.

In 3:1 of this letter John writes: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet, that is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son!”

Life for us begins as children. Then we wander into adult life, but then comes a time – a time as we age – when we are invited back to being a child again, a child of God. We must again recognize how profoundly we are to live as children again. A child seeks love,

the love of a parent. As children of God we find peace and happiness by discovering God's compassionate love for us. It is then that we learn who we are: a loved child, a child loved by our God. Our lives matter; our lives are important to our God.

St. John then goes on to challenge us to live like a child of God. In 4:6 of John's first Letter, he writes: “Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. The one without love has known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only Son to the world that we might have life through him.”

St. John urges us to live in the love of our God by living as Jesus did. The challenge is bold yet, it is the only road to sanctity. And that is what our lives as disciples of Jesus is all about.

Our effort to love one another is our way to demonstrate to all around us through our way of life. Knowing in faith – that God's love is with us – we have the support and strength of our Savior. We do not have to ever be afraid.

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated Jan. 11 at Holy Family Church in Watertown

Funeral held for Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy, 99

WATERTOWN - A Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy, 99, was held Jan. 11 at Holy Family Church with Father Joseph A. Morgan, vicar general, presiding and priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Msgr. McCarthy died Jan. 6 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse where he had resided for several years. Burial will be in the Glenwood Cemetery.

Msgr. McCarthy was born July 1, 1918, in Potsdam, the son of Joseph and Bridget (O'Brien) McCarthy. After attending Potsdam State Teachers' College for two years, he began studies for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg, and then St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, New York.

Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart ordained him to the priesthood Oct. 19, 1946 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

His first assignments as a priest were as assistant pastor at St. Mary's in Canton and Holy Family Church in Watertown. In 1956, he was named temporary administrator at St. Bartholomew's in Old Forge. Later that year, he was named pastor of St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden and St. Peter and Paul in Fish Creek.

Msgr. McCarthy served as pastor in St. Patrick's in Colton with a mission church of St. Paul's in South Colton. He was appointed pastor at St. James Church in Gouverneur for nine years and then at Holy Family Church in Watertown for 21 years until his retirement in 1993.

Along with his parish assignments, the priest served seven years as diocesan Youth Director beginning in 1959 and wrote a regular article for the *North Country Catholic*.

Msgr. McCarthy was appointed Papal Chamberlain with the title monsignor in 1960 and, in 1976, was named Honorary Prelate.



NCC FILE PHOTO

Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy as shown in this 2015 photo as he celebrated 70 years of priesthood. Known throughout the world as the "Carny Priest," Msgr. McCarthy died Jan. 6 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown where he had helped to finance a wing for elderly priests.

The priest served as diocesan director of the Apostleship of Prayer in 1966 for which he also served on the national Advisory Board. Beginning in 1973, he hosted a monthly radio show in Gouverneur and, later, a daily program in Watertown. Msgr. McCarthy became internationally known as the Carny Priest, using his vacations and days off to serve carnival workers and outdoor showmen in the diocese and eventually across the US. He recognized that carnival workers were often poor, living on the margins of society without permanent homes.

This work developed into a national apostolate. In 1979, he was appointed the Na-

tional Chaplain to the Carnival Peoples in the United States and was granted a private audience with Pope John Paul II to explain his ministry.

During his service as pastor in Gouverneur, Msgr. McCarthy became chaplain to the local volunteer fire company. He later served St. Lawrence County, the Northern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association and finally the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

To local police agencies and the New York State Police, Msgr. McCarthy became known as Father Mac and served nearly 50 years as chaplain. He ministered to firefighters and law enforcement kept away from home

and challenged by the stresses of duty and service.

In 1975, he became the Founding Father of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, a cloistered religious order, when they established a house in Watertown.

Throughout his ministry, Msgr. McCarthy always promoted the consecration of each home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a family-centered ceremony.

For 70 years he practiced daily devotion before the

Blessed Sacrament.

After retirement, his financial assistance enabled the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown to build an infirmary wing for elderly priests. Eventually, he became the first resident.

Msgr. McCarthy was predeceased by his parents and siblings; Daniel B. McCarthy, Ann King, Blanche McCarthy, Margaret McCarthy and Bernadette Fadden. He is survived by nieces and nephews and their children.



INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANNULMENTS

Sponsored by the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

- Monday, January 29 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Emmaus Room – St. Peter's Church, 114 Cornelia Street, Plattsburgh
- Monday, February 5 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Lower Meeting Room – St. James Minor Church, 327 West Street, Carthage
- Tuesday, March 27 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
St. Mary's School, 2 Powers Street, Canton
- Monday, April 9 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
St. Patrick's Parish Center, 12 St. Patrick's Place, Port Henry
- Monday, April 16 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Holy Ghost Parish Center, 40 Marion Street, Tupper Lake

This FREE workshop is for people who wish to explore beginning the annulment process and will be conducted by the Staff of the Matrimonial Tribunal: Rev. Douglas J. Lucia, JCL, Judicial Vicar; Rev. Garry B. Giroux, JCL, Adjutant Judicial Vicar; and Mrs. Elaine Seymour, Moderator of the Tribunal.

What we will cover:

- Marriage/Divorce - what is my status as a divorced person in the Church?
- Do I need an annulment?
- The Annulment Process
- Forms

The Tribunal staff will have the forms available to begin the process and will be on-hand to answer any individual questions as well. Light refreshments will be provided.

TO REGISTER OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TRIBUNAL OFFICE AT 315-605-1087.

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Once a stranger... 'next door saints'

By Dayna Leader
Family Life Department

I have always told my children that "your best friend was once a stranger." That truth has been evident in many ways in my life and in the lives of my husband and children.

As I look back on my life I see the countless ways that the Lord was preparing a life of abundant blessing and grace for me, a life I could have only imagined in my dreams. God has given me all I could ever need, and more blessings to live a life in awe of His goodness.

When Henry (who was once a stranger to me!) and I fell in love, I fell head over heels in love with God as well and I was open to all God was placing before us and our family. We began our journey of Christ at the center of all we did, and we have come to meet many "next door saints" along the way.

So much of what God had in store for us came to life as we accepted the invitation to Family Guggenheim from my younger sisters, who loved Teen Camp. On this "holy ground," we celebrated our family, our marriage, Church, and our Lord. For 24 years, Guggenheim has been the holy ground upon which our family comes home to, stays anchored in, and is blessed by in family to family ministry.

By the intercession of our patron saint, Francis, we



Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak will be the keynote speakers at the diocesan life and family conference April 14 in Massena.

were led to the love of all who have come through the Guggenheim gate, and those who Pope Francis would call "next door saints." On this holy ground, the Holy Spirit has lavished us with so many blessings in the friends, priests, mentors, and model families through their catechesis and love.

It is here we came to learn about so many other "next door saints", who just happened to live a little further away than the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Through the faithful at Family Guggenheim and other fellow Guggenheim family members, we have been introduced to Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Christopher West, Franciscan University, Natural Family Planning, Mathew Kelly, Chris Stefanick, Abby Johnson, Steve Angrisano, Chris Padgett, Paul J. Kim, Jackie Francois Angel, and Dr. Greg



Popcak.

How grateful we are for the faithful of our diocese to have given us the opportunity to not just learn of these incredible teachings, institutions and "next door saints," but to have brought them to our diocese to speak and share their wisdom over the last several years.

I could not be more excited for the upcoming Life and Family Conference when Dr. Greg Popcak will join the impressive list of Catholic speakers who have presented to the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg!

Upon discovering Dr. Greg Popcak and his wife Lisa and their work in the late 1990's, he immediately became my "go to guy" for expert Catholic parenting and marriage advice. His book, *Parenting with Grace*, has been a breath of fresh air and a solid plan for us as we navigate raising Catholic

children in this secular world.

The Popcak's books on marriage, and their podcasts on Catholic radio have given me tools that I need to make our parenting intentionally Catholic, with the number one goal in mind, getting our children to heaven.

We have also benefitted from Dr. Greg's Pastoral Solutions Institute and his Catholic tele-counseling services during various challenging situations through the years; and there have been challenges! Despite our best efforts, and a solid "plan for parenting" presented by Dr. Popcak and ultimately, the Church, we have had many moments, days, and situations in which Mom, Dad, and the Leader children have blown it.

Despite our determination to "Catholic parent" our children, we have faced a cou-

ple crisis, a few challenges and many crazy days as a big family. But in the midst of the daily squabbles and messes, and naughtiness and noise, we had all committed to strive to become a family of virtue and holiness and apply the parenting approach in Dr. Popcak's book, and the kids knew we were serious.

I couldn't help but laugh to myself when I would be addressing a ruckus in the toy room and one child would take the lead and declare, "Guys, be good or she is going to call that Catholic Dr. Phil!"

Dr. Popcak's work is a treasure trove of wisdom for Catholic families. Mark your calendar for April 14, 2017, for the opportunity to be inspired by one of the best teachers on Catholic Family Life.

Being part of the team that is bringing Dr. Popcak to the Diocese of Ogdensburg is more than a dream come true for me; it is evidence that God is always working in our lives to give us all that we need to live holy lives.

We can find His grace in the people we meet along the way, once strangers who became our "Next Door Saints".

For life and family

This is the second in a series of reflections on marriage in anticipation of an April 14 Life and Family Conference at Trinity Catholic School in Massena. The Workshop, entitled "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond," has been planned by the diocesan Department of Family Life in conjunction with the Offices of Vocations and Evangelization. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak. The goal of the full-day conference is to raise awareness of the beauty and importance of the vocation of marriage in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and beyond.

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Debbie Booton McCoy and Father Howard Venette, the pastor of St Bartholomew and St. Anthony parishes of Old Forge and Inlet display a check to complete a project of building a well in Isagara, Uganda, shown at right. Ms McCoy writes about the project here.

Well... well... well

By Debbie Booton McCoy
Parishioner, St. Bartholomew's, Old Forge

OLD FORGE- If you do not believe in miracles, perhaps this story will convince you.

In October of 2016, I met a Catholic seminarian from Uganda. I was at a Catholic seminar in the mountains of New Hampshire where the internet service was awful.

The second day there, I received a Facebook friend request from someone I did not know, had no mutual friends with. I had no idea where he found my name nor how his message got through to me. His name is Christopher Tusiime and he was, at that time, a second year student at St. Mary's Major Seminary in Kampala, Uganda.

We began to chat daily and I soon realized that he had difficulty paying all the living and tuition bills for school. My parish priest, Father Howard Venette, of St. Bartholomew and St. Anthony parishes, permitted not only a bake sale fundraiser, but also a voluntary collection, to assist Christopher in his finances.

We were able to pay his January tuition and have money left over for future concerns.

During winter break, Christopher told me much about his home village of Isagara. Several times, he would excuse himself to go to the "well." This was a dammed up spring, available to people, monkeys and cattle. And it was a two mile walk from his house. This surprised me and we began speaking about a real well, in town.

After Christmas, I began to write to companies who service Uganda water needs. I found CEED, Christian East Africa Equatorial Development, run by people in Pittsburgh. They agreed to go to Isagara and send me an estimate.

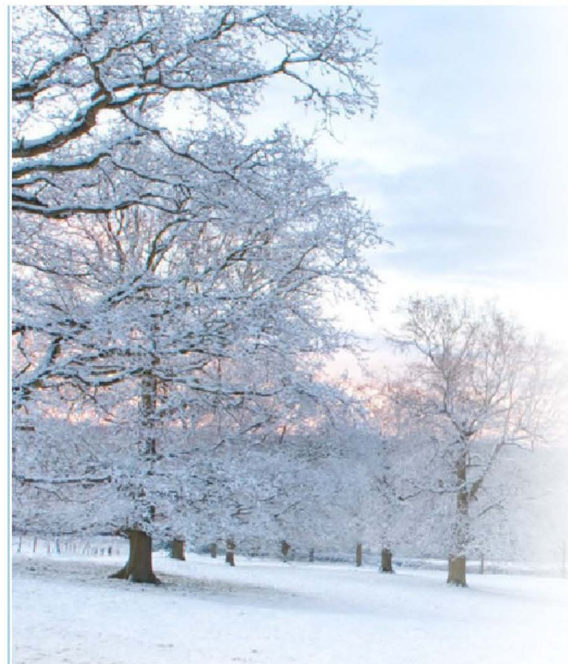
The estimate came in at \$6000; it was up to me to come up with the money. Father Venette offered to insert a flyer into the bulletin in early August and then hosted a fundraising dinner, "Wishes for Wells," on the Feast of the Assumption, immediately after evening Mass. I think we were all surprised when the entire

\$6000 was raised. We immediately sent the required \$2,000 deposit. In addition, the population of Isagara was obligated to formally sign agreements to take responsibility for the well. Then, the construction began in earnest.

Everything takes time there. Equipment must be brought in and sometimes replaced. Several drillings took place before a suitable site was found. At one point, CEED crew members were at a loss and were afraid they could not build the well. That is when they found an old abandoned well at the primary school. They offered to try to repair that as well. It was done successfully with little problem. Meanwhile, parts for the main well needed to be shipped from overseas.

We all learned patience, waiting. The well was opened on Christmas Eve, less than a year from the first discussion. It is a great Christmas present to the people of Isagara.

Christopher tells me the people are grateful. He and I know that it was God's work and we just assisted.



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Rest in peace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

But the work of a priest who lived nearly a century wasn't limited to his beloved carnival workers.

He also spent 50 years as a chaplain for north country firefighters and law enforcement agencies.

An annual day at the Jefferson County fair sponsored by Watertown city firefighters for children from the Disabled Persons Action Organization is named for Monsignor McCarthy.

There's also a rescue truck called "McCarthy."

A group of firefighters showed their appreciation by serving as pall bearers at Msgr. McCarthy's funeral.

The priest was also a pas-

tor of one of the largest parishes of the diocese, brought the Sisters of the Precious Blood to the diocese and was a fixture on the radio with a daily program of inspirational messages.

But, first and foremost, Msgr. McCarthy was a simple man of God who made a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament nearly every single day for more than 70 years.

In a reflection he wrote for *Priest* magazine in 2000, reprinted in the *NCC* in 2009, Msgr. McCarthy said, "The daily Holy Hour started for me a year before I was ordained when Bishop Fulton Sheen visited my seminary and challenged each

seminarian to make a daily Holy Hour as he himself had done for years.

"I started my daily Holy Hour that day and, except in times of sickness or impossibility, I have made an hour with Jesus every day since," he said.

"As I come to the end of my life, my priesthood and my duties, I give all credit for any of my successes to my daily Holy Hour

Now, as our beloved priest and friend is spending every hour of every day with Jesus, we thank God for all the successes Msgr. McCarthy brought to our world during his long and faith-filled life.

Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done.

Rites held for Atonement Sister who served in diocese

GARRISON, N.Y. - A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Eileen Waldron, 86, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, took place in the Motherhouse chapel Jan. 8.

She died Jan. 3 at Lurana Health Care Residence at St. Francis Convent. Burial was in the Sisters' Cemetery at Graymoor.

Sister Eileen was born in Clayburg, New York, Nov. 21, 1931 to Mary (Hanlon) and Michael Waldron.

Survived by her Sisters in community and her sister, Ursula, and nieces and nephews, Sister Eileen is predeceased by her parents and siblings: Margaret, Francis, Laurence, Raymond, Patrick, John and Harold.

She entered the community Sept. 8, 1949, professed her first vows on May 10,

1951 and her final vows on Sept. 1, 1956. As an Atonement missionary, she served in parish, catechetical, pastoral and retreat ministries as well as in vocation/formation ministry within the congregation.

Sister Eileen's ministries included service in California (San Juan Bautista and Placerville); Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); Canada (Vancouver and British Columbia); Utah (Copperton); Georgia (Douglas); Italy (Assisi); New Hampshire (North Conway); New York (Malone, Ogdensburg and Graymoor); Vermont (Burlington); and Washington, DC before finally returning to Graymoor in 2017.

Through the years, Sister Eileen lived at Graymoor at various times and her congregational ministries in-

cluded: Vocation Directress, Coordinator of the House of Prayer, retreat ministry at Our Lady of the Atonement Retreat House, the Sisters' Gift Shop, the Pastoral Care Team, and at Mother Lurana House, well-known for her time in the Adult Daycare Program.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

Upcoming sessions:
June 24 - 3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 19 - Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Jan. 22-25 - NYS Bishops' Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in Palm Beach, FL

Jan. 29 - New York State Catholic Conference Board Meeting in New York City

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 17 - Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009

Jan. 18 - Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980

Jan. 19 - Rev. Benjamin Desroches O.M.I., 1908; Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974

Jan. 20 - Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Ponture, 1940

Jan. 21 - Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001

Jan. 22 - Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950

Jan. 23 - Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

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, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Fr. Christopher Carara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Environmental Stewardship

Youth demand change

In the introduction to Laudato Si Pope Francis states that "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the suffering of the excluded." (#13)

Recently the diocesan Faith and Ecology group who meet monthly in St. John in the Wilderness Parish Center, Lake Clear, were privileged to hear the "voice" of one Catholic young adult, Gina Fiorile, a native of Saranac Lake.

Currently a student at University of Vermont, she was in Paris last year for the signing of the COP 21 Global Climate Agreement. She is the coordinator of the Climate Program at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake during the summer. She shared her efforts in creating the Youth Climate Summit held annually at the Center that attracts hundreds of students locally and nationally.

When asked what her concerns were around the wellbeing of our "common home," she responded, "I am proud of my Catholic faith and I recognize that Creation is one of the greatest gifts mankind has ever received. . . I am most passionate about the issue of climate change. As a Catholic, I am a defender of life in every form. Climate change is a serious threat to life in every form. It will exacerbate life-threatening issues of water insecurity, food insecurity, and it will increase natural disasters. It will place burdens on developing nations and poverty-stricken individuals who will be impacted by climate change the most although they are contributing to the issue the least. . . Climate change and other environmental issues are not political issues, they are human issues. We are one Church. It is our duty as Catholics to step up and protect life and Creation." Her advice: "Speak to the youth who are inheriting this earth and let them know that you care about having a livable planet for those yet to be born."

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope says he goes to Chile, Peru as pilgrim of Gospel joy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Less than a week before embarking on a seven-day visit to South America, Pope Francis said he would go to Chile and Peru as a pilgrim and share the Gospel's message of hope and joy. "I want to meet with you, look into your eyes, see your faces and experience God's closeness, his tenderness and mercy that embraces and consoles us," the pope said in a video message released by the Vatican Jan. 9. The pope will be in Chile Jan. 15-18, visiting the cities of Santiago, Temuco and Iquique. He then will fly to Peru and from Jan. 18-21, he will visit Lima, Puerto Maldonado and Trujillo. In his message, Pope Francis said he was familiar with the history of both countries and was grateful for the people's faith and love for God, particularly in caring for those "discarded by society. The throwaway culture has invaded us more and more," he said. "I want to share in your joys, your sorrows, your difficulties and hopes and tell you that you are not alone, that the pope is with you (and) that the whole church embraces you."

Decry end of immigration protection for Salvadorans

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As the Catholic Church in the U.S. began observing National Migration Week, a time to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, immigrants, refugees, and human trafficking victims, the administration of President Donald Trump announced that it would end an immigration program for thousands of Salvadorans, one of the largest groups of modern-day immigrants in the country and one that includes many Catholics. More than 200,000 Salvadorans, living under a special immigration status in the U.S., now face the prospect of staying in the country illegally or returning to a nation designated as one of the most dangerous in the world not at war, after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Jan. 8 that it was ending a provision called Temporary Protected Status after Sept. 9, 2019. "The decision to terminate TPS for El Salvador was made after a review of the disaster-related conditions upon which the country's original designation was based," DHS said in a statement. Salvadorans affected can apply to stay under a different program, if they qualify, or make plans to return to their home country, the statement continued. Citizens of El Salvador were able to apply for TPS in 2001 after the Central American nation experienced a series of major earthquakes. TPS grants a work permit and a reprieve from deportation to certain people whose countries have experienced natural disasters, armed conflicts or exceptional situations, to remain temporarily in the United States. El Salvador had previously received the designation in 1990 after thousands of Salvadorans fled to the U.S. seeking refuge from a brutal civil war. Supporters of the Salvadorans said current TPS recipients should be allowed to stay because they have built families and are firmly rooted in the U.S. and local faith communities

VATICAN LETTER

Dialogue, not denial: Pope finds strength in valuing differences among people

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- January is dialogue month at the Vatican. From World Peace Day Jan. 1, to the World Day of Migrants and Refugees Jan. 14 and concluding with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25, Pope Francis preaches about dialogue.

In the teaching of Pope Francis, the purpose of dialogue is not to achieve a homogenized unity, but to move humbly, with respect, toward a community and a world where differences are not threatening, but enriching and therefore cannot be manipulated by those who want to sow fear, hatred and violence.

Recently, Pope Francis has been describing as "ideological colonization" the drive, purposeful or accidental, to create a global -- and therefore, bland - culture. Religious differences often are the first target. Religion is seen as divisive so people are encouraged to keep their personal beliefs private and objections are raised to any public expression of faith.

In his speech to diplomats accredited to the Holy See Jan. 8, the pope decried attacks on religious freedom and how "religion becomes either an occasion for the ideological justification of new forms of extremism or a pretext for the social marginalization of believers, if not their downright persecution."

But, he said, the only way to build inclusive societies is to understand people and that happens only when they are "recognized and accepted in all the dimensions

that constitute their identity, including the religious dimension."

True dialogue requires both partners to share who they really are and listen to the other with respect

Globalization and migration created more communities where people of different religions, nationalities and ethnic groups live side by side. As Nigerian Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja told a conference in Rome Jan. 8, "It won't be long before there is no place where Christians and Muslims don't live together."

And while Cardinal Onaiyekan said he knows many people in Europe and North America think that is a recipe for disaster and would point to his own country as an example, the cardinal insisted that is just not true.

At his ordination as a priest and again as a bishop, he said, "my whole family was in the church -- Christians and Muslims."

Furthermore, he said that while the fanatically Muslim Boko Haram terrorist group makes global headlines, people seem to have no idea that in Nigeria, "there are fanatics on both sides."

The Nigeria Interreligious Council, a government-supported body whose members were chosen by the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, "is in coma, if not dead," Cardinal Onaiyekan told the Rome conference on ecumenical and interreli-

gious dialogue.

"There was no way for the two groups to meet when among Christians, there were those who believed such a meeting was useless -- 'you do not dialogue with the devil,' they would said. That attitude "provoked a strong reaction" from Muslims who did not like the idea of their talking with Christians, the cardinal told the conference sponsored by the University of Notre Dame and Rome's Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.

But for the cardinal, as for Pope Francis, people give in to "ideological colonization" when they set aside their beliefs in an attempt to dialogue with others. True dialogue requires both partners to share who they really are and listen to the other with respect.

Cardinal Onaiyekan said that when he travels abroad, he often is asked whether he can find "moderate Muslims" to dialogue with. But, he told the conference, "my reply is that I am not a moderate Christian. I am a deeply committed Christian," and in dialogue he is not looking for "a Muslim who does not care too much about his faith. I am looking for a convinced Muslim, who, however, still has room to listen to others and reach out to others."

Another thing to keep in mind, he said, is that just as Christians have a variety of denominations and theologies, the Muslim community is varied as well.

Humility is key, the cardinal said. Each person must "admit that God is much greater than us, much greater than our religion, to the extent that it is a human construct."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Living the Gospel in a not-so-ordinary time

The Church began "Ordinary Time" two weeks ago. However, there is nothing ordinary about the world we face in 2018. The Age of Trump is filled with uncertainty.

Our Holy Father is urging us not to give in to pessimism at the world situation.

Our Holy Father urged the nations not to tear hope out of the hearts of refugees. We could add also from the hearts of the children of illegal immigrants.

The end of the Christmas season is supposed to lead in to the evangelizing work

for all of His followers

We cannot afford to be indifferent.

In today's first reading, we read of Jonah, an Old Testament prophet, and a reluctant one at that.

We pass right over his bad moments - running away, getting swallowed by a whale, until he is forced to preach in the big city of Ninevah.

He converts over 100,000 inhabitants in one day!

Then, just when you'd think he would be smug and happy with success, he sulks under a tree, embarrassed at the Assyrians

being more obedient to God's warning than the Israelites would ever be!

These traditional enemies of the Jews did a thorough job of repenting, even forcing their animals to do penance with them.

God was pleased, even though Jonah was not. God even relents of His intention of destroying the city. Jonah just sulks.

Who would disagree with a statement in today's second reading from 1st Corinthians? "The world in its present form is passing away".

Since the beginning of the third millennium, we have experienced startling and dangerous changes in the environment.

JAN. 21

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

And there are even more dangerous changes to the moral climate of our times.

What's the message? We need more of us preaching God's Word than ever before.

The Gospel is all about Jesus launching his Mission in earnest. We notice that Jesus is not a "lone ranger" Messiah. He involves many others in the enterprise.

To his invitation, "Come, follow me," Peter, Andrew, James and John all respond with shocking speed. We are not told about the dismay of their families, who no doubt expected them and their children and their children's children to carry on the family business.

For all their faults, they are destined to become top leaders in the new Church. What a persuasive presence Jesus had! Would that the Gospel could affect every one of us with the same dynamic results.

By the way, pray for the thousands and thousands of young Catholics witnessing in our nations' capitol for Life at all stages tomorrow, Monday, Jan. 22.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

To be or not to be... the implications of suicide

In recent years we have witnessed a growing tendency to promote suicide as a way of resolving end-stage suffering.

Physician-assisted suicide is now legal in a handful of states and a number of other jurisdictions are considering laws to legalize the practice.

A few years ago on Nightline, Barbara Walters interviewed an assisted suicide advocate who summed it up this way: "We're talking about what people want. There are people who, even suffering horribly, want to live out every second of their lives, and that's their right, of course, and they should do it. Others don't want that. Others want out!"

Those favoring physician-assisted suicide argue that getting out of our final agony means essentially redeeming a "get out of jail free" card through committing suicide.

At first glance, taking this step would indeed appear to

end our troubles definitively. But what if this view of things is dead wrong, and we don't actually end up escaping our sufferings?

What if we, instead, end up in a new situation where our trials are still present, and maybe even more intense, on account of the willful decision we made to end our own life?

I was recently reminded of this serious flaw in the "suicide solution" after watching a remarkable video adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet, with Campbell Scott co-directing and starring in the title role.

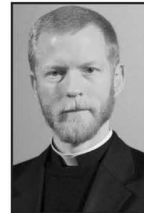
Listening once again to Hamlet's timeless soliloquy "to be or not to be," I was struck by how carefully Shakespeare addresses the vexing question of intense human suffering and the perennial temptation to commit suicide.

Hamlet muses about whether it is better to put up with the bad things we

know about in this life than to step into the strange new land of death's "undiscovered country," a country about which we know very little, and from which no one returns.

This leaves us, in Hamlet's words, "puzzled" and in "dread of something after death." He wonders aloud about the hidden purposes of suffering when he asks himself, "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" than to "take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them." He concludes by asking whether we shouldn't rather "bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of?"

Among those who end up committing suicide, whether physician-assisted



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk
Ph.D.

or otherwise, many will face extenuating circumstances including severe depression or other forms of extreme mental pain.

In such cases, it is clear that their moral responsibility will be greatly diminished, as fear and anguish constrict their ability to think and reason clearly.

But this is not always the case, and some people, with clear mind and directed intention, do choose to end their lives, as appears to have been the case for Britney Maynard.

She was the young woman in California who in the early stages of her brain cancer carefully arranged and orchestrated her own physician-assisted suicide, establishing months in advance the date and setting, who would be present in the room, what music would be playing as she did it, etc.

Such a decision is always a tragedy, and every life, even when compromised by disease or suffering, remains a great gift to be cared for.

When freely chosen, suicide is a form of serious wrongdoing and is, in the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Gravely contrary to the just love of self."

It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations."

It leaves behind loved ones to contend with unresolved guilt, shame, and pain.

While ending our life may seem to offer an "escape valve" for the serious pressures and sufferings we face, we do well to consider the real effects of this choice both in this life, and in the life to come.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

THE POST

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

The oddest scenes in "The Post" (Fox), a nostalgic account of The Washington Post's publication of the Pentagon Papers in 1971, involve Meryl Streep as that newspaper's owner, Katharine Graham, hovering about its press and linotype rooms.

The publisher's matriarchal beam shines over articles being prepared for publication in a process that takes hours. Letter by letter and word by word, production thunders along on now-obsolete equipment that relied on melted lead bars, barrels of ink and massive rolls of newsprint.

In what seems, by current standards, a sepia-tinted era of journalism, the paper would then be delivered by trucks to newsstands, coin boxes and front stoops in Washington. News, in those days, arrived just once a day in print (twice, if the community also had an afternoon newspaper), to be supplemented each evening by network TV anchors, and again weekly in magazines.

Four years later, under pressure from shareholders focused on profits after the

Post's public stock offering, Graham would be locked in mortal combat in an ultimately successful effort to break the unions that controlled production.

Director Steven Spielberg, working from a script by Liz Hannah and Josh Singer, aims to make a rouser along the lines of 1952's "Deadline U.S.A." And, according to that film's formula of a crusading newspaper in financial peril triumphing over government secrets and crooked politicians, he succeeds.

It's a quaint age of rotary phones, clacking news wires and typewriters, toxic clouds of cigarette smoke and the familiar tones of CBS News stalwart Walter Cronkite. Graham hosts lavish parties at her estate where humorist Art Buchwald (David Costabile) is a kind of court jester. She also counts former defense secretary Robert McNamara (Bruce Greenwood) among her close friends.

Post editor Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks) still basks in the memory of his friendship with President John F. Kennedy, and keeps what he knew of Kennedy's extramarital peccadilloes to himself. But The New York Times has come across the

biggest story of the period (until the Watergate scandal), and this annoys Bradlee greatly since he's devoted to making the Post a truly national, respected publication.

A lengthy study of the Vietnam War, popularly known as the Pentagon Papers and commissioned by McNamara, makes it clear that the conflict was never, despite public pronouncements, considered winnable. It shows, moreover, the degree to which the U.S. effort in the conflict was burdened by corrupt South Vietnamese leadership.

Young American men were being drafted into a struggle with no reasonable prospect of victory, rendering their sacrifices, and ultimately their lost lives, seemingly pointless.

The Nixon administration obtains a court order blocking the Papers' publication, and in the interregnum that follows Bradlee and his staff have to find a way to get their own copies. President Richard Nixon was already so hostile to the Post over its social coverage that he had recently banned the paper from sending a reporter to cover daughter Tricia's White House wedding.



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep star in a scene from the movie "The Post."

Publication risks the Post's very existence since court action could sabotage the paper's stability on the eve of the stock offering. Ultimately, the Supreme Court has to decide on the documents' release as other publications rally around constitutional guarantees of press freedom. But before that, Bradlee and his reporters have to piece the documents together into a narrative.

The big decision comes down to Graham, who has been the publisher since her husband's suicide years before. She falls short of being

a feminist and often defers to Bradlee. But she's devoted to doing what's right for the truth, even if it damages old friendships. The film contains scenes of military combat and fleeting rough language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

To be

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

In the next life, a preceding act of suicide may deny us the very relief we were seeking, and may, in fact, lead to harsher purification in a new situation of our own making, or, heaven forbid, lead to a fate far worse than purgatory.

Our Lord and his Church care profoundly for those who commit suicide, and even though this act clearly

involves grave matter, the Catechism reminds us that, "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives."

Suicide affects us not only in the here and now, but has

significant, even eternal, implications for the journey to that "undiscovered country" that awaits us.

Father Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale. 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.ncbcenter.org.



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CLINTON

LAKESIDERS FISHERS CLUB

Plattsburgh – The Fishers Club, a discernment program for men (juniors in high school and older) open to the possible vocation to the priesthood, to meet

Dates: Feb. 4 & 18; March 4 & 25; April 8 & 22; May 6.

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's

Features: discussion, evening prayer and dinner.

Contact: Fr. Howard Venette pastor.st-barts@roadrunner.com/315-369-3554

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host an all you can eat community spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 20

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$2.5; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs are available. .

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – The Knights of Columbus will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: Feb. 4, March 4, April 22

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

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.

HEARTS ON FIRE

FRANKLIN

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

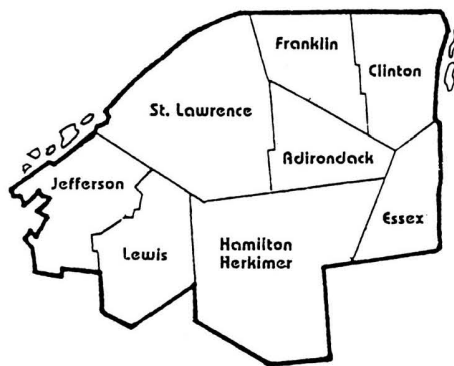
Schedule: 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks

Place: Notre Dame Church

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

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

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



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.

Place: St. Ann's Church

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: Jan. 25

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

Features: Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

BEREAVEMENT GATHERING

Watertown – Meeting to be held on losing a loved one.

Date: Jan. 29

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Hearthside Lounge at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

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.

CURSILLO MEETINGS

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

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Community Room of St. James

Features: For Cursillistas and all those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Monday-Friday

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

Place: Holy Family Church

EUCCHARISTIC 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

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Watertown - The St. Joseph Cupertino fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will have their monthly meeting.

Date: last Sunday of the month

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Holy Family Parish

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

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

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS

Lowville – St. Peter's Rosary & Altar Society will be having their Annual

Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Feb. 1

Time: Take-outs start at 4:30 p.m., sit down from 5 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Peter's Church

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of February to be held.

Date: Feb. 4

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Jan. 18

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

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

ST. LAWRENCE

MIDLANDERS FISHERS CLUB

Canton - Fishers Club, a discernment program for young men (juniors in high school and up) who are open to a possible vocation to the priesthood, will meet

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Time: 9 a.m.

Schedule: Jan. 27, Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 31, April 14 & 28

Features: brunch, discussion, and prayer with Fathers Douglas Lucia and Bryan Stitt.

Contact: Fr. Doug Lucia dlucia@rcdony.org/315-348-4466

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.

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction, Adoration on Thursdays

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS

The Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is sponsoring informational workshops on annulments.

Schedule:

- Jan. 29, Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh, from 6:30 p.m. to 8
- Feb. 5, Lower Meeting Room, St. James Minor Church, Carthage, from 6:30 p.m. to 8

- March 27, St. Mary's School, Canton, from 7 p.m. to 8:30

- April 9, St. Patrick's Parish Center, Port Henry, from 6:30 p.m. to 8

- April 16, Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake, from 6:30 p.m. to 8

Features: The free workshops are designed for people who wish to explore beginning the annulment process. The tribunal staff will have the forms available to begin the process and will be on-hand to answer any individual questions. Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact: Registration or further information is available through the tribunal office at 315-605-1087.

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Canton - The Diocesan Family Life Office has announced a new ministry for divorced Catholics

Date: 12 week program begins Thursday, Jan. 25

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$25, includes program materials "Surviving Divorce Personal Guide"

Contact: Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or go to

<http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorcesupport-group.html>.

DOVS MEMBERS SOUGHT

D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese is seeking new members. DOVS meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage.

Contact: Call Connie at 315-265-2762 or Cathy Russell, diocesan vocation coordinator at the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org

Where the work needs to be done

As long as there has been exploration and discovery in our world, there have been missionaries. Some of the earliest explorers who conquered the world, brought their religious beliefs along with them. Many trace the origins of the Missionary to Buddhism. However, the early roots of Catholic Missionaries go back over 1500 years.

The nineteenth century Christian missionary James Gilmour once said, "I thought it reasonable that I should seek the work where the work was the most abundant and the workers fewest." This statement by Gilmour profoundly summarizes the role of the missionary in the mission lands.

Today, the Pontifical Mission Societies, or Missio, is under the direction of Reverend Andrew Small, OMI, since 2011. By virtue of our baptism as Catholics, we are all called upon to be missionaries.

Pope Francis calls upon the Pontifical Mission Societies to bring the message of Christ to the world, especially in areas of the world where Catholicism is young. The support of the church in these lands is necessary until they are able to be self-sufficient.

Ongoing support of the Pope's Missions is vital to the missionaries serving in over 1,100 dioceses in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. The work that is being done in these locations brings the light of Christ to the world's most vulnerable communities.

Historically, in the early days of the Pontifical Mission Societies, missionary Pauline Jaricot started small in Lyon France by praying for the mission lands and offering up literally pennies.

Today, the PMS provides a global network of people who are making the difference to the poor and the forgotten.

Technology makes the Church's mission easier today. The age-old methods of helping, delivering and accessing those in need is now expedited and perfected with technology. The connection to the daily lives of those who are in a different setting and battling things you cannot imagine, is so real now. Pope Francis suggests that we can now see, not look, and hear not just listen to those who so desperately need our compassion.

The Missionaries do the hard work for us. All they ask of us it to help them as they continue their work. The prayers, sacrifices and sharing of resources is all they need to complete their mission.

So, as they continue to see out where the mission takes them, remember the words of St. John of God, that we should "love the poor tenderly, regarding them as your masters and yourselves as their servants."....

God Bless from the Mission Office.

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

OBITUARIES

Bloomington – Monte N. Vaughn, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2018 at St. Paul's Oratory; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Edward J. Taylor, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2018 at the Chateaugay Funeral Home.

Heuvelton – Kenneth P. Alguire, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2018 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in St. Henry's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Kathleen A. (Moran) Purick, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2018 at St. John's Church.

Lake Placid – Peter Frederick Roland Sr., 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 19, 2018 at St. Agnes Church

Malone – Thelma I. (Rust) D'Amour, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 16, 2018 at St. John Church; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

Malone – Amelia M. Eells, 85; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery.

Malone – Theresa McGowan Gagnon, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Ft. Covington.

Massena – Kenneth J. Moniere, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2018 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – George R. Sherwood, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Emilio Boba, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg – James A. Ramie, 77;

Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Laurel (Blair) Roethel, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Donna (DeGone) Swan, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Alton "Red" Barcomb, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples, Ellenburg Depot.

Plattsburgh – Betty A. (Bedore) Tobrocke, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Lena (Pugliese) Cifrian, 102; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry – Pasquel J. Tom, 84; Mass of

Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Saranac Lake – Berton "Jack" John Sweeney, 88; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary E. Brefka, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2018 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Cleveland M. Calhoun, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Robert J. Hazard, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2018 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Helen A. Montigelli, 95; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at Holy Family Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Watertown – Peter Donald O'Brien, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2018 at Holy Family Church.

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Adult Children of Alcoholics

Weekly meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
Upstairs Room

Adult Children of Alcoholics is a recovery program for adults whose lives were affected as a result of being raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family. It is based on the success of Alcoholics Anonymous and employs its version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

For more information on ACA, go to www.adultchildren.org

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CHEVROLET

Bishop Chbeir writes about the Maronite Church and Christianity in Syria

Go deeper and learn more

(Part 1, from Bishop Antoine Chbeir's letter to Father Steven Murray)

The Maronite Church is linked to 4th century saint St. Maroun. St. Maroun was a priest who became a hermit, retiring to the mountain of Taurus near Antioch. His holiness and miracles attracted many followers and garnered attention from throughout the empire. St. John Chrysostom sent a letter to St. Maroun around 405 AD expressing his great love and respect and asking Sr. Maroun to pray for him.

St. Maroun is considered the Father of the spiritual and monastic movement of the Maronite Church. This movement has a profound influence on Northern Syria and Lebanon.

St. Maroun spent all of his life on a mountain in the region of Cyrrhus in Syria. It is believed that the place was called Kefar-Nabo on the mountain of Ol-Yambos, making it the cradle of the Maronite movement.

St. Maroun's way was deeply monastic with emphasis on the spiritual and ascetic aspects of living. He embraced the quiet solitude of the mountain life. He lived his life in open air exposed to the forces of nature such as sun, rain, hail, and snow.

His extraordinary desire to come to know God's presence in all things allowed Sr. Maroun to transcend such forces and discover that intimate union with God. He was able to free himself from the physical world by his passion and fervor for prayer and enter in to a mystical relationship of love with God.

St. Maroun was a mystic who started this new ascetic-spiritual method that attracted many people in Syria and Lebanon to become his disciples. Accom-



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Latakia, Syria, is shown during the celebration of Mass at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh during his December visit to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. As Ogdensburg and Latakia begin a twinning initiative, Bishop Chbeir shared information about the history and current state of Christianity in Syria in a letter sent to Father Steven Murray. The first part of the letter appears here.

panying his deeply spiritual and ascetic life, he was a zealous missionary with a passion to spread the message of Christ by preaching it to all he met. He sought not only to cure the physical ailments that people suffered but had a great quest for nurturing and healing the "lost souls" of both pagans and Christians of his time.

This missionary work came to fruition when in the mountains of Syria, Sr. Maroun was able to convert a pagan temple into a Christian Church. This was to be the beginning of the conversion of Paganism to Christianity in Syria which would then influence and spread to Lebanon.

After his death in the year 410AS, his spirit and teaching lived on through his disciples.

Many different Christian rites

There is a richness and a diversity represented in the Christian mosaic in Syria. In

addition to the Greek Orthodox majority who make up half of the Christian Syrians, there are also Maronites (Catholic), Syriac Catholics, Greek Catholics, Armenian Apostolic, Armenian Catholics, and Chaldeans. There are Latins, Jacobites, Protestants and Nestorians.

It is estimated that 6.5% of the 23 million Syrians are Christian – so about a million-and-a-half souls. There is a dwindling population of Syrian Christians, partly due to a declining fertility rate among Christians and also because of Christian emigration.

Violence and persecutions

With tens of thousands of deaths, wounded, disabled and countless numbers of internally displaced persons, refugees, widows and orphans, the last six years have resulted in a theater of conflict of unprecedented violence in Syria and the surrounding region.

In this crucible of Christi-

anity, where St. Paul was converted in the 1st century, Christians have paid a very high price for their closeness to the Alouites who have governed the country and protected the minorities.

Christians today share the dramatic fate of their fellow citizens, exacerbated by the anxiety of their future, in the country of the most ancient churches.

Like all Syrians, Christians are exposed to fighting, atrocities and the economic difficulties of a devastating conflict, but are also confronted with additional existential dilemmas.

Christians have limited choices. The Syrian Christians are the only community without a defined territory. They are scattered throughout the country without any political or military boundaries.

Throughout history, there has been evidence of harmony between Syrian Christians and Muslims

Editor's note

Prior to his December visit to the Diocese Ogdensburg, Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Latakia, Syria, wrote a letter to Father Steven Murray describing the state of Christianity in Syria. Father Murray is the chair of the Solidarity in Faith Committee, a group assisting with the implementation of the twinning initiative between the Dioceses of Ogdensburg and Latakia. The remainder of Bishop Chbeir's letter will appear in the next issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

characterized by the common celebration of their respective religious holidays, the bonds of mutual friendship on the benches of the school and university and their frequent collaboration in business and on national projects.

In contrast to the bloody violence that has characterized Egypt and Lebanon, there has never been a history of tension between the Christians and Muslims in Syria.

On the road to Aleppo, in the north of the country, there is the basilica of St. Simeon and the column of the fifth century hermit who, according to the account of one of the hagiographers "resisted the heat of thirty summers and the cold of as much as thirty winters" through constant prayer.

The beginning of the so-called Arab spring was accompanied by the rise of extremist groups affiliated with al-Qaida, composed mainly of non-Syrians, who sought to impose a radical vision of Islam in areas out of the control of the government through an imposition of terror. This was seen in the rise of public beheadings, torture, kidnapping...

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK