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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 34

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 24, 2018

Beatitudes: fruits of hope

SANTIAGO, CHILE (CNS)-- The beatitudes are not cheap words for those who think they know it all yet do not commit to faith; they are the fruit of a hopeful heart that yearns for peace and happiness, Pope Francis said.

Christ's response to the longings and aspirations of those seeking a life of happiness are not a "product of those prophets of dooms who seek only to spread dismay" or "mirages that promise happiness with a single

'click,' in the blink of any eye," the pope said Jan. 16, celebrating his first public Mass in Chile.

The beatitudes are born of the compassionate heart of Jesus, which encounters the hearts of men and women

seeking and yearning for a life of happiness," he said. A sea of yellow and white flags waved throughout O'Higgins Park as Pope Francis arrived in his popemobile, greeting the estimated 400,000 people.

Large family with 'small footprint'

A mother of ten from Potsdam writes that "as a large Catholic family, we are among the most ecologically considerate people in the developed world, just as a matter of necessity. The per capita footprint in a twelve-person family is, in general, quite small."

For example, Maean Cragg writes, "We all live in one home. It is an old farmhouse built in an era where a family with ten children was typical. Still, in our house, 12 people take up the same amount of space that would usually be taken by many fewer people.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

Protecting children

New director of Safe Environment and Charter Compliance Coordinator begins work for the diocese

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

AT OPERATION ANDREW



PHOTO BY MEGAN STARK

Among the 40 who gathered for an Operation Andrew dinner recently held in Malone were, from left, Carter Boyea and his brother, Hunter Boyea of St. Andre Bessette Parish, Malone; Camden Laravia, St. Augustine's, North Bangor; Bishop Terry LaValley; Danielle Laravia, Camden's mother; and Father Raymond Moreau, pastor of St. Augustine's. The evening featured prayer, dinner, fellowship and a sharing of vocation stories by Bishop LaValley, Father Moreau and Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar of St. Andre Bessette. Full story on page 4

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Collection aids respect life efforts in diocese



The annual Respect Life collection will be held in parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Jan. 27-28. The purpose of the collection is to support and encourage efforts that promote the respect of human life from fertilization to natural death. The 2017 collection provided 21 grants. Applications and guidelines are available on the Respect Life webpage, www.rcdony.org/respectlife. Bishop LaValley writes about the collection in this week's Follow Me column on page 3. One group which has received funds from the annual appeal is the Youth Buses for Life which, this year transported more than 100 from the North Country to Washington D.C. for the March for Life. The design on the t-shirt worn by this year's marchers is pictured.

GO DEEPER, LEARN MORE: Bishop Chbeir writes more about Syrian life... p. 6

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I am always in awe of the people who spend hours on a bus in the middle of January, spend more hours marching and listening in all kinds of weather, and then climb back on the bus for the long ride home.

To me, it sounds like a nightmare. But I guarantee that this will not be the description we'll hear from the hundreds of North Country profilers who took part in the annual March for Life in Washington on Friday.

"Life-changing," "powerful,"

"prayerful" will be the likely words from their lips.



Mary Lou
Kilian

With gratitude and admiration, I sat in my warm, comfortable office keeping up with marchers who posted Facebook photos and excited comments. Many of their photos and stories will grace the pages of the *North Country Catholic* when they all get home.

In the meantime the rest of us aren't voiceless or powerless. Something we all can

do while people march for life is to *pray for life*.

A Litany for Life

The bishops of the United States offered great support for our prayerful endeavor with the distribution of their Litany of Life, based on the familiar phrases of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: love is patient, love is kind....

The prayer - which asks for love for every human life, rich, poor, trafficked, imprisoned, as well as the unborn - is certainly worth a few minutes of our time. Here goes:

Lord, love is patient.

Give to the mother who is tempted to abort her child the patience to endure the suffering that will bring forth new life.

Lord, love is kind.

Give to the new father whose friends tell him to abort his child the gentleness, compassion and courage to support his wife and child, protect them from all that could harm them, and sustain them against selfishness and hate.

Lord, love is not jealous.

Remove from all human hearts the temptation to trade human life for advantage, convenience or personal benefit. Deliver us from the expediency that values personal gain and pleasure over the dignity of human life.

Lord, love is not pompous.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

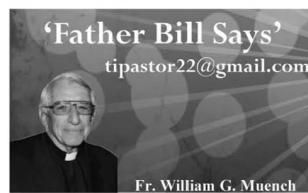
'Speak Lord, your servant is listening'

"Here I am Lord. Speak, your servant is listening."

Often, when I am away from home - like visiting the family - I attend Mass with them on a Sunday in the pews like a real person. It is a good experience for me, especially to listen to another priest's homily.

So, a few weeks ago I attended Mass while away from the North Country. The pastor there preached a magnificent homily so I thought I would share some of it with you today. The First Reading on that Sunday was from the First Book of Samuel with the story concerning the young Samuel. Samuel was acting as a helper to the High Priest, Eli. Each night Samuel would stay in the shrine near the Ark of the Covenant.

On one particular night, Samuel received a revelation of some sort from God, however, he thought it was Eli calling to him. Eli realized that something special, something divine, was happening. It was some sort of revelation for Samuel. So, Eli instructed Samuel to put faith in the experience; he was to say in response to God's call - "Speak,



Fr. William G. Muench

Lord, your servant is listening."

In his homily, our priest began by telling us a couple of stories from his own youth when he was called by someone in his family. One of his memories was about his own grandfather. When he was young, his grandfather would often stop by to wake him up and take him on an adventure of some sort. Obviously, this experience meant a great deal to our preacher - his grandfather had a profound effect on his growing up.

He encouraged each of us to recall times in our own life when we received a call. I thought of times in my childhood when one of my friends would come out of his house after school or supper and he would stand in the street and call. It was our time to get together. We were then reminded that God continues to call peo-

ple just as he called Samuel, so long ago. Listening to the Lord is an important part of our time of prayer. Listening is just as important as saying prayers.

So, we should begin our time of prayer with Samuel's prayer: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

I believe that each time we go to the Lord in prayer, the Lord has a word, a message for us, truly a miraculous message. Some may think this is only an experience for some great prophet or a monk in a monastery. Surprisingly, I want to guarantee you that this is an experience that will touch all of us. The Lord God reaches out to us with a loving challenge so let us listen and recognize the Lord's call.

In God's love, we will understand and realize the Lord's call to us. God has a message for us, a new message, a true call. It may be through a Scripture or it may be through some other person or it may come through a prayerful moment as we listen in prayer.

Our preacher that day then challenged us, reminding us that God continues to call

many to pursue a religious vocation. He encouraged us by our prayers and encouragement to actually lead another, to lead a young person, to realize that the Lord continues to call many to follow a religious vocation. The Lord continues to call so many to become priests, to dedicate their lives to the Lord.

He went on to remind us how desperately our Catholic Church needs more and more dedicated priests to bring the Lord to all especially through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Our Church needs more and more priests to bring the Lord's message of love and peace to a needy world. Our Lord, Jesus, needs more and more priests to bring his love and peace to people everywhere. Our Lord, Jesus, needs more and more priests to transform our world into a place of peace and love.

So, our call is that with Jesus we are the perfect person to bring Christ's love and peace to our world. By our prayers, by our way of life, we will lead others closer to the Lord... and we may even lead some to follow a religious vocation.

FOLLOW ME

Building a culture of life

The Christmas decorations are stored away for another year, but our hearts remain warm with thoughts of the infant Child, God Incarnate, whose birth has given our lives hope and much joy.

In several weeks, after our Lenten journey, we will mark Good Friday as we recall the cruel crucifixion of the Messiah.

These days stand in stark contrast. Humanity celebrating new life and humanity destroying that same precious life.

Abortion, immoral genetic manipulation, assault, terrorism, euthanasia and other crimes against a Culture of Life wear us down and drag us into the despair of Good Friday.

But our story does not end there. Jesus has Risen! He shattered the bonds of sin and death. We do not remain in the shadow of despair. We, as Christians, are called to build a Culture of Life.

On January 19, faith-filled individuals from across the North Country journeyed to Washington, DC, walking with tens of thousands of pilgrims from across the United States in the annual March for Life.

We march to protest 45 years of state-sanctioned destruction of unborn children.



Bishop LaValley visits with young pro-lifers who took part in the annual March for Life in Washington D.C., Jan. 19. This year, 110 teenagers and chaperones traveled on the Youth Buses for Life, one of the programs which receives funds from the annual Respect Life collection.

We march to proclaim the inherent value and dignity of life, of all life.

We march and pray to change hearts and minds, to build a Culture of Life.

Our support of the annual Respect Life collection provides funds to support Pro-Life activities which help build a Culture of Life. In 2017, Respect Life grants provided the buses for the March for Life and nineteen other programs here in our Diocese.

Contributions assisted programs such as five parish-based Gabriel Projects that help pregnant women, Crisis Pregnancy Apostolates in five communities, Pro-Life Booths at three county fairs, the Malone Catholic Charities Teen Pregnancy Counseling Program and the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center.

Information about these and other programs can be found on the diocesan website. Through programs like these, we reach out to our neighbors and help build a Culture of Life.

Will you please help our Pro-Life efforts through your prayers and through a contribution to the Respect Life second collection?

Thank you for your generous support for this year's appeal.

Litany

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Deliver us from the arrogance that sees our needs or wants as superior to the rights of others. Help us to see all our brothers and sisters as worthy of all of our love.

Lord, love is not inflated.

Grant us a share in the humility of your Son, who sought not to be served, but to serve. Help us to see in every human life, rich or poor, young or old, guilty or innocent, a reflection of your image and likeness.

Lord, love is not rude.

Implant a spirit of gentle compassion in the hearts of each of your sons and daughters, Lord, that no person may ever be treated as less than the child of God which you have made them, through the Paschal Death and Resurrection of your only-begotten Son.

Lord, love does not seek its own interests.

Give to all who govern us,

Lord, a generous spirit, that our country may not so much seek to be great as to be good, to be rich in possessions as to be rich in mercy, or to be renowned as to be renowned for justice and truth for all.

Lord, love is not quick-tempered.

Grant that by our prudence and patience we might learn to live that sacrificial love by which your Son died for us on the Cross, that all men and women might know our kindness and willingness to love them unto death after the model of our Lord and Savior.

Lord, love does not brood over injury.

Give us the grace of mercy, Lord, that like your Son we might forgive those who sin against us, seeking only their redemption and eternal happiness. Forgive the abortionist who takes the life of an unborn child.

Move his heart, grant him the grace of repentance, and give us a full share in your mercy.

Lord, love does not rejoice over wrongdoing.

Help us to seek only the redemption of wrongdoers, Lord, and remove from our hearts all desire for vengeance and hate. Help us to desire not revenge, even for the horrors of abortion, but the repentance and happiness of all your children.

Lord, love rejoices with the truth.

Implant deep within our hearts a sense of the joy of the Gospel of Life, and make us joy-filled evangelists of your great gift of life.

Lord, love bears all things.

When we are insulted or reviled for the sake of the Gospel of Life, give us the courage and the innocence of the children of God. Help us, Lord, to suffer for the sake of your truth, and never to seek our own good,

even in the good work we do.

Lord, love believes all things

Deliver us from every temptation to despair, Lord. When we are discouraged, give us the grace to trust in your mercy and to know that your love is ever victorious, even in the face of darkness, death, and hate.

Lord, love hopes all things.

As we trust in your infinite love, O Lord, give us the trust that comes from the Gospel, and help us to cling to that sure and certain hope that for those who love God all things come to good.

Lord, love endures all things.

In the face of death, destruction, and a culture of death, never let us lose sight of the beauty of the face of your only-begotten Son, Our Lord, who suffered the torments of his Passion

and Death for the sake of our sins. Let us trust that through his Passion we will have the strength to do your will and to carry each cross that comes our way for the glory of God and the love of his little ones.

Lord, love never fails.

When the crusade for life seems unending and our latest initiatives have failed, when our hearts are filled with sadness or anger or fear, come to our aid, O Lord, and give us the assurance that you are ever with us, that your mercies will not end, and that you, our Creator and our God, will bring victory to all who seek to love as you have commanded them.

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An evening of prayer, dinner, fellowship, and stories of priestly vocations

Operation Andrew

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

MALONE - It was the first time St. Andre Bessette Parish hosted Operation Andrew, and the Nov. 30 event seemed like a meeting of old friends.

The event brought together more than 40 people - including eight young men and their families, their parish priests and deacons, Bishop LaValley, and Diocesan Vocations Coordinator Cathy Russell - for prayer, dinner, fellowship, and some wonderful stories of priestly vocations.

The evening began with Eucharistic Adoration, where Father Christopher C. Carrara, episcopal vicar of pastoral personnel, reminded participants that the best vocation for each person is the one to which God calls him: "Listen to the voice of God, and follow that voice to whatever holy vocation he is calling you."

Vocation stories

As the evening unfolded, guests heard from three of the priests present how the Lord called each to the priesthood.

Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar at St. Andre Bessette Parish, recalled his student days at IHC in Watertown.

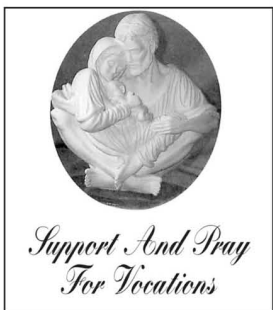


PHOTO BY MEGAN STARK

Among the guests at the recent Operation Andrew dinner in Malone, held to encourage vocation to the priesthood, were, from left, Deacon Brian Dwyer, Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay; Tristan Hellijas, St. Andre Bessette, Malone; Stephen Dwyer, CC Burke and Chateaugay; Father Joseph Giroux, pastor, St. Andre Bessette; Father Christopher Carrara, Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel; and Logan Brien, St. Andre Bessette Parish.

"My vocation story really began there with a talk by Father Mark Reilly, after which a friend said to me, 'You are going to be a priest.' I just laughed, and went off to college!

"But eventually I knew I had to give God a chance, and went to the seminary," Father Belina said. "There, I learned the meaning of prayer, and of love—and I fell in love with Christ. I know how much I am loved, and that is why I am a priest today.

"Don't be afraid to give God a chance," he said. "Getting to know Christ is a gradual process; don't be afraid to listen. What God wants for us is always good, and we find happiness by following where he leads."

For Bishop LaValley, "My family was extremely important in my vocation. My parents' faith was strong, and they brought all of us to Mass every Sunday, and every day during Lent; we prayed on our knees every

night after dinner.

"Yet when our pastor asked if I had ever thought about becoming a priest, I just laughed and headed off to Plattsburgh State," he said. "From there I spent six years in the Navy - where I eventually started going to daily Mass. I asked a priest: how do you really know if God is calling you to the priesthood? He told me: you don't know. You have to make a decision, take a step and move forward. He was right!

"Once I made the choice to leave the Navy and go to Wadhams Hall, things began to be clear," Bishop LaValley said. "Now I have been ordained for 29 years, and I cannot imagine being happier than I have been as a priest."

Bishop LaValley concluded his talk by encouraging the young men to stay close to God, and to their families.

"Praying is a constant openness, a constant listening," he said. "Beyond that, talk things over with people

who care about you, and know that your parents are always there to support your decision."

Father Raymond Moreau, pastor of St. Augustine's, North Bangor and St. Mary's, Brushton, likewise linked listening to God with finding happiness.

"When I was young, I always knew there was something out there that was going to make me happy," he said. "First it was a tricycle; if only I had my very own trike, I would be happy. A few years on, it was a bicycle, then a driver's license, then a girlfriend, then my own car: well, each of them came along, but none of them made me happy.

"It was not until I started listening to God - while I was working at my first job after high school - that I began to understand," he said. "Unless we listen to God, we are not going to find happiness, as I discovered.

"The priesthood is a wonderful life," Father Moreau

said. "It is a gift to be a priest. "Don't be afraid to listen to God," Father Moreau said because only he can make us happy."

Young men listening

As their responses revealed, these young men have already begun to listen for the voice of God.

"This is my second time at Operation Andrew," said John Conti of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh. "Both times I have enjoyed the praying, which is very peaceful, and the meal with such great people."

Tristan Hellijas, St. Andre Bessette in Malone, "came because I was invited by Father Joe. It is a good evening, with good people and good food!"

"Of course I've thought about the priesthood," explained Stephen Dwyer of St. Patrick's in Chateaugay, "and this is a good place to learn more about it."

According to Dillon Fezette, St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake, "Father Ratigan (pastor) and Father Alex invited me. It's great to be here and I am glad I came."

Fellow-parishioner Finnley Law, also invited by their pastor, was likewise glad he said yes: "I really liked this evening and hope to do it again."

Camden Laravia, St. Augustine's in North Bangor, related, "Fr. Ray asked me if I wanted to come. It is amazing, and I love it."

For Carter Boyea of St. Andre' Bessette Parish, "It is a pleasure to be here - a good time, good food, great vocation stories to hear."

His brother Hunter agrees. "We came because Father Joe and Father Scott asked us, and I am so glad I came. The presentations were very insightful, and I think many kids could learn a lot from them."

Protecting God's children

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

OGDENSBURG—In her new position as Director of Safe Environment and Charter Compliance Coordinator for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Jill L. Lawrence brings ten years of work experience for the State of New York and a deep love for the Catholic Church.

Since, Nov. 27, Ms. Lawrence has been overseeing diocesan efforts to ensure that every church facility is safe for all who enter.

She succeeds Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue who left the North Country this past summer.

In her first months, Ms. Lawrence has begun a series of visits which will eventually bring her to every parish in the diocese.

"I want to insure that they have all required safe environment documents on file and are following diocesan policies," she said. "I want the process to be as open and transparent as possible—to work together to prevent child sexual abuse."

"I would also like to build relationships with our school administrators and stay informed of potential child safety issues arising in context of parish/school programs and activities," she said.

A graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh, Ms. Lawrence has served as a legal secretary for the Adirondack Park Agency, worked in the financial aid office of SUNY Plattsburgh and, most recently, worked for Franklin County Family Court and Essex County Family Court.

"My experience in Family Court really exposed me to the dangers and tragedies that affect today's youth," she said. "So many young people are hurt by loved ones and family members, and the healing process can

take a very long time.

"Through outreach and education, I hope that the skills I acquired from Family Court can have a direct impact on what we are doing for a safe environment throughout the diocese," she said

Long term goals

As she strives to live out her commitment to maintaining a safe environment within the Church, Ms. Lawrence has adopted a number of goals. She hopes to:

- Increase education and awareness about child sexual abuse – not only in terms of the Church, but in other areas

where the marginalized are most vulnerable

- Guide parishioners throughout the diocese and give them the means to become more actively involved in protecting God's children

- Create ways to combat the intense public scrutiny that the Church is faced with today; aid our priests in their missions of renewing the image of the vocation to Holy Orders

- Make the Safe Environment Office as transparent and reachable as possible so that those affected by past abuse know that we are here to listen and to help

North Bangor native

As a child and young adult, Ms. Lawrence attended St. Augustine's parish in North Bangor. Three years ago, she moved to Keene and became a parishioner of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

"It is here that I began to take my Catholic faith very seriously, and decided that I wanted my life to be about the Church," she said. "It's a wonderful parish and community, and I am blessed to have been able to participate in Masses there.

"My acceptance of this position at the diocese has meant that I had to relocate," she said. "Although it broke my heart to leave St. Agnes

parish, I feel this is an acceptable and willing sacrifice to make.

"I love working for the Church, and this position allows me the opportunity to do good work and live a more Christ-like existence," she said.

"It's important to remember that the residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime," Ms. Lawrence said. "It is encouraging to see that the bishop is so dedicated to maintaining the importance of prevention, outreach, and healing.

"I am so blessed to be surrounded by such amazing people here at the diocese," she said. "I can talk about my faith and work with others on issues that are important to me and to the good of the Catholic Church."

Ms. Lawrence is currently enrolled in the Master's Program in Pastoral Ministries through Fordham University Graduate School of Religion as well as in the diocesan formation for ministry program.

CELEBRATING ST. ELIZABETH ANN



The handbell choir accompanied the students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh as they sang "Elizabeth Seton's Dream." in celebration of St Elizabeth Ann Seton's feast day Jan. 4. Pictured, front, are Lily Forrence, Ava Glover, Aneece Hanna, Ashley Fillion, Mehki Kilfoyle; back; Aiden Matt, Lucas Mott, Grace Bleeker, Dana LaValley, Ava Weiss, and Alex Hanshaw.

SAVE THE DATE: April 14, 2018



The Department of Family Life in conjunction with the Offices of Vocations and Evangelization, will present an all-day Life and Family Conference and workshop entitled *Marriage: God Calls, We Respond*. Our keynote speakers will be *Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak*. Please mark your calendars now and save the date:

Saturday, April 14, 2018

at Trinity Catholic School in Massena

More details soon at www.rcdony.org/marriage.

Please pray for the team as we coordinate the details of the conference, that the conference will be fruitful in raising the awareness of the beauty and importance of the vocation of marriage in our Diocese and beyond.

The Maronite Church and Christianity in Syria

Go deeper and learn more

Part 2, from Bishop Antoine Chbeir's letter to Father Steven Murray

Since the beginning of the civil war in Syria, it is estimated that half of the Christians have had to leave their homes to seek refuge abroad, or in other regions within the country, particularly in the diocese of Latakia which includes four departments: Lattakia, Tartus, Homs and Hama.

According to international organizations, more than 60% of Syrians are displaced. This is a humanitarian disaster of unprecedented magnitude, which the world has not fully grasped.

Among Christians, despair and anticipatory fear of the persecution and abuses have resulted in a preventative exodus, most notably in areas placed under control of extremist armed groups. This phenomenon of emigration, which has been a trend over the past 20 years, has accelerated dramatically with the recent conflicts.

Unlike other political and cultural communities, such as the Sunnis who are massively rallied to the insurgency, the Alawites, who are intimately invested in the politics of the State, the Druze mountain dwellers who have a strong warrior tradition and Kurds who have a history of an autonomous militia, the Christians have no own military force on the ground.

Scattered throughout all of Syria, the Christians are not protected by boundaries, as with other minori-

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 first part of Bishop Chbeir's letter appeared in the Jan. 17 issue of the *NCC*.

ties, nor do they have any recognized community federation. Their survival on the land of their ancestors now depends on the outcome of the devastating conflict that continues to destroy everything.

Uprooted, unarmed, and without a delineated territory appropriated to them, the Christians of Syria will owe their survival to the resolution of a conflict whose violence and barbarism affect the whole international community today.

Daily Reality

Currently, the daily reality of the Syrian people is characterized by the calamities of an economic slump devastating the population, the constant devaluation of the currency, increasing destruction and emigration, and ongoing atrocities and acts of violence committed by armed Islamist groups.

Less than 4% of the population of the Middle East is Christian. Rather than be discouraged by this number, we should be encouraged by the affirmation of his Holiness Benedict XVI when he spoke about Europe: What counts is the quality and not the quantity.

Christians of the Middle East have been the leaven, witnessing to a future hope

and promise: not because of their own strength or their skill, but by the active, redemptive and transforming presence of their Saviour Jesus Christ among them.

Without wanting to idealize the suffering of the ordeal or the persecution, it is precisely in such circumstances that the Church prospers, and that the faithful become more attached to their Saviour and find in their faith the answer to all their woes.

Who can better proclaim the Gospel to the Arab world and thus reduce terrorism if not Arab speakers?

What harm is there to announce the universal message grounded in Christian morality such as "love your neighbor as yourself" or moreover, "what you want others to do for you, do it for them."

Formation of Clergy

There are 32 clergy in the diocese of Lattakia. None can speak a foreign language. Bishop Chbeir has been in charge of the Diocese of Lattakia for two and a half years. Right from the beginning he decided to teach seminarians in French. In Lebanon, theology is taught in French and Arabic. The two-year pre-seminary period aims at accustoming seminarians to follow a very dense spiritual life and to learn French and to discern their vocation.

Teaching seminarians in French is vital for them and for the diocese. It enables them to follow their philosophical and theological studies in French, to widen their research and horizons so that they may become more mature. Furthermore, they could run our schools we are hoping to construct.

(Bishop Chbeir teaches biblical formation in three sectors of the diocese. He himself studied in Rome 25 years ago. It is the most basic way to be in touch with the faithful.)

Bishop's Schedule

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

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Rest in Peace

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

- Jan. 24** - Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924
Jan. 26 - Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002
Jan. 27 - Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009
Jan. 28 - Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004
Jan. 29 - Msgr. James T. Lyng, 1965
Jan. 30 - Rev. John T. Sullivan, 1884;

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:
Jan. 24 - 3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
Jan. 25 - 7:30 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall, SUNY Potsdam

Environmental Stewardship

Think About

Every day, we witness the effects of the changing climate on poor and vulnerable people here in our own country and around the world.

Think about farmers losing their crops due to erratic rainfall, severe droughts, freezing temperatures.

Think about families who are struggling to keep their homes as the water around them rises or as mud slides cover them.

Think about the children, women and men who are trafficked and sold into slavery as their lands and resources are depleted by exploitation of companies that do not use sustainable practices and as a result the people have no way of supporting their families.

As we celebrate Respect Life Week, we are all challenged to respond to this call of our Church to become protectors and safe guardians of the dignity and rights of all to enjoy the gift of life here on this planet.

One powerful way to respond is given by Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, On Care for Our Common Home. "This 'common home' is meant to provide all people with the basic necessities, not just a few while others suffer incomprehensible poverty because of this imbalance of the goods of the earth.

In his book *Ten Commandments For the Environment*, Pope Benedict XVI states "With increasing clarity scientific research demonstrates that the impact of human actions in any one place or region can have worldwide effects. The consequences of disregard for the environment cannot be limited to an immediate area or populace because they always harm human co-existence and thus betray human dignity and violate the rights so citizens who desire to live in a safe environment." (p. 90)

Suggestions for action to promote respect for life: pray for those who suffer the effects of a lack of respect for life in all its forms.

Contact your legislators and express your concerns about how the need to protect the environment, our home.

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

 #Pontifex

Large family, small footprint

Large Catholic families are ecologically considerate people... as a matter of necessity

By Maeana Cragg
Contributing writer

POTSDAM - Our Pope has recently come out with an encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, which encourages care for our earth, in part, by reducing carbon emissions.

Luckily, as a large Catholic family, we are among the most ecologically considerate people in the developed world, just as a matter of necessity. The per capita footprint in a twelve-person family is, in general, quite small.

First of all, there are the obvious things. We all live in one home. It is an old farmhouse built in an era where a family with ten children was typical. Still, in our house, 12 people take up the same amount of space that would usually be taken by many fewer people.

We are also excellent carpoolers. We have a large van, but that van is almost always full. The gas used per person is so much less than it would be, even if we drove a small car with a family of four.

Besides our home and our car, our entire lifestyle lends itself to saving the environment. Clothing, shoes, toys, and books are used over and over again. For our two year olds' birthdays, their older brothers and sisters wrap up favorite toys they've outgrown. My six year old Gavan still plays with the birthday present he got at two. Once, it was his oldest brother's favorite, now it is his. Benen will see photos of his oldest brothers from 14 years ago, look down at himself to see he is wearing the same shirt as in the picture, and smile. My five month old still chews on some of the same toys his almost 17 year old brother chewed on. When clothes wear out (as they're liable to do after eight boys) we welcome shared clothes from friends. Not only does it save us money, it saves landfills from being heaped with otherwise useful things.

Our food budget is pretty similar to most others, but we manage to feed ten children (including three teen-aged boys) on it. Food does not go to waste in our house. Plates are consistently licked clean and leftovers are eaten, or made into



Eric and Maeana Cragg and their children Ethan, Asher, Colin, Clare, Lucas, Celia, Gavan, Elias, Benen, and Jacob are parishioners of St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam. Here, Mrs. Cragg writes about the "small carbon footprints" that her large family is leaving.

some other delicious dish.

We have our own steer, and our own dairy cow. Our milk isn't shipped in plastic bottles. Instead, we pour it directly into jugs we use over and over again. The steer is butchered locally after spending its life on pasture.

If we buy treats from the bakery, we tend to buy off the day old rack. Not only is it cheaper and just as delicious, it saves it from being thrown out. We buy our fruit and vegetables in season so they aren't shipped from all over the

world.

Almost everything we buy is in bulk, so there is less packaging, and very few of our meals are pre-packaged. We do these things to have good food cheaply, but each of them also helps the environment.

Even little day to day things that we do or don't do as a big family end up being environmentally sound. Our three little boys take their bath together. Not only do we use less hot water that way, the boys have way more fun splashing around.

We don't often travel for vacations. Hotel rooms and/or plane trips for twelve people just are not within our budget, but it also reduces our carbon footprint.

Homeschooling my children means that they don't even have to ride the school bus.

Our main source of heat is a wood stove. It uses the trees which my husband cuts from our land, but which also renew themselves over and over again. For the past seven years, he has been clearing trees in order to leave a maple sugar bush, working to use the gifts God has given us without destroying them.

The beauty of Catholicism is that no matter what vocation our children are called to, they'll continue to live a life caring for the earth. If they have their own large families, they'll do many of the same things they saw us do. If they become nuns or monks, they'll live in community, conserving in a life of poverty. If we are blessed enough to have a priest or two, they will also leave exceptionally small carbon footprints.

Almost every large family I know uses far less resources per child. There is no way that they can afford to consume the same way that families with one or two children often can. Even without an environmentalist ideology, it naturally happens.

Most importantly, we are not just consumers. We are creators and developers. We love and respect our earth, but it is a gift to us from God, not a god in itself.

Living the life we are called to by our Catholic Faith helps us to love, not just people, but the world in which they live.


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St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
Upstairs Room

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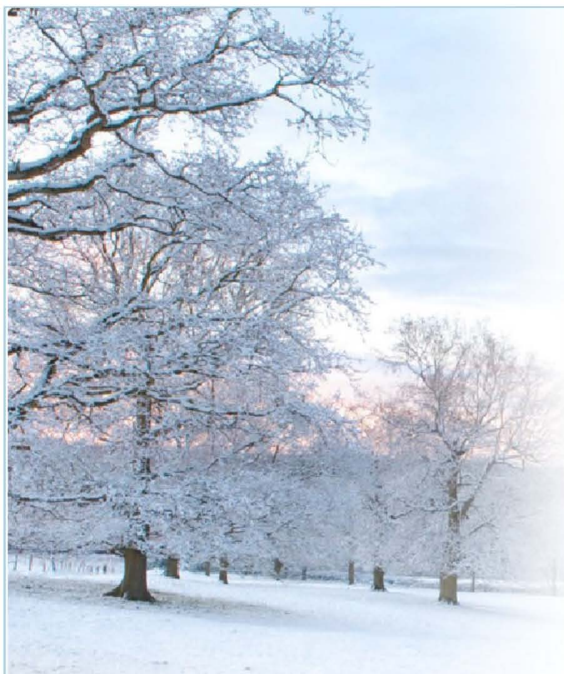
For more information on ACA, go to www.adultchildren.org

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From the Smoky Mountains to the St. Lawrence Valley

By Amanda Conklin
Contributing Writer

POTSDAM - The Diocese of Ogdensburg's newest college campus minister is not native to the North Country. In fact, he isn't even a "native" to the Catholic Church.

Diocese welcomes Tylor Starkey as new campus minister

Tylor Starkey, from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, was raised Methodist from a family of both Methodists and Southern Baptists, but fell away from the faith when he was 17.

He went searching for God and spirituality in other ways and dabbled in some eastern philosophical religions.

He eventually decided that there was no truth to find and was stuck there until he was 21.

"On a whim, what I would call now an urging of the Holy Spirit, I had an urge to see what the inside of my local Catholic Church looked like," he said. "I found myself praying for the first time in years.

"It was a very powerful, moving experience for me."

He went to his first Mass the next morning. On Monday morning he walked into the office of the parish and expressed interest in learning more about the faith. Coincidentally RCIA started in three weeks.

Things moved quickly from there. Starkey graduated from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He decided to leave seminary formation in September of 2016 to better discern God's call for him.

Starkey went to South Dakota for a short time to work for a parish and then moved to St. Louis where he had some friends. It was there that he discovered an ad on Catholicjobs.com for the Pastoral Associate/Campus Ministry position in Potsdam.

"I was looking at jobs, and the position struck me as almost exactly what I was looking for," he said. "It was somewhere new I've never been to, the type of job I think I would enjoy. I studied for a year at a state university before I went to seminary, lived at the Newman Center and was active in the Newman club. Having a place to live was a bonus."

While Starkey started in August, he is still trying to



Tylor Starkey

balance the duties of being a Pastoral Associate with those of being a Campus Minister.

"Living here in the Newman house/office and always being around the students can be challenging," he said. "I feel like I've adopted like 18 kids, which is both challenging and rewarding.

"They are all different and trying to meet each one of them where they are at and trying to keep them engaged in their faith can be difficult," Starkey said.

While there are many challenges, there is also great reward in doing ministerial work. When asked what his favorite part of the job so far is, Starkey said, "Seeing them click with an idea or part of the faith they didn't realize before. Seeing them fall in love with God."

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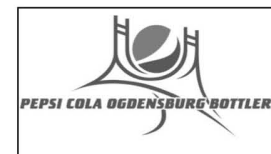
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His Holiness, Pope Francis

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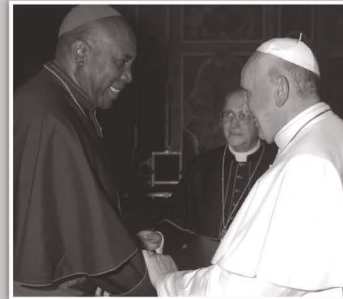
Most Reverend Joseph Lafontant, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Port-au-Prince, Haiti

"Food For The Poor has calmed the hunger of the poor...; given shelter...; provided great donations of medicine...; supported women and children by assisting in formal and technical education..."

Most Reverend Julio Cesar Corniel Amaro, Bishop of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

"Food For The Poor is the concretization of the Gospel and the expression of the Mercy of God."

Most Reverend Max Leroy Mésidor, Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Haiti

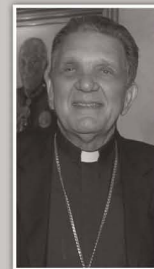


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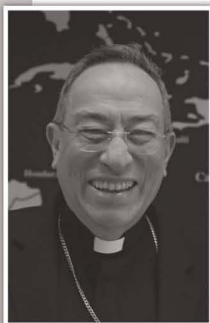
"My prayers for this work of love to continue for many more years and always have the support of people who do not forget to do good to others or to share with others..."

Most Reverend José Luis Escobar Alas, Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador



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Óscar Andrés Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga, S. D. B., Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, member of Food For The Poor's Board of Directors and Coordinator of Pope Francis' Council of Cardinal Advisors

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Francis performs an impromptu wedding ceremony for Latam Airlines employees Carlos Ciuffardi Elorriaga, 41, and Paula Podest Ruiz, 39, aboard the pontiff's flight from Santiago, Chile, to Iquique Jan. 18. During the flight, the pope was approached by LatAm flight steward Carlos Ciuffardi Elorriaga and asked for a blessing for him and his wife, stewardess Paula Podest Ruiz. The couple were supposed to be married in their home parish in Santiago Feb. 27, 2010. However, tragedy struck when an earthquake destroyed the church. Eight years later, they remained only civilly married. Ciuffardi told journalists aboard the flight that, after he explained their story, he asked the pope for their blessing. At that moment, the pope surprised the couple with offering to marry them right there on the plane.

President Trump addressed March for Life live via satellite

WASHINGTON (CNS) - White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced at her daily press briefing Jan. 17 that President Donald Trump would become the first president to address the March for Life live from the White House Rose Garden via satellite.

The annual pro-life event marked the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* and its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, that legalized abortion.

"Love Saves Lives" is the theme of the 2018 march.

"Since his first day in office, President Trump has remained steadfast on his campaign promises to the

pro-life cause and has actively worked to protect the unborn. ... We welcome our 45th president, Donald Trump, to the 45th annual March for Life," said Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life.

"Over the past year, the Trump administration has significantly advanced pro-life policy, and it is with great confidence that, under his leadership, we expect to see other pro-life achievements in the years to come," she said in a statement.

Last year, at the request of Trump, Vice President Mike Pence addressed the March for Life from the speakers' stage. He became the high-

est-ranking government official to address the crowd in person.

During their tenure in office, President Ronald Reagan, President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush all addressed the march via telephone or a radio hookup from the Oval Office, with their remarks broadcast to the crowd.

This year's speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin. The Catholic congressman will be joined by two other Catholic congressmen, Reps. Dan Lipinski, D-Illinois, and Chris Smith, R-New Jersey. They confirmed their attendance in early December.

In Chile, pope says cry of migrants is a prayer to God

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

IQUIQUE, CHILE (CNS) - Christians must be aware of the injustices and exploitation suffered by migrants and those seeking a better life for themselves and their families, Pope Francis said.

On the last leg of his trip in Chile, the pope said the cry of the poor "opens our hearts and teaches us to be attentive."

"Let us be attentive to the lack of steady employment, which destroys lives and homes. Let us be attentive to those who profit from the irregular status of many immigrants, who don't know the language or who don't have their papers in order. Let us be attentive to the lack of shelter, land and employment experienced by so many families," he said Jan. 18 at his final Mass at Lobito beach in Iquique.

The pope arrived at the Mass site, a sports field owned by Arturo Prat University of Iquique, shortly after landing at the nearby international airport. Before boarding the popemobile to greet the faithful present, the pope was asked by local journalists about his three-day visit to the country.

"I am happy, very happy with Chile," the pope said. "I am very happy with all of you, with the work you have done. Chileans are very welcoming."

According to the Vatican, an estimated 50,000 people were present at the Mass, cheering as the pope made his way around the field overlooking the crisp, blue waters of the Pacific Ocean.

A vast array of colorful hats and umbrellas were seen across the field as people did their best to shield themselves from the

Chilean sun. Behind the pilgrims was one of the many immense sand dunes that characterize the northern city's landscape.

At his final Mass

Iquique is one of the major South American cities that has seen a steady increase of migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly from Venezuela and Haiti.

In his homily, the pope praised Iquique as "a land of dreams" that has sheltered "men and women of different peoples and cultures who had to leave everything behind and set out."

Like the Holy Family, who escaped to the Egyptian desert to survive, migrants have also crossed the sand dunes of Iquique, setting out with the hope of a better life but "always with their bags packed, with fear and uncertainty about the future," the pope said.

Recalling the day's Gospel reading from St. John, in which Mary informs Jesus of the lack of wine at the wedding feast of Cana, the pope said that, still today, Mary intercedes on behalf of those who lack joy.

"She is attentive to everything going on around her; like a good mother, she doesn't sit still. She notices, amid the feasting and the shared joy, that something is about to happen that might 'water it down,'" the pope said.

Pope Francis urged Christians to imitate Mary and notice those whose lives "have been watered down, who have lost -- or have been robbed of -- reasons for celebrating."

"Let us not be afraid to raise our voices and say: 'They have no wine,'" the pope said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Poll shows a strong majority want restrictions on abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The annual poll of Americans' views on abortion sponsored by the Knights of Columbus indicates that more than three-fourths continue to want "significant restrictions" on abortion access, even though a slim majority describe themselves as "pro-choice." The poll, conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, surveyed 1,267 adults in December and another 1,350 adults earlier this month. Seventy-six percent indicated support for "significant" limits, with 92 percent of those who felt that way identifying as Republicans, and 61 percent as Democrats. Fifty-one percent of respondents overall called themselves "pro-choice." "I think what you see that's encouraging is that this is not, strictly speaking, a partisan issue," said Andrew Walther, vice president of communications for the Knights of Columbus, at a Jan. 17 news conference. "The labels (pro-choice and pro-life) don't quite tell the full story. Policy change," he observed, "could be done with the support of three-quarters of the American people."

Catholic leaders urge Congress to protect the poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Two Catholic leaders have urged Congress to adopt a budget bill that protects programs that serve the country's poor people, prevents the deportation of young immigrants and upholds environmental stewardship. Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said in a Jan. 17 letter to members of Congress the needs of poor people should be bipartisan priorities. The letter was sent as Congress faced a Jan. 19 deadline to adopt a budget or at least another temporary spending measure to keep the federal government from shutting down. In their letter, Sister Markham and Bishop Dewane called for a "circle of protection" around the many programs that serve poor people at home. They also called for the reauthorization of funding for several health care programs. Among the programs the letter specifically cited as critical were the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children; the Emergency Food Assistant Program; the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; the Child Health Insurance Program, or CHIP; Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program; and the Community Health Center Fund.

Young adults want to be heard by the church, study finds

LINTHICUM, Md. (CNS) -- It's no secret that for years, teenagers and young adults have been leaving the Catholic Church, putting aside organized religion for a more personal spirituality, another faith tradition or no faith at all. A new study by St. Mary's Press looks at the reasons for such religious disaffiliation, asking teenagers and young adults ages 15 to 25 a basic question: Why did you leave the church? The answers reported in the study, titled "Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation of Young Catholics," vary widely with respondents citing sociological, familial and spiritual reasons as well as opposition to organized religion. What's key to the study, said John Vitek, CEO and president of St. Mary's Press, is that the process gave young people a voice, something which has not happened often within the church. He made the comments during the Jan. 16 release of the findings at the Maritime Conference Center near Baltimore. "We wanted to hear in young people's own words their lived experience and their stories. So we spent time listening to young people throughout the country, to hear their story in their own words, uncensored and unfiltered," he said.

Cardinal Dolan invokes Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. homily for march vigil

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York invoked the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. during a homily at the Jan. 18 Mass that opened the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

Like "Pastor King," as Cardinal Dolan referred to him throughout his homily, "our belief in the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of all human life propels us to concern for human life wherever, whenever, and however it is threatened, from racial antagonism to justice for immigrants, from the war-torn to the hungry," the prelate said.

And, like Rev. King, whose life was the subject of a national holiday three days prior, "our prayers and witness are about civil rights: the civil right to life and to equal protection under the law, guaranteed by our Constitution, for the most fragile, marginalized and threatened -- the tiny, innocent baby in the womb," Cardinal Dolan said.

The Mass, which has attracted more than 10,000 in recent years, was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Rev. King "would be marching with us in the defense of unborn life were not the dignity of his own person and the sanctity of his own life tragically violated 50 years ago this spring," Cardinal Dolan said, referring to the civil rights figure's assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968.

"Pastor King would often begin his stirring speeches, which still move us, by asking his listeners, 'Why are we

here?'" Cardinal Dolan said.

Answering the question himself, the cardinal gave a variety of reasons. "We are here to advocate and give witness, to advocate for those who cannot yet speak or walk with us, the pre-born baby, whose future is in jeopardy and can be ended by a so-called choice, and to give witness that millions, mostly young people, share a passion for the belief that that little baby has civil rights," he said. "We are here to fight the heavy temptation -- we must admit the temptation -- to discouragement," he continued.

Another reason, he said, was "to lobby for life," sharing "passion for a society to assist and protect all vulnerable life ... because, to borrow my brother pastor's refrain, 'We shall overcome,'" to which the Mass crowd applauded. "And there is one final reason why we are here," Cardinal Dolan said. "To pray!"

The opening Mass featured more than 300 clergy concelebrants, including 34 bishops and archbishops, and six U.S. cardinals. Retired Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington did not join in the processions, but instead got to the shrine's sanctuary a few minutes before Mass with the aid of a walker.

While Washington has not been immune to wintry weather for the overnight vigil and next-day March for Life in recent years, this year's events were met with relatively mild temperatures compared to the frigid and slick conditions north, west and -- surprisingly -- south of the nation's capital.

At the Jan. 19 morning Mass that closed the vigil, Bishop Edward M. Burns of Dallas told the story of a

young boy who saw an on-line advertisement for a baseball glove. Wanting the glove but not having the money to pay for it, he wrote a letter to his mother that took the form of an itemized bill for the chores he did around the house -- with the total equaling the cost of the glove.

Knowing his mother must have seen the envelope addressed to her at her place at the dining room table, the boy, a few days later, saw a box at his own place at the table. In the box was the glove he had wanted.

But as he was trying it on, he spotted an envelope addressed to him at the bottom of the box. In the letter was his mother's list of services rendered to him -- giving birth to him, changing his diapers, tucking him in at night, drying his tears, bandaging his wounds and holding him tight -- and after each entry came the words "no charge."

"That's sacrificial love," Bishop Burns said, "the type of love God has for us." He added, "He demonstrates that love for us time and time again, and he asks us to demonstrate that sacrificial love for others. ... Our Lord Jesus Christ is an example of sacrificial love."

In echoing the Mass theme "For the Preservation of Peace and Justice," Bishop Burns recalled the words of Deuteronomy 30: "I set before you a choice: death of life. Choose life so that you may live."

"Choosing life comes from a sacrificial love," Bishop Burns said. "We are here to bring attention to the attacks against human life." He told worshippers, "Stay strong, stay dedicated and committed to the cause of life."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Quiet your anxieties.. listen with faith, trust

How often do we let stress and other distractions keep us from careful listening to the Word of God?

And how often do we take the Word seriously with faith and action?

In today's first reading from Deuteronomy, the Israelites in the desert complain to Moses that they are too frightened when God speaks to them directly.

They ask for a prophet to speak to them as God's Voice.

God knows how imperfect and weak the people are, so he names Moses as the first prophet.

How much we are like those ancient Israelites. They didn't really listen to Moses giving them God's Word.

Many disobeyed what God had commanded.

In our own days, we often let stress and other distractions interfere with our listening to what God tells us at Mass

or from the prophets of time—or what the Pope is

teaching us. We often fail to trust in what we hear.

In today's Gospel, St. Paul tells the new Christians that he wishes them to be free of anxieties, even warning husbands that "a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided."

Now, we know that a man and a wife are meant to help each other to attain his and her salvation.

In no way is our church saying marriage keeps a person from really hearing the word of God.. But we know how stressed out families are in our teach society.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

JAN. 28

Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
READINGS

Deut. 18:15-20
Cor 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

In the Gospel is about to heal a man possessed by a demon when the demon shouts out in protest. What does Jesus say? He says, "Stop!", and the demon is quiet.

Jesus is also saying that today in his attempt to

preach us the Word.

He tells us to quiet our anxieties, our distractions, our worries—and really listen with faith and trust.

Furthermore, he tells us to speak out about those demons in our society that are trying to persuade us of attitudes, policies, and actions that are directly contrary to the Gospels.

The readings this Sunday demand our time for reflection, prayer, and change of behavior that we may truly be Christians who are totally obedient to the Word of God that we hear through His Church and its prophets.

A VOICE OF FAITH

The philosophy behind the March for Life

By Dr. Elmer Abear
Contributing Writer

It was Socrates who said that "Man is a rational being." (Plato c. 427 - 327-B.C.) He thinks. He acts. He chooses. He is endowed with a tremendous sense of comprehension, by which he can distinguish what is morally right from what is morally wrong.

You do not need a Ph.D to understand that basic truth. Even, for example, St. Bernadette Soubirous who did not know how to read and write would rather die than to give up the moral truth she knew by conscience. This was her way to Heaven. God knew Bernadette even before she was conceived in her mother's womb just like you and me.

Out of this concept, St. Thomas Aquinas defined the Natural Law as "the participation of creatures in the eternal law." (*Summa Theologiae*). Anymore than one cannot separate a radiated bread to become a former plain bread one cannot sep-

arate man from his own essence, his "participation in the eternal law." It concluded the idea what God the Father said, "Let us create man in our own image and likeness."

If you abort a baby you wipe out a village

Socrates, long before Christ, preferred to drink a Hemlock rather than to give up the idea that man is immortal (read, Plato's Republic).

Anyone who does not understand that, I am afraid, is a lost soul whose mind set is no different than the mind set 375 years, B.C of the men in the Athenian court who sentenced Socrates to death under the "pretext" that such an idea was corrupting the younger generation.

If we apply this idea to the pro-choice group whose main philosophy is to give every mother the right to terminate her baby in the womb we are teaching the mother to act like a god as to who should live and who

should die.

We violated the two commandments of God namely, "Thou shall love God above all things" and secondly, "Thou shall not kill."

To supplement the idea in the parable of Christ we can safely say, "The harvest is great but the laborers are few." (Mathew, 14;13). Our increasing violence in USA and the world at large plagued by Secularism "cries out" as a victory of the absurd.

Therefore, anyone who does not believe what the former President Bush believes that life is sacred could reverse the process he put in place.

A process that saved countless lives. The next president after President Bush had reversed the process in favor generally of baby killing in the womb. Those who believe that have a mind set back some 375 yrs. B.C.

Nevertheless, our present Pres. Trump cut the budget for Planned Parenthood because he does not believe in abortion except babies conceived by incest or rape.

Of course, this is better as a start to begin than nothing.

Pope Francis believes that babies conceived by incest or rape should not be aborted. For whatever crime had caused the pregnancy, the little innocent creature should not suffer the injustice the vanity of the perpetrator.

Therefore, pro-choice is a misnomer because it gives no choice for the unborn. No freedom to exist. They should march with a banner appropriate to their cause "March for Death."

This is a group of people who cannot understand that to kill the unborn baby (even at the very moment of conception) is not only contrary to natural reason but it is against the Natural Law.

For example, I am grateful as a witness of the second and third generation of a more than a thousand of us who would not have existed if our great grandma, named Jacinta had aborted a baby conceived by a China man (who escaped back to China for fear of his life).

This child was named,

Mariano.

Due to poverty Mariano grew up without a day in school for his education. His farm to support nine of his kids was the sea to harvest fish and crabs to sell at the local market.

Was Jacinta given a bonus from Heaven when all people saw a white dove that did not exist in this town accompanied her during her 98 year old burial?

The message of this white dove had healed the racial discrimination between Chinese and Filipinos when it came to marriage.

It convinced my first cousin, a Pharmacist, Sis Leonie A. Minoza who was a witness of this event to serve God as a Nun at the Medical Mission Sister.

Last year I visited Argao, once a village, now a prosperous town. And almost everybody that I met was related with me.

I went to visit the Municipal building and read, Mr. Marciano Abear, the Town's first Mayor.

I then realized that "If you abort a baby you wipe out a village."

AT THE MOVIES

PADDINGTON 2

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Unlikely as it seems, "Paddington 2" (Warner Bros.), an endearing blend of animation and live action, sends the much-loved bear of its title (voice of Ben Whishaw) to the slammer. More predictably, once imprisoned - in a grim Victorian fortress of a jail - he still manages to exert his trademark charm on all around him.

The warm goodness and jaunty joking that pervade writer-director Paul King's follow-up to his 2015 original are only slightly marred by some ridiculous word-play that may have a few parents frowning momentarily. And the smallest members of the family may be scared by a few action scenes. Otherwise, however, this is an appealing adventure for a broad range of moviegoers.

Once again based on the

series of books by recently deceased author Michael Bond, to whom the film is dedicated, the proceedings initially find Paddington far from his roots in the Peruvian jungle, having settled into a cozy domestic life with the Browns, the very British human family that adopted him in the first screen outing.

Led by dad Hugh Bonneville and mom Sally Hawkins, the Brown household is rounded out by daughter Judy (Madeleine Harris), an aspiring journalist, son Jonathan (Samuel Joslin), who fears his love of steam trains is not cool, and housekeeper Mrs. Bird (Julia Walters).

With their affection to bolster him, Paddington leads a contented existence munching on marmalade sandwiches and helping his neighbors in small but thoughtful ways.

His happy routine is rudely interrupted, however, when he is accused

and convicted of stealing an antique book.

Far from purloining the volume, Paddington had earlier taken a job in order to save up enough money to purchase it as a gift for his cherished Aunt Lucy (voice of Imelda Staunton).

None-too-subtle clues point to neighborhood fixture Phoenix Buchanan (Hugh Grant), an egotistical actor who has recently been reduced to making dog-food commercials, as the real culprit. While Paddington makes friends with his fellow inmates, including the jail's initially ferocious hardened criminal of a cook, Knuckles McGinty (Brendan Gleeson), the Browns work to clear his name.

Lessons about family loyalty and the importance of looking for the good in everyone are served up along with heavy doses of cartoonish but very enjoyable comedy. The result is a treat as soothing as a good cup of tea on a foggy day in



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Animated characters Aunt Lucy, voiced by Imelda Staunton and Paddington, voiced by Ben Whishaw, appear in the movie "Paddington 2

London town.

The film contains perilous situations and brief childish anatomical humor.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested



ALSO PLAYING... 12 STRONG



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Michael Shannon and Chris Hemsworth, facing camera, star in a scene from the movie "12 Strong." Hemsworth plays a Green Beret captain leading a small Special Forces unit on horseback in rugged terrain in the early weeks of fighting in Afghanistan after 9/11. Director Nicolai Fuglsig, working from a script by Ted Tally and Peter Craig, avoids what could have become flag-waving jingoistic moments, preferring to show the Americans quietly going about their tasks. Intense, lengthy and realistic combat violence and gore, a scene of an execution of a teacher in front of three young girls. Catholic News Service classification, A-III -- adults. Motion Picture Association of America rating, R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
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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

LENTEN RETREAT

Plattsburgh – The Faith Communities of Our Lady of Victory, St. John's Church and St. Peter's will be having a Lenten Retreat.

Schedule: March 4th at Our Lady of Victory; March 5th at St. John's Church; March 6th at St. Peter's Church.

Time: 7 p.m.

Speaker: Sheri Wohlfert, author of *Intentional Disciples* will be the retreat director. She is an acclaimed speaker, author and educator

Features: Please make every effort to attend all three evenings as Sheri guides participants in a simple, practical and often humorous journey designed to help us grow stronger in our relationship with God and with one another.

Contact: If you have any questions, please call: OLV at 518-531-1842, St. John's Church at 518-563-0730 or St. Peter's Church at 518-563-1692.

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

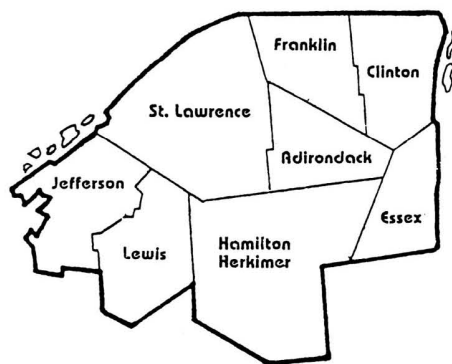
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
 North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

FRANKLIN

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

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

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

Place: St. Ann's Church

JEFFERSON

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.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: Feb. 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

Contact: 315-629-4678 for more information.

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Lowville – Middle School Youth Group to meet.

Date: third Wednesday of each month

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

IMPACT NIGHTS

Lowville – IMPACT (High school youth group) nights are the first and third Sundays of the Month.

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: For all high school students.

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

STEAK OR FISH DINNER

Ogdensburg – Knights of Columbus Council #258 will be having a dinner with the choices of Steak or Haddock.

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$11; Seniors and Children, \$10

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg – Rite of Election to be held.

Date: Feb. 25

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Contact: Shayne Lippincott e-mail: slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Respecting life in the environment

Experience the wonder of God. Take a walk on a nature trail or view the world from a high place. Maybe, sit by an ocean or a beautiful river.

As global citizens, be aware that the greater community of creation sustains not only our bodies, but also in some way our spirits.

Jesus experienced God in the midst of creation. He went out into the wilderness "with the wild beasts" for 40 days before beginning his active ministry, and every time the Gospels describe Jesus in prayer, he is once again outdoors. Just as "God so loves the world," we are called to love and care for the Earth and all its creatures. Yet, we are now living in a time of unprecedented ecological crisis.

The balance of the intricate web of life that God created is being undermined, and this is happening as a result of human activity.

As people of faith, how should we respond to this unfolding crisis?

Earth and all its creatures deserve our love and deep respect. Each time we lose a species or a forest, each time we defile the Earth, it is as though we were tearing out a page of sacred scripture and destroying it forever. We all depend on other creatures for our survival.

Our demand for consumption like food, clothing and shelter is never greater. However, in doing so, we must respect the overall integrity of species, ecosystems, and the Earth itself.

As we witness the destructive acts on Earth, please note that we are not living in a way that respects God's creation. We are called to radically change the way we think, live and act. We are called to conversion. We are called to act wisely and as citizens of the Earth and followers of Christ.

Creation reveals the presence of God. This provides us with inspiration to act. Our love for creation can motivate us to reduce our consumption, avoid the use of dangerous chemicals, and advocate for policies needed to achieve both justice and ecological harmony.

The time is now for people of goodwill everywhere to focus our actions and deeds on righting our relationship with the Earth.

We should be obligated to heed the call to establish more just and living human communities. We must heed to the call to take care of those where they cannot take care of themselves or the Earth around them.

Respecting all life is a part of us. Take a look around to enjoy God's beauty and remember our Creator. Remember the power of life.

Remember why we are here.

Remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Adams — Norma "June" Bice, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2018 at the Pidcock Funeral Home; burial in Rural Cemetery.

Altona — John R. Brown, Jr., 66; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2018 at Holy Angel's Church; burial in St. Louis of France Cemetery, Sciota.

Bloomington — Harold J. "Bud" Morford Sr., 95; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. Paul's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Brushton — Cathy A. (Martin) St. Hilaire, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage — Jane "Jenny" (Giordanelli) Tufo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Champlain — Stephen Douglas, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Nelson Lawrence, 81; Memorial Services Jan. 18, 2018 at St. James Church.

Hogansburg — Alfred B. Laffin, 51; Mass

of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2018 at St. Regis Falls; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Ellen (Juckett) Thomas, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2018 at the Reiss Memorial Chapel in Elderwood of Uihlein.

Lyon Mountain — Carlton "Carly" Rounds, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2018 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Malone — Shirley M. (Stone) Clark, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in the Old St. Joseph's Cemetery, Ft. Covington.

Massena — Delima (Vaillancourt) Diagostino, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 22, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Anthony J. Judware, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moers — Judith Anne Theresa (King) Boulerville, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Ernest E. Burl, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2018 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery, Altona.

Plattsburgh — Charles Thomas Clancy, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Divine Mercy Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Donald L. Garrant, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry — Alfred J. Chamberlain Jr., 67; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Saranak Lake — Stephen P. Morgan, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2018 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

Star Lake — Patricia M. (Delosh) Sullivan, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2018 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Watertown — Peter M. Findeis III, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2018 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The Pope in South America

In Peru, Pope Francis likely to return to themes addressed in Chile

LIMA, PERU (CNS)— Pope Francis was greeted by the Peruvian president, the country's bishops, a military honor guard and a children's orchestra on his arrival in Peru on Jan. 18.

During his visit, he will meet with Amazonian indigenous people from three countries, visit a neighborhood devastated by flooding early last year, and pray in the place of Peru's greatest popular religious devotion.

Accompanied by President Pedro Pablo Kuczynsky, the pope heard the "Hallelujah Chorus" sung by a choir accompanied by a children's orchestra. The bishops filed past, greeting the president,

and the Cabinet ministers then greeted the pope, who blessed a religious item for one. In Peru, he is likely to return to several themes that marked his visit to Chile.

In the southeastern town of Puerto Maldonado, members of various Amazonian indigenous peoples will ask for his support in defense of their rights to territory, health, education and their indigenous identity. Those demands echo sentiments expressed by Mapuche people in southern Chile.


Pope Francis also is expected to mention migration and human trafficking. As he did in Chile, he is likely to raise the issue of sexual abuse by church workers, in the wake of accusations against leaders of Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, a Catholic movement founded in Lima in the 1970s.

The Vatican recently named a Colombian bishop to oversee the group because of concerns about formation and financial management.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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Around

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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>.

VIRTUS FACILITATOR TRAINING

Ogdensburg - Patti Neal from VIRTUS will conduct facilitator training for anyone who is interested.

Date: Feb. 15

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: The Library in the Bishop

Loveverde Building on the campus of the diocesan offices

Features: Facilitators conduct VIRTUS awareness training sessions throughout the diocese when needed. As you think about your role in protecting God's children, please consider taking advantage of this free training and certification.

Contact: For anyone who is interested in participating in this training, please contact Jill Lawrence at jlawrence@rcdony.org by 2/7/18

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Massena - The Department of Family Life in conjunction with the Offices of Vocations and Evangelization, will present an all-day Life and Family Conference and workshop entitled Marriage: God Calls, We Respond.

Date: April 14

Place: Trinity Catholic School

Speakers: Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak

Contact: More details will be made available soon online at www.rcdony.org/marriage.

SPEAKING UP FOR LIFE



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

John Miner of Saranac Lake, diocesan respect life director, speaks to the young people from the Diocese of Ogdensburg who traveled on two Youth Buses for Life to the Jan. 19 March for Life in Washington. The group gathered at a Washington restaurant the night before the march for a program led by Students for Life.

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 27-28**



Proceeds will be distributed through grants



to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.rcdony.org/pro-life