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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 35

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 31, 2018

Protect minors..don't compromise

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- Pope Francis said he told the bishops and priests of Chile to be uncompromising when it comes to protecting minors from sexual abuse and to trust that God will purify and renew

his church during this time of trial.

Problems and conflicts must never be swept under the rug, he also said, because they can be resolved only through openness and dia-

logue.

At his weekly general audience Jan. 24 in St. Peter's Square, the pope told an estimated 15,000 pilgrims and visitors about his Jan. 15-21 visit to Chile and Peru.

Thanking leaders, organizers and volunteers for all their hard work in contributing to a trip where "everything went well," the pope also recognized the presence of protesters.

Principals look back on first months

In September Mary Ann Margrey and Michele Lallier started work as principals at Augustinian Academy in Carthage and St. James in Gouverneur, respectively.

With one semester under their belts, Mrs. Margrey and Mrs. Lallier reflected on the joys, challenges and surprises they have encountered in their new positions.

The principals also took the opportunity to explain why parents should send their children to schools where they "learn, serve, lead and succeed."

FULL STORY, PAGE X

Preparing for Lent

Evangelization director

reviews "Lenten Healing: 40

Days to Free You From Sin"

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!



Mrs. Doe's kindergarten class presented an inspiring prayer service for Monday Morning Prayer Rally at Trinity Catholic School in Massena, teaching everyone how to "spread the love," as Martin Luther King did. Trinity Catholic is one of 12 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg which will be honored during Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 1. St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools offers a message about Catholic education in the North Country on page 3.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT D.C. MARCH



CNS PHOTO/KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS
President Donald Trump greets a girl after addressing attendees of the annual March for Life rally from the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington Jan. 19. The live feed was projected onto a large video screen during the rally on the National Mall. President Trump said that his administration "will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence, and that is the right to life." He invoked the theme of this year's march, "Love Saves Lives," and praised the crowd as being very special and "such great citizens gathered in our nation's capital from many places for one beautiful cause" - celebrating and cherishing life.

TO THE ABBEY: Saranac Lake man entering Benedictine monastery... p.8

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hooray for our Catholic schools!

The annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week always brings back wonderful memories to this Catholic school alum and parent.

A long, long time ago, I was among 50 or so six-year-olds (including several other Mary-somethings) sitting in Sister St. Thomas' classroom absorbing all we needed to know about reading, writing and religion.

If she had any trouble keeping us focused, that's a memory I don't have.

Mary Lou
Kilian

As my classmates and I made our way through the classrooms of Bishop Conroy Memorial School, with one brilliant Grey Nun after another, we all became as smart and loving as we could be (at least in our own minds!)

A generation later, I was delighted that there was still a Catholic school for our children, absolutely starting them on a path where they could

"learn, serve, lead and succeed."

How I wish there was still the Catholic school option for the newest crop of first graders in our city. Over the past few years, heartbreaking decisions closed schools in Ogdensburg, Champlain, Lowville and so many other communities in our diocese.

But fortunately, many young families in the North Country can still make the choice for a faith-filled education in Canton, Carthage, Gouverneur, Lake Placid, Malone, Massena, Plattsburgh, Ticonderoga, Saranac Lake and Watertown.

Our Catholic school children are among nearly 1.9 million

students currently educated in 6,429 Catholic schools in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities around the country.

In the words of national church leaders, "Students receive an education that prepares them for higher education, a competitive work environment, and most importantly, living a Christian life of virtue in a challenging society."

Catholic schools make our world a better place, make our diocese a better place. We pray that we will always have these extraordinary places of learning and loving in our midst.

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

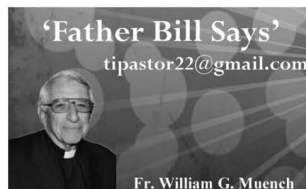
Cheers for those always ready to help out

I was thinking today of how reliable our North Country people are in helping others – especially in times of crises. I do remember how many of our parishes mobilized to develop emergency centers for those in need during the ice storm in the 90's.

This came to mind because of a book I was reading this week. While down here in the Florida sunshine, I have been doing lots of reading. I know I am fortunate. I have been keeping contact with many in the North Country and know that winter has not been easy for you all. I am lucky.

So, while visiting here, I have been reading and finding time for long walks. Recently, my sister-in-law, Mary Lee, gave me an interesting little book to read. She and my brother, Tom, have moved to a new place down here and the previous owner lives in Newfoundland. She left behind a book about Newfoundland which book centers on the events that took place in that Canadian country as a result of the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

I am certain that you, like I, have vivid memories of all that happened and all that you were doing on that day and week. Can you believe that it



is almost 17 years ago? I know I can tell you exactly where I was when I got the news.

This book I was reading is entitled, "The Day The World Came to Town 9/11" by Jim Defede. Gander, Newfoundland, has always been an important airport for transatlantic flights. In former days, Gander was a place for refueling for transatlantic flights. Gander continues now as an important communications site for such flights now.

This is the story. On 9/11, after the planes crashed into the Twin Towers, all airspace in our country was closed and all that planes that were in the air had to land immediately.

Transatlantic flights could turn around and return to Europe or land in Canada. Nearly 35 commercial flights landed in the airport in Gander.

The passengers and crew had no indication of how long they would have to stay there.

Some thought it would just be hours. It turned out to be four or five days.

That little book describes how the people of Gander – not a very large city – opened up their town and their hearts to the nearly 12,000 unexpected visitors.

It is quite a story. Local groups opened up their club buildings and schools – cots and toiletries, even clothes were donated by stores and individuals to make these people comfortable. Families were accommodated – needs for children and babies were found. Groups were organized to prepare meals.

Many local individuals actually opened up their own homes so that these folks could take showers and such. This little book was filled with stories of the unselfish actions of the residents of Gander as they did what they could for all these visitors during that week.

There were many neat stories. Two women who weren't comfortable with the dormitory style of sleeping went to the local Walmart and purchased a tent. They pitched it on the front lawn of the Knights of Columbus.

Many close friendships were

formed during that time between the travelers and the people of Gander – and also among the travelers themselves – in just those four days.

The heart and soul of the story was the unselfish actions of the people of this Newfoundland city in this sudden turn of events in their lives – triggered by the deadly events in New York.

The book also mentioned the story of a couple who were among the folks landed in Gander – whose son, a New York fire fighter, who lost his life in the action at the Twin Towers. They found comfort and consolation at the Catholic Church in Gander – and attended Mass there many times.

A Broadway musical – Come From Away – based on the events in Gander has been produced. I have not seen it – but I have heard some of the songs from it.

I am certain that I would find the same kind of resourcefulness in the people of the North Country – the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg – the people I have known in the various parishes that I have served. They would react in the same way – unselfish and ready to help wherever they were needed.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Learn – Serve – Lead – Succeed

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

It is time to celebrate our Catholic Schools, their mission, distinctive characteristics and notable achievements.

Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28- Feb. 3

Many of our schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week the week of January 27th. Others will celebrate in February and some in March. Regardless of the date, schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, local communities and the nation.

This year's theme, Catholic Schools: Learn – Serve – Lead – Succeed, encompasses the core prod-

ucts and values of our Catholic Schools. We can sing the praises of our schools recognizing that they:

- combine our Catholic faith with academic excellence;
- provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life;
- instill in students the values of service to others;
- partner with parents in the faith formation of their children;
- instill respect for the human person and all creation;
- emphasize moral development and self-discipline;
- recognize a person's eternal destiny;
- prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders;
- provide a safe and welcoming environment.

Although we can cite the accomplishments of our schools we know that excellent schools are engaged in continuous improvement. Over the next few months our schools will partner with Advanced Ed to imple-



Sr. Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ

ment a rigorous accreditation process that certifies that our schools meet high standards in all aspects of their work. The Advanced Ed Performance Accreditation offers a balanced approach combining standards for learning, leadership and resources, stakeholder feedback and student performance to

measure quality programs, relationships and results.

Advanced Ed is the largest community of education professionals in the world, serving as a trusted partner to more than 32,000 schools and school systems.

The review process will assist us in examining the extent to which our schools have effective policies, practices, conditions and culture that optimize the success of our students and supports their continuous improvement.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week we embark on a journey of accreditation for our school system.

The Advanced Ed process will assist us in identifying existing strengths as well as areas of improvement. In addition, it will provide resources and support about all aspects of schooling to successfully guide our efforts to prepare generations of children for their future.

Most importantly the process will assess the program and culture of our schools in terms of their distinctive Catholic mission

as described in The National Standards and Benchmarks for Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Saint John Paul II called Catholic schools "a gift to our nation." This gift is made possible through the dedication and commitment of many, including Bishop LaValley, our pastors and parishioners, teachers, staff, administrators, education council members, parents and volunteers.

At this special time of year for our Catholic schools, I extend my gratitude to everyone who makes them successful centers of learning and faith formation.

If you would like to personally experience the unique character of a Catholic school, please call the school principal in your area and arrange a visit. Please pray for our schools. These are challenging times in which to sustain Catholic schools. But, as agents of evangelization and an invaluable "gift to the nation" they are worth our efforts and sacrifices.



Seton Academy in Plattsburgh is ready for Catholic School Week. "We learn, serve, lead, and succeed," said St. Joseph Sister Helen Hermann, shown front center. The faculty, sporting their Catholic School Week shirts, gathered for a memory photo.



Crystal McComber, a pre-K teacher at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid, and Ayin Cecunjanan enjoy Circus Day held in celebration of last year's Catholic Schools Week. St. Agnes serves children in pre-kindergarten through third grade.

New principals look back on first months of school

The joys of leading faith-filled schools

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

With a semester behind them, two of the new principals serving diocesan Catholic schools shared some of the joys and challenges of their work.

Mary Ann Margrey had been a teacher at Augustinian Academy in Carthage for nearly four decades and succeeded St. Joseph Sister Annunciata Collins as principal in September.

The best part of her new job, she said, has been the students and staff.

"I love being able to greet them by name, encourage them to do their best, share in their successes and comfort them when things do not go so well," she said. "Even though as a teacher I was able to do this, being principal makes it a more rewarding experience."

Michelle Lallier, new principal at St. James in Gouverneur, said she enjoys "being in a faith-filled school with the students.



After 39 years of teaching at Augustinian Academy in Carthage, Mary Ann Margrey, new principal, still finds great satisfaction spending time in the classroom with the students.

"Watching them grow in their faith and grow in their education is such a blessing," she said.

The challenges the two new principals face are similar.

"The greatest challenge is finding the balance between the 'office responsibilities'

and the time I can spend with the staff and students," Mrs. Margrey said. "It becomes necessary to just walk away from the office to be present with the children."

Mrs. Lallier has also found it difficult to spend enough time with the children.

"Just having enough time to be in each classroom during the week," has been a challenge, she said. "I like to stop in the classrooms as much as possible to see the students and teachers. This isn't always possible.

Were the principals sur-



Because so many students of St. James School in Gouverneur, participated in Advent activities with their families, principal Michele Lallier agreed to wear a school uniform for a day in January.

prised by what they encountered in their new positions?

"My greatest surprise is the joy I experience in this position," Mrs. Margrey said. "Having been in the classroom for 39 years, I wondered about this transition to principal and how I would miss teaching. You do not stop teaching, it just takes a

different form."

Mrs. Lallier said she did not expect "the amount of reports and paperwork that need to be done to run the school.

"But also, the amount of love and joy I witness every day is a pleasant surprise," she said.

An important responsibility of any principal is to encourage parents to enroll their children in the school.

The message Mrs. Margrey has for parents in the Carthage area is that "Augustinian Academy has been a large part of my family for 40 years. Since 1885, our school has blended faith, family, and service to provide a Catholic education to meet the individual needs of each student.

"You sense the feeling of family when you walk through the doors," she said.

About St. James, Mrs. Lallier said, "I feel we are able to give each student personal attention to their academic, spiritual and character needs. We provide one-on-one time with the students and watch out for them as if they were our own children.

"We also partner with the parents to provide a team that works for the best of the child," she said. "We prepare them for not only what lies ahead academically when they move on to the middle and high school years, but also we prepare them and nurture them in their personal relationship with Christ."

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

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

SCHOOL DAYS

Catholic schools students across the diocese are learning...serving...leading...succeeding



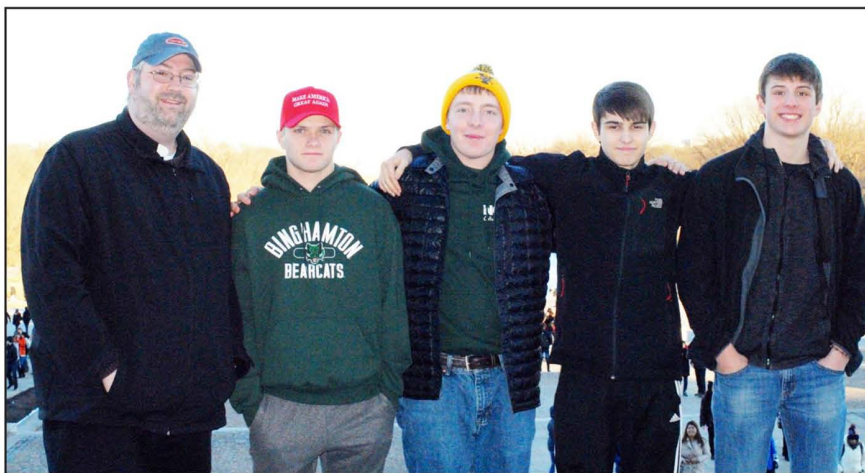
The primary children at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown held their Christmas liturgy Jan. 12 at Holy Family Church with Father Steven Murray, pastor, presiding. Mrs. Mitchell's first graders led the service. Above, with their Prayer Bear, are Lillian Quigley, Hadley West-Parison, Haven Zikowitz, Grace Broedel, and little sister Mary Broedel. IHC is a faith community whose mission is to provide a quality Catholic and secular education, to cultivate holiness based on the love and imitation of Christ, and to form responsible citizens whose Christian values will transform the world.



First grade friends, Abigail Burke and Lauren Andersen share a seat during DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read) at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga Jan. 25.



Trinity Catholic School in Massena is in the midst of its "Soup"er Bowl, donating non-perishable goods to be distributed to both St. Vincent De Paul and the Neighborhood Center. Students are given goals to reach along the way to their biggest goal of 2018 collected items. Here Oakley Deshaies holds a sign showing that students will receive a lunchtime treat, if 1500 items are collected.



Father Martin Cline, pastor in Adams, is shown on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial with IHC students Dan Malinowski, Nick LaPointe, John Seymour and Jonathan Monnat. The young men were in Washington D.C., taking part in the national March for Life Jan. 19

LEADERS FOR EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WARD

Several members of a new diocesan initiative called LEAD (Leaders for Evangelization and Discipleship) met at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg Jan. 24. The group is comprised of many different ministries across the diocese. Pastors were asked to reach out and identify parishioners who are actively engaged in their faith and are willing to share it with others. To date 26 parishes have registered parishioners for LEAD participation. LEAD offers the participants the opportunity for on-going personal formation, collaboration with colleagues in ministry, sharing of best practices and building relationships. LEAD sponsors diocesan wide and regional gatherings.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



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; terriannyanulavich@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

GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.

E-mail cward@diogdensburg.org to sign up today.



Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 2 – 9:30 a.m., Mass for Catholic Schools Week at St. Mary's School in Canton

Feb. 3 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 5 – 10:30 a.m., Chapter of Elections at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown
7:15 a.m., Novena & Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 6 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 7 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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:
Feb. 7 – 6 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 31 – Rev. B. J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. James S. McGowan, 1961; Rev. Timothy M. Ladden, 2003

Feb. 1 – Rev. John B. Doonan, 1949; Msgr. George T. Donnelly, 1968; Rev. Edward M. Delaney, 1977; Rev. Robert L. Cotter, 2015

Feb. 2 – Rev. George E. Racette, 1961; Rev. Gilbert O. Boisvert, 2017

Feb. 4 – Rev. Joseph Redington, 1892; Rev. Edmund Walsh, 1925; Msgr. Michael R. Burns, 1932; Rev. Alexander Klauder, 1935; Rev. Henry McArdle, O.S.A., 1969; Rev. Francis Maurus Kearns, 1990

Feb. 5 – Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Coseo, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005

Feb. 6 – Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009

Environmental Stewardship

Looking back on the month of January

"In a dark time, the eye begins to see."

Theodore Roethke

As we look back at the month of January, we remember how we were surrounded by reminders of the challenges that our human family is facing.

Events like World Day of Peace (Jan. 1), Human Trafficking Awareness Day (Jan. 11), Migration and Refugee Week (Jan. 7-14), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 15), Respect Life Week (Jan. 21-28), all speak to us as followers of Jesus. They challenge us to ask ourselves: what are we being called to do?

"Just because something is impossible doesn't mean you shouldn't do it." (Parker Palmer) In fact, sometimes in a dark time in our own life is when we see things more clearly. We find in the Scriptures this kind of faith in the power of God and ultimate trust in Him in the prayers of Samuel's mother, Hannah, in John the Baptist's mother, Elizabeth and in Jesus' mother, Mary.

In what way could 'caring for our common home,' as urged by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, provide us with us with a place to begin this week? Perhaps what we take for granted as simple yet profound is the earth beneath our feet. It provides us with all the resources we need for life. However, whenever these necessities for survival are lacking, all suffer the consequences. The interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated topics are brought together in a Vatican report on 'climate change and human trafficking.' Bishop Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, states: "The havoc caused by climate change creates 'fertile ground for forced migration and human trafficking.'" Around the world, whether due to floods, droughts, or resource degradation, rural families and individuals who depend upon natural resources for their livelihoods are facing stressors that make them prime targets for exploitation.

Even the seemingly insignificant acts to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' can be an act of love.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS


WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —


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

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

Amen.

FEBRUARY  The Passion of our Lord

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Catholic Schools
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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2018

January 28 - February 3

#CSW18

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St. Bernard's parishioner takes first step towards life as a Benedictine monk

From Saranac Lake to Subiaco

By Colleen Miner
Staff writer

SARANAC LAKE— Parishioners of St. Bernard's Church joined Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor, as he offered a blessing to a young man who is entering a Benedictine monastery this week.

Jesse Bedore was also an honored guest at a coffee hour held after Mass Jan. 21.

A native of Tupper Lake, Bedore is the son of Glenn and Anne Bedore. He graduated as salutatorian of Tupper Lake's class of 2003 and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from SUNY Potsdam and an associate's degree in accounting from SUNY Canton.

He has been working for Cape Air as a reservations agent at the Saranac Lake City Ticket Office since June of 2014.

On Jan. 29 Bedore began driving to Subiaco Abbey in Subiaco, Arkansas, with his parents and uncle, Father Alan Lamica of Malone.

On Feb. 1 he will join Subiaco, a Benedictine monastery of the Swiss-American Congregation founded in 1878.

Contemplative lifestyle

"The Benedictine Order appealed to me because of its contemplative lifestyle," he told the *North Country Catholic*, "and most of its monasteries have an educational ministry.

I was also attracted to the community life of the Benedictines," he said. "Monks vow to remain at the same monastery for life while most others in religious life can move around from house to house.

"Subiaco has about 45 monks and I feel that it has a strong long-term future," he said. I like the location as well, in the Arkansas River valley between the Ozark and the Ouachita mountains.

"Furthermore, there are quite a few jobs one can do," Bedore said. "there's farm work, the retreat house, and Subiaco Academy, their prep school for boys."

The monks also are known for their Monk Sauce and peanut brittle.

"Most importantly," he said. "I like the monks and they like me."



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake, leads a prayer for parishioner Jesse Bedore who is entering the Subiaco Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Arkansas, this week.

The search begins

Bedore started to take a serious look at the Benedictine Order in the fall of 2015.

"By the spring of 2016 I had visited five monasteries and was confident that religious life as a Benedictine monk was right for me," he said.

"In 2015, I was about to turn 30 and I decided that I needed to discern my vocation," he said. "After ruling out marriage, I knew I had to look into religious life.

To begin the process, Bedore was required to make three visits to the monastery: the first to observe the religious life of the community, the second to get to know the monks, and the third for interviews.

"I needed to undergo six interviews with different members of the vocations committee," he said.

Upon his arrival at the monastery this week, Bedore will begin the formation process. The first step is "candidacy" which lasts for six months.

This is followed by a year of novitiate, after which the monk takes a religious name and makes temporary vows. The temporary vows last three years; during this time the monk is called a Junior Monk.

As he starts candidacy, Bedore will wear a custom-made tunic and belt. After making temporary vows, he'll receive a scapular and hood to complete the habit. Generally, he said, monks wear the habits within the monastery, but wear ordinary clothes when they're out in public.

Prayer and Work

As he looks ahead to his life as a monk, Bedore knows that he won't need to buy a car, house or save for retirement.

"All my needs will be met and, in return, I know I'll have to work," he said. "The Benedictine motto is *Ora et Labora*, which is Latin for Prayer and Work. I would like to get into teaching, perhaps catechism classes or at the academy.

"Ultimately," he said. "I want to become holy and go to Heaven, and I would like to help many others do the same.

Currently, Bedore does not plan to pursue studies to become a priest "but I am open to the possibility," he said. "Further discernment is necessary for me to determine whether or not I am called to the priesthood."

When asked for his advice for young people considering religious vocations, he said, "people considering religious life should do some research on the different religious orders and communities. There are websites and books out there that can help people compare different religious communities. After finding a community that may interest them, they should contact the vocations director for that order or community to find out more.

"Most importantly, people considering religious life should visit a few communities for several days to observe the way of life of that community. (It doesn't hurt to work for an airline to get good travel benefits!) Also, they should get in contact with the vocations director for their diocese.

(Jesse Bedore may be reached at Subiaco Abbey, 405 N. Subiaco Avenue, Subiaco, AR 72865)



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Virtus facilitator training

OGDENSBURG-- Patti Neal from VIRTUS will conduct facilitator training Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 in the Library in the Loverde Building on the campus of the diocesan offices.

VIRTUS is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the United States with a "Protecting God's Children" component that combats sexual abuse of children in the Church.

The program focuses on educating teachers, parents, and other adults who interact with children about sexual abuse and providing them with information to help prevent abuse.

Facilitators conduct VIRTUS awareness training sessions - consisting of videos, worksheets and discussions - throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg when needed. The videos incorporate interviews with both victims and convicted perpetrators.

All clergy, religious, lay employees and volunteers of parishes, diocesan offices and schools are required to complete the VIRTUS sessions under the guidance of trained facilitators.

Information about in participating in this training, is available from Jill Lawrence, Safe Environment coordinator of the diocese at jlawrence@rcdony.org by Feb. 7.



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PAPAL VISIT TO CHILE AND PERU



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis blesses a pregnant prisoner as he visits the women's prison center in Santiago, Chile, Jan. 16. Pope Francis tackled politically charged issues during his weeklong visit to Chile and Peru, decrying human trafficking, environmental destruction, corruption and organized crime in speeches before audiences that included political leaders. At the same time, he called for unity, dialogue and coexistence in each of the two countries, which have been marked by political tension and sometimes-violent conflicts. Invoking Mary, he called for compassion, which he also demonstrated as he blessed a Chilean prisoner's unborn baby and consoled people who lost their homes in devastating floods a year ago on Peru's northern coast. He also acknowledged that the church must address its own problems, including sexual abuse, corruption and internal divisions.

Christian unity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - When different Christian churches recognize the validity of one another's baptisms, they are recognizing that God's grace is at work in them, Pope Francis said.

"Even when differences separate us, we recognize that we are part of the redeemed people, the same family of brothers and sisters loved by the one Father," the pope said Jan. 25 at an ecumenical evening prayer service closing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The week ends on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, and the papal vespers are celebrated at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the church where, according to tradition, the apostle is buried.

At the beginning of the prayer service, Pope Francis stood before what is believed to be St. Paul's tomb, accompanied by Orthodox Metropolitan Gennadios of Italy and Malta and Anglican Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi, the archbishop of Canterbury's personal representative to the Holy See.

The theme of the 2018 week of prayer was "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power," which is taken from the song of Moses and Miriam in the Book of Exodus. It is a song of praise to God for having saved the Israelites as they crossed the Red Sea.

In his homily, Pope Francis said the early church theologians saw the parting of the Red Sea, the drowning of the Pharaoh's forces and the safe passage of the Israelites as an image of baptism.

"Our sins are what was drowned by God in the living waters of baptism," he said. "Sin threatened to make us slaves forever, but the force of divine love overpowered it."

Precisely because Christians have experienced God's "powerful mercy in saving us," they can pray together and sing God's praises, he said. Another lesson from the crossing of the Red Sea, the pope said, is that while it involved individuals being saved by God, it also involved a community.

An idea for priests 'that should be discussed'

Serving isolated parishes may mean ordaining married men, cardinal says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The idea of exceptionally ordaining older married men of proven virtue to celebrate the Eucharist in isolated Catholic communities is something that should be discussed, said Cardinal Beniamino Stella, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy.

"It is not about being in favor of or against something, but about attentively evaluating various possibili-

ties without being closed or rigid," the cardinal said in a new book in Italian, "Tutti gli Uomini di Francesco" ("All Francis' Men") released Jan. 22 by Edizioni San Paolo.

The book, by Italian journalist Fabio Marchese Ragona, includes interviews with churchmen named to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis was asked by the German newspaper Die Zeit last year about whether, in the Latin-rite church, he could see allowing married "viri probati" -- men of proven virtue -- to become priests. "We have to study whether 'viri probati' are a possibility. We then also need to determine which tasks

they could take on, such as in remote communities, for example," Pope Francis said.

The issue is expected to come up in the 2019 special gathering of the Synod of Bishops to study questions related to the church's pastoral work in the Amazon. Already at synods in 1990 on the priesthood and 2005 on the Eucharist some bishops -- especially from Brazil's Amazon region -- suggested ordaining married men as the only way to ensure Catholics in isolated villages could receive the Eucharist regularly.

Cardinal Stella said that in the Amazon or in some remote Pacific islands, "but not only, there is acute suffering

because of a real 'sacramental emergency,' which the few priests present are not able to accommodate."

The discussion Pope Francis wants the church to have, he said, is to look seriously at all the options for responding to people's real hunger for the Eucharist and honoring its central place in the life of the church.

While the Catholic Church throughout the world, especially in the more secularized West, must improve its vocations work, Cardinal Stella said, it also should study the possibilities and see if "the Spirit suggests something."

One possibility to explore is the exceptional ordination of older married men in re-

mote communities, he said. "Continuing to maintain their family and jobs and receiving a formation contextualized for their environment, they could offer part-time service to the community they come from in order to guarantee the sacraments, especially by presiding at the eucharistic celebration."

But an "attentive study and a widespread ecclesial discernment" are necessary before moving in that direction, he said, adding that the ordination of elders in those cases would never mean changing the usual requirements for and ministry of priests in the Latin rite and "in no way would lead to optional celibacy."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Interfaith leaders object to new Canadian jobs policy

TORONTO (CNS) -- Eighty-seven religious leaders, including Toronto Cardinal Thomas Collins, have united to call on the Canadian government to strike down a new policy that requires organizations seeking summer jobs grants to confirm support for the pro-abortion and gender policies of the Liberal Party. "The promise of a free and democratic society is that there be no religious or ideological test or conditions to receiving government benefit or protection," said a Jan. 25 statement signed by Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders. Cardinal Collins, speaking on behalf of Canada's Catholic bishops, said religious groups want to continue working with the government on a program that provides funding to hire students to work at a wide range of small business, church and charitable organizations during the summer. "Nobody here is trying to start any conflict," Cardinal Collins said at a joint press conference with other faith leaders at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Toronto. "We follow the law, the Charter of Rights and the human rights codes. What more do you want?" Employment Minister Patty Hajdu told an Ottawa news conference later the same day her government has no intention of removing the attestation or changing the wording to address the concerns of the religious leaders. She continued to stress the government would refuse to fund any organization that, in her opinion, disputes a woman's right to abortion as part of the organization's core mandate.

Every child 'precious gift from God,' Trump tells pro-life rally

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In remarks broadcast to the March for Life from the White House Rose Garden, President Donald Trump said that his administration "will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence, and that is the right to life." He invoked the theme of this year's march, "Love Saves Lives," and praised the crowd as being very special and "such great citizens gathered in our nation's capital from many places for one beautiful cause" -- celebrating and cherishing life. "Every unborn every child is a precious gift from God," he said. His remarks were interrupted several times by applause from the crowd gathered on the National Mall. He praised the pro-lifers for having "such big hearts and tireless devotion to make sure parents have the support they need to choose life." "You're living witnesses of this year's March for Life theme, 'Love Saves Lives,'" he said. His remarks were broadcast to the crowd live via satellite to a Jumbotron above the speakers' stage, a first for any U.S. president, according to March for Life. 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. March officials estimated that more than 100,000 were in attendance.

Bishops consider plans to revitalize appeal of a Catholic education

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Catholic bishops are looking to "transform" Catholic schools in response to decades of declining enrollment that has forced hundreds of schools to close since 2005.

The effort, said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Catholic Education, encompasses a wide-ranging look at issues facing Catholic schools and a renewed effort to help parents better understand that the spiritual development of a child goes hand in hand with academic achievement.

"The concern of the bishops is that Catholic schools are valuable, Catholic schools transform lives," said Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio. "It's not only talking about academics. It's not only a matter of discipline, but it's a matter of preparing the whole person for college and for heaven."

In an interview with Catholic News Service following a Jan. 17-18 meeting at USCCB headquarters that included 30 bishops, educators and representatives of Catholic education organizations, Bishop Murry said the goal is to ensure that Catholic schools will remain a vibrant and important part of family and church life.

Sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, the meeting was the sixth in a series since 2009 looking at the future of Catholic education.

Forming the backdrop are sobering statistics on school closings and declining enrollment.

Figures from the National Catholic Educational Association show 1,393 Catholic

school closings or consolidations from 2007 to 2017 compared with 287 school openings. During the same period, enrollment declined by 19 percent to less than 1.9 million students. Enrollment peaked in 1965 at more than 5.2 million students.

The bishops and the educators focused on four trends during the meeting:

- The changing relationship across Catholic school leadership including those between bishop and pastors, pastors and principals, and principals and teachers.

- The evolving landscape of Catholic school governance as more advisory boards of lay leaders take shape.

- Expanding access to Catholic schools through educational choice.

- Charter school expansion.

Also underlying the bishops' concerns are shifting demographics, tuition costs and changes in the practice of the faith, all of which influence whether parents decide to enroll their children in Catholic schools.

Bishop Murry said the simple message that Catholic schools transform lives must become the church's basic refrain.

"Many parents don't see particular value in the religious formation that occurs in a Catholic school," Bishop Murry said. "So how can we challenge some of those ideas so people come to a better understanding of why it is important to develop the entire person?"

Pastors, he explained, are diligently working to bring parents into parish schools to see firsthand the advantages a Catholic education has in developing the "whole person."

"Pastors with parishes with

schools, pastors with parishes without schools, parish school of religion directors have been working together to say it is a genuine value for the future to train the whole person, not just the mind or the body - the mind academically, the body in sports - but also to develop the spiritual life," the bishop told CNS.

"Unfortunately, we live in a very secular society. We are blessed that we're not as secular as many of the countries in Europe. But we are a very secular society, and fewer and fewer people see the value of that spiritual development. I think that becomes the task of evangelization. Just programs to get people into church are not enough. We have to change hearts.

"It's not simply a matter of an intellectual decision. It's a realization that I want the very best for my son or my daughter. And part of the best is that that child is eventually in heaven," he said.

As for rising tuition, Bishop Murry suggested two approaches. The first involves helping parents realize that 27 states and the District of Columbia have legislation providing financial assistance to parents who choose private or faith-based schools.

The second requires school leaders and clergy "to be courageous and undaunted in going to donors, people whose lives have been positively affected by Catholic schools and have been blessed with economic security ... and ask them to give back to Catholic schools," he said.

"(We have) to get them involved, to not be afraid to talk to them and say we need your help in maintaining these schools," Bishop Murry added.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Trust in times of trials

The readings this week begin with the Book of Job. Here is a just man whom God has blessed with many children, rich farmland, and thousands of profitable livestock.

In this fictional story, Satan begs God to let him test the sincerity of Job's faith through terrible trials. God consents, as long as Satan will not take Job's life.

Job loses his children, his possessions, and his body is wracked with an ulcerous skin disease.

Afflicted with excruciating suffering, day and night, Job begs God to take his life.

His friends insist that he must have sinned in some way. Job, who knows he is

innocent, eventually accepts this suffering with complete trust in God, and God restores his health, many more children, and even greater possessions.

Many thousands and thousands of sufferers throughout the ages have been comforted and strengthened by this story.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

In the second reading from Corinthians, St/ Paul speaks of his compulsion to preach the Gospel in season and out of season. "I have become all things to all, that I may save at least some of them".

What is the source of energy and inspiration for preachers? Jesus shows us in the Gospel that daily prayer in solitude and union

FEB. 4

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

with the Father is essential recharging our batteries and keeping us faithful to our calling.

What is the lesson for us today?

The lesson for us is total trust and acceptance of the tests that God gives us so often in our lives, in sharing the Good News of Christ's message with all people, not just a select few, we help show them the way to salvation, as well as ourselves.

With such a mission, we will be true followers of Our Lord.

Pope says, sharing 'fake news' makes one an accomplice in evil

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- People have a responsibility to check the source of what they share on social media to ensure it is not "fake news" designed to further prejudices or increase fear, Pope Francis said.

Fake news grabs people's attention "by appealing to stereotypes and common social prejudices, and exploiting instantaneous emotions like anxiety, contempt, anger and frustration," Pope Francis wrote in his message for World Communications Day 2018.

The message is a reflection on the theme, "The truth will

set you free.' Fake news and journalism for peace." World Communications Day will be celebrated May 13 at the Vatican and in most dioceses.

The papal message was released at the Vatican Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

Fake news is so effective, he said, because it mimics real news but uses "non-existent or distorted data" to deceive and manipulate.

The first to employ the fake-news tactic was the serpent in the Garden of Eden who convinced Eve she would not die by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, he said.

The Bible story shows that "there is no such thing as harmless disinformation; on the contrary, trusting in falsehood can have dire consequences."

Pope Francis praised educators who teach young people how to read and question the news and the information they see presented on social media.

He encouraged efforts to develop regulations to counter fake news and he praised tech and media companies for trying to improve ways to verify "the personal identities concealed behind millions of digital profiles."

But, he insisted, individuals always will have the final responsibility for discerning what is real news and what is helpful to share on social media.

"We need to unmask what could be called the 'snake tactics' used by those who disguise themselves in order to strike at any time and place" like the serpent in the Garden of Eden did.

Follow Pope Francis on
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 #Pontifex

AT THE MOVIES

DEN OF THIEVES

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

The hyper-violent "Den of Thieves" (STX) is a morass of crass.

It's supposed to be a rollicking, quirky and farcical saga about a gang of bank robbers in dystopian and usually nighttime Southern California led by Merrimen (Pablo Schreiber) and pursued by renegade, dyspeptic cop Nick Flanagan (Gerald Butler).

There's a big complicated heist involving the attempted robbery of the heretofore-unassailable Los Angeles Federal Reserve Bank, from which they hope to "withdraw" \$30 million in untraceable cash.

Before that, though, the villains slaughter the crew of an armored truck and

some police officers only to find that the truck held no money. As a result, "We're cop killers now," Merrimen ruefully observes.

Nick, who is perpetually threatening others and uses whatever illegal tactics he can think of, is no hero, though. He tries to turn the thieves' driver, Donnie (O'Shea Jackson Jr.) into sort of a double agent, but Donnie's ultimately only looking after himself.

Merrimen is imaginative, but has no evident means at his disposal to motivate others except with death threats and cursing.

Director Christian Gudegast, who co-wrote the screenplay with Paul Scheuring, launches several scattershot, implausible plot lines that never quite come together until the sequences that show the rob-

bers squirreling themselves past the federal bank's elaborate security.

Nick's wife is leaving him with their young daughters and serving him with divorce papers. So that's his motivation? We never find out, since that subplot vanishes.

Merrimen, recently out of a stretch in prison, seems to be much smarter than Nick. How did that happen? Gudegast never reveals.

It's an unpleasant and contorted ride through what appears to be a maze of industrial parks. Best to just take the exit on this one.

The film contains a skewed view of law enforcement, pervasive gun and physical violence, frequent racial slurs and pervasive rough language and profanities. The Catholic News Service classification is O --



CNS PHOTO/STX ENTERTAINMENT

Maurice Compte and Gerard Butler star in a scene from the movie "Den of Thieves."

morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R --

restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS

A daily reflection book for Lent... with a twist

By Marika Donders
Director, Office of New Evangelization

I received a lovely little book to review from Ave Maria Press called *Lenten Healing: 40 Days to Set You Free from Sin* by Ken Kniepmann.

The format at first seemed familiar. It is a daily reflection book for Lent, but it comes with a twist. Rather than reflecting on the readings for the day, Ken Kniepmann covers each of the seven deadly sins and connects them to their corresponding virtues.

Each week of Lent covers one of the deadly sins, the corresponding virtue, connects them to wounds in our lives and how we can heal those wounds.

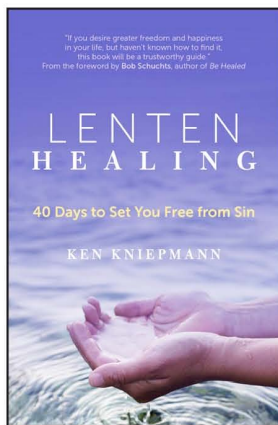
I did a quick read of the

book in order to review it in time for Lent, but of course, the purpose of this book is not that you sit and read it cover to cover in one sitting. Rather, we are invited to read the daily portion of the book, usually about two pages, and use it as a springboard for prayer and reflection.

Each day has a short reading to introduce the topic, whether it be a sin or a wound or virtue to counter the sin. Then two short related verses from scripture to deepen our reflection by listening to God speak to us.

These are followed by one or two reflection questions and a short meditative prayer.

I plan on using this book as part of my own Lenten journey this year. I like to



Lenten Healing: 40 Days to Set You Free from Sin. By Ken Kniepmann (Ave Maria Press)

journal each morning, and for me, the value is in the reflection questions which

will prompt my daily journaling. I can also see it as a gentle way to uncover hidden wounds that cause me to struggle with the same sins over and over again.

This book aims to help us see the connections between our sins and the deeper, often hidden wounds and reasons we are drawn to those sins, allowing God's grace to heal so that we may live out the corresponding virtues.

If you struggle with the deadly sins, whether, sloth, pride, envy, greed, gluttony, anger or lust, this may be the book for your Lenten reading this year. The Lord wants to set us free to live a virtuous life that we may encounter love and happiness.

May this Lent be a season of healing and mercy.

More Resources:

The Office of the New Evangelization has compiled list of resources for lent on the Evangelization Blog which can be accessed from the Diocesan Homepage (rcdony.org) by clicking on the Lent banner.

Resources include such things as subscriptions to daily meditations via email, online retreats, publisher's Lenten catalogs, as well as apps for smartphones and activities, such as the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl. As new Lenten resources are reviewed, this list of resources will be updated. If you are looking for a specific program or recommendation, contact the Office of the New Evangelization by emailing Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org.

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

LENTE 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.

PARISH BREAKFAST

Altona – All you can eat breakfast to be held.

Date: Feb. 11

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

Place: Holy Angels Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs available.

PAINT AND SIP PARTY

Chazy – A "Cabin Fever" Paint and Sip party to be held.

Date: Feb. 11

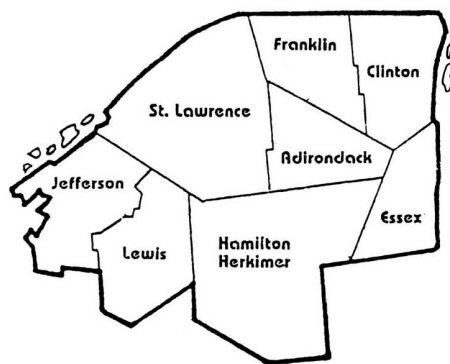
Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Cost: \$30 payable at the door.

Features: Jessie Furnia will be instructing. Includes all instruction and supplies to paint one of two of beautiful cardinal pictures, plus snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

Contact: 518-846-7650 or 518-570-7747 to reserve your spot.



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.

CHICKEN DINNER

Lyon Mountain – Baked Chicken Dinner to be held.

Date: Feb. 17

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

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs available.

LENTE ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Monday's and Tuesday's.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Chapel of St. Andre Bessette.

Features: Ends with Benediction at 7 p.m. on Tuesday of Holy Week.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – The K of C 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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Plattsburgh – The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

FRANKLIN

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 & 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.

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

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Monday-Friday

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

Place: Holy Family Church

EUCHARISTIC 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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Morning prayer, Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration set to pray for vocations and world peace

Date: Feb. 2

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

Place: St. Peter's Church

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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction.

Date: Feb. 15

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

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: 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@rc-dony.org/315-348-4466

STEAK OR FISH DINNER

Ogdensburg – Knights of Columbus Council #258 will be having a dinner with the choices of either steak or had-dock.

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: K of C Hall

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

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Catholic schools and the missions

Let's face it. Without our amazing Catholic Schools here in the diocese of Ogdensburg, there would be no Missionary Childhood Association.

MCA is alive and thriving thanks to the diligence, hard work and dedication to the cause of MCA by our Catholic School students and faculties.

The premise or motto behind MCA is very simple: children helping children. Children here in our community in Catholic schools and religious education programs provide prayer and sacrifice for children growing up in the Mission Lands.

The prayers are for obvious reasons. The sacrifices are donated directly to their needs there:

books, medicine, supplies, schools and programing.

The children here are learning about so much when they engage in this activity. They are working together. They are praying together and they are loving the world that they live in by making it a better place for all, especially for other children.

The schools in our Diocese each school year are driven to pitch in. This year, with the help of Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, and the guidance of Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, the program has set goals for fundraising and learning about the Children around the world. Pictured above are two students from Seton Academy in Plattsburgh pointing out their achieved goal status.

The MCA program is so blessed to have such wonderful people advising and such wonderful Catholic Schools fully engaged in the goals set forth this year.

So, hats off to the Catholic Schools! Congratulations on another successful Catholic Schools week! We thank you for all you do. God Bless you all!

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



The students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh had a goal of raising \$500 for the Missionary Childhood Association. They reached their goal and surpassed it. Eric and Ava Glover show that the goal was reached!

OBITUARIES

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

Adams – Benjamin F. Winkler, 27; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2018 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Rodman.

Burke – Frank A. Gokey, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial St. Francis Cemetery, Constable.

Cadyville – Shirley E. Rasco, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Canton – Jean Tyo, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Henry's Cemetery.

Carthage – Kathryn Elizabeth Bezanilla, 33; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Monica (Gardner) Burke, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Copenhagen – Aloysius "Al" H. R. Eisel, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Michael N. Fayette, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church.

Ellenburg – David R. Dupis, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2018 at St. Edmund's Church.

Ellenburg – Ula B. (LaClair) Smith, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2018 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery.

Lowville – Agnes "Porky" (Gaffney) Teal, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2018 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.

Massena – Julia A. (Molnar) Locke, 101; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Massena – Darlene B. (Ladison) Saucier, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 24, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Aurora B. Nichols, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 22, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marion Alice (Johnson) Lawton, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Flackville Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Patricia A. (Mills) Bentley, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2018 at LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home.

Olmstedville – Wilma Mae (Richards) Strohmeier, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Lawrence J. Cormier, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2018 at

St. Peter's Church.

Saranac Lake – Margaret (DeForge) Johnson, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2018 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Pauline M. (Ziadie) Johnson, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Ticonderoga – Leah M. (St. Denis) Nolan, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Shirley R. (Manchester) Potocki, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery, Copenhagen.



REMAIN IN ME

2018 YOUTH RALLY

Open to Grades 6-12

April 28
St. Mary's, Canton

Register by
March 15: \$25

Register after
March 15: \$30

www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally



ON THE MARCH FOR LIFE



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

More than 100 teenagers and their chaperones traveled on the Youth Buses for Life from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. The national march is held each year in January to mark the anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973 Supreme Court decision

legalizing abortion in the United States. The group is pictured on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception wearing shirts featuring the theme for the day "Love Saves Lives." More photos and reflections from several local participants of the March for Life will be published in the next issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

Around

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ST. LAWRENCE

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.

ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS

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

Schedule:

• 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 provided.

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

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 Loverde 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 pres-

ent 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.

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 the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The group 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.