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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 37

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 14, 2018

Papal homily hints

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Catholic priests must deliver good homilies so the "good news" of the Gospel can take root in people's hearts and help them live holier lives, Pope Francis said.

But the faithful in the pews

need to do their part, too, the pope said at his weekly general audience Feb. 7.

Catholics need to read the Bible more regularly so they can better understand the Mass readings, and they need to be patient with the

homilist, especially if the sermon is boring, meandering or hard to understand, he said. "How many times do we see some people asleep, chatting or going out to smoke a cigarette during the homily," the pope asked

those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall.

A homily must be prepared well with prayer and study, and be delivered clearly and briefly -- "it must not go longer than 10 minutes, please," the pope said.

Three schools, one special day



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Preparing for Lent

'Whatever we do for Lent, we must remember that our end goal is our focus on the Lord'
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REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST...



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis gives ashes to a woman as he celebrates Ash Wednesday Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this 2017 photo. Lenten messages from the pope as well as from Bishop LaValley are published on page 11 and 3, respectively.

MAKING PEACE

Through lives of justice

*Lord,
make me an instrument
of your peace;
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness,
joy.
- St. Francis of Assisi*

During the Season of Lent, the North Country Catholic will present a series "Lord Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace," with reflections on Catholic social teaching from members of the diocesan Public Policy Committee and other writers. The U.S. bishops offer an overview of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching at www.usccb.org, with highlights printed on page 4. Father Douglas Lucia will begin the series in the Feb. 21 issue of the NCC with an essay on the "Life and Dignity of the Human Person." This will be followed by a reflection on "Call to Family, Community and Participation" by Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan family life director.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

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NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVAILEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 andadditional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.Paper is printed each
Monday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Rich treasure of wisdom for Lent

For the past couple of years, I've been proud to be part of a committee that's done some important work in the diocese without a lot of fanfare.

In June, 2015, Bishop LaValley established a Public Policy Team to promote and publicize the Church's public policy advocacy priorities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The bishop expressed his "hope that we will educate our people on the Church's social teachings, current issues and proposed legislations, and the needs of our people, especially the poor and the marginalized. Ultimately, we want to

help form our people into knowledgeable and compassionate advocates for justice and the common good..."



Mary Lou
Kilian

Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin served as the first chair of the committee until she retired from her position as director of Catholic Charities earlier this year. Deacon Patrick Donahue replaced her on the committee while Marika Donders, director of the Department of New Evangelization; became the new chair.

Other current team members are Stephen Tartaglia, director of the Family Life Office; Father

Douglas J. Lucia, Judicial Vicar, director of vocations and director of seminarians; Colleen and John Miner, directors of the Respect Life Office, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, director of Catholic education and superintendent of Catholic Schools; Kelly Donnelly, director of youth ministry; and yours truly.

While we can claim a few brag-worthy accomplishments since the group was formed, today I'd like to let you know what's next on our agenda.

As Bishop LaValley said in his Lenten message this year (see page 3), the diocesan priority this Lent is to help Catholics better understand the Church's

social teaching and its key principles.

"Using the Prayer of St. Francis as our model," he writes, "I invite our local Church to consider what it means when we pray: 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...'"

The public policy committee is doing its part by putting together a series of articles exploring each of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching, what the American bishops have described as a "rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society."

Sounds like a perfect way to become an instrument of peace... in our world, our country, our church, our homes!

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Healing for the broken-hearted among us

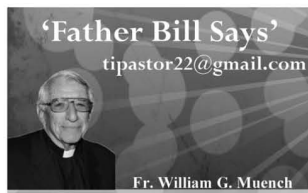
There are many times when I look over the Scripture readings for a Sunday liturgy as I prepare my homily and a word seems to jump right out at me. This happened recently on that Sunday, the responsorial psalm response was: "Praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted."

So, I focused on a "broken heart" as a part of my homily.

I guess that the first thing most people think of in this regard is a broken love. It reminds me of a big, strong hockey player I met way back when I was on the college campus. There in my office he was in tears. His girlfriend had dumped him and he was broken hearted.

However, there are many other experiences that bring on a broken heart. Personally, I can think of times when someone in my family, someone close to me was suffering or in a crisis or died. As I realized all that they were going through it truly broke my heart. I tried to offer my compassion but, for me, the experience was heart breaking.

I have stood with a young



Fr. William G. Muench

couple at the death bed of their young child. There is no other word to describe what they were going through – it was heart breaking.

I am certain you can tell me similar stories. I know that you all know what we mean by that expression, heart breaking. You have certainly experienced a broken heart yourself.

You also know that every time you remember that person or that particular situation, you again experience a heart break. They just don't go away.

So, how does Jesus "heal the broken hearted?" Jesus comes in compassion and support in that moment. Jesus wants to be with us as a source of life in when all seems lost in a broken heart. Jesus wants to bring peace and love. Jesus wants to

help us carry on, doing all that life asks of us despite the broken heart.

I want to add one more thing today – about Lent. Lent is the perfect time – through the prayer and mortification of– for me to find Jesus, to allow Jesus to heal my broken hearts of life, of my life.

I am thinking of so many. There are the many broken hearts because of my sins, there are the many broken hearts because of the times I have failed, times when I wanted to do so many things and failed to carry through on them. They were heart breaking moments in my life. There were so many more things I could have accomplished but simply failed.

I want to add here a suggestion as you begin the time of Lent. I would like to suggest that you offer your prayers and your mortification as an intercession for someone who know needs your prayers.

I am thinking that this may well be someone you know who is suffering with a broken heart. Personally, I am think-

ing of someone I know who is suffering as he tries to support a son who is battling cancer, trying to help him and his family, while he himself is suffering with a broken heart.

Intercession is an important part of our Catholic faith. Our prayers matter. They make a difference. God stands with us as we stand with a friend in need.

Having such an important purpose for Lent – something beyond our own selves – changes the whole Lenten Program for us, gives us a solid purpose for Lent.

I want to finish with a prayer of Pope Francis: "Lent is a good time to recover the joy and hope that make us feel like beloved sons and daughters of the Father. The Father who waits for us in order to cast off our garments of exhaustion, of apathy, of mistrust, and so clothe us with the dignity which only a true father or mother knows how to give their children, with the garments born of tenderness and love."

FOLLOW ME

Lent summons us to come back to the Lord

In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what happens when our love grows cold. What happens when the love which is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many?

The Holy Father offers for our reflection the startling image from Dante's *Inferno* of "the devil seated on a throne of ice, in frozen and loveless isolation."

Here in the North Country, we are certainly no strangers to cold and ice! We are very much conscious of the dangers that these elements can bring if you and I don't take them seriously.

We know, too, how much, in the midst of frigid temperatures and their hazards, the care and concern of another can make such a difference.

This "heart-warming" image is one we can carry with us this Lenten season, especially since Ash Wednesday this year falls on a day popularly set aside to celebrate love alive, St. Valentine's Day.

In his Lenten letter, Pope Francis shows how we can stir such love into flame through the traditional Lenten practices of Prayer, Almsgiving, and Fasting.

Prayer invites us to greater introspection and is a means to root out self-absorption.

Almsgiving takes this a step further by seeking to set us free from greed and helping us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister.

Finally, the Pope sees Fasting as not only a way to connect with those struggling in the world community, but as a means to weaken our tendency to violence as we "hunger and thirst for life in God."

This message of Pope Francis coincides with our own Diocesan effort this Lent to help Catholics better understand the Church's Social Teaching and its Key Principles.

Using the Prayer of St. Francis as our model, I invite our local Church to consider what it means

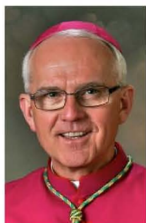
when we pray: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace..."

Through articles in the *North Country Catholic* and on our Diocesan website, www.rcdony.org, as well as bulletin announcements and other online resources, our parish communities will have the opportunity to study and reflect further upon "Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching."

Central to this teaching are the *Life and Dignity of the Human Person* and the *Call to Solidarity*.

As the Holy Father, concludes his letter, he writes these words which I would like to make as my own invitation to you this Lent: "If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life."

A blessed Lent to you and your families!
Let us keep one another in prayer and love anew!



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Funeral held Feb. 7 for Sr. Victorine Brenon, SSJ

WATERTOWN – A Mass of Christian Burial for St. Joseph Sister Mary Victorine Brenon, 94, was held Feb. 7 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church with Bishop Terry R. LaValley presiding.

Sister Victorine died Feb. 3 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. A spring burial will take place in Glenwood Cemetery. She was born Catherine S. Brenon in Carthage Feb. 4, 1923, daughter of Florence McAvoy Brenon and Victor Brenon.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph Sept. 8, 1941, received the habit on April 7,

1942 and made final profession on July 1, 1947. Sister Victorine celebrated her 75th year in 2017.

A graduate of Augustinian Academy, Carthage, she received her Bachelor's Degree from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and her Master's Degree from Plattsburgh State Teachers College. She also attended Michigan State, Regina Maria College, and the Gregorian Institute in Rome for further studies.

Sister Victorine taught at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Holy Family Schools in Watertown, Bishop Conroy in

Ogdensburg, Champlain Academy in Port Henry, and St. Joseph's in Dannemora.

After holding administrative positions in the Diocesan Schools, she served as major superior for her order from 1973 to 1981.

In 1983, Sister Victorine was called by the late Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana to be the first woman to serve as secretary in the Matrimonial Tri-

bunal. She held that position until 1990.

From 1990 until 2000, she served as Pastoral Associate at St. James Parish in Carthage.

She retired from active ministry in 2000 and since then has resided at the Motherhouse in Watertown.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by one brother, Francis J. Brenon and six sis-

ters including two Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Geraldine and Sister Rita Marie; Anna M. Scott, Rose Cartin, Dorothy Boughton, and Margaret Tracey.

She is survived by two brothers, Victor Brenon of Midland, Texas and Robert Brenon of Henderson..

Online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.



**Sr. Victorine
Brenon, SSJ**



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LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

Catholic social teaching: seven themes

During the Season of Lent, the North Country Catholic will present a series "Lord Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace," with reflections on Catholic social teaching from members of the diocesan Public Policy Committee and other writers. The U.S. bishops offer an overview of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching at www.usccb.org, with highlights printed on this page. Father Douglas Lucia will begin the series in the Feb. 21 issue of the NCC with an essay on the *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*.

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia.

The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social.

Lord,
make me an instrument
of your peace;
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness,
joy.
- St. Francis of Assisi

How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore,

every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers


The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.



Adult Children of Alcoholics
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Upstairs Room

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

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

North Country Catholic has gone Green

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

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CHEVROLET

A 'TRINITY' OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GATHER IN CANTON

A DAY OF FAITH & FUN

Held on Feb. 2 in celebration of Catholic Schools Week



PHOTOS BY CANDACE O'NEILL

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated a Catholic Schools Week Mass Feb. 2 at St. Mary's Church in Canton with over 100 students from St. Mary's School in Canton, Trinity Catholic School in Massena and St. James School in Gouverneur. The bishop delivered an interactive homily as he spoke about the students being points of light and discussed the value of patience. After the Mass, students met with their grade-level peers to introduce themselves before taking part in three 30-minute sessions on Legos construction, music, art, Catholic trivia or games. The day concluded with a picnic on floor of St. Mary's gym.



Faith Leader of St. James and Trinity fifth graders Sophia Greco, Ryland Dodson and Alex Mather display their art projects.



Since the Mass was celebrated on Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) the liturgy including the lighting of candles. Above, are St. Mary's third graders Eleanor Bailed and Emily Quinell.



Students acted as servers, lectors, greeters and gift bearers during the Mass. Above, Sophia Tartaglia of St. Mary's reads from the scriptures.



Drake Desormeaux, a fifth grader from St. James, holds his candle.



During one of the songs in the music session, students had to give high-fives to each other, and here, scratch each other's backs. Shown are Jordan DuBray and Hailey Boulais, Trinity fourth graders.

Lenten regulations 2018

Feb. 14 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday (March 30). It is important to be mindful of this obligation with the occurrence of St. Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday, as well as the proximity of St. Patrick's Day to the Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent.

Fasting

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound also to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Lighter nourishment may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

It is important to be mindful of this obligation on Ash Wednesday when St. Valen-

tine's Day celebrations may be highly publicized.

Prayer and penance

The entire season of Lent should be observed in a spirit of prayer and penance. Spending extra time in prayer or Bible study, attending daily Mass, voluntary sacrifice and self-denial, combined with works of charity and service to others, are all excellent ways to obey the Lord's command to reform our lives and to prepare for the joyful celebration of Easter. Parishes are highly encouraged to offer periods of Eucharistic Adoration during the Lenten Season, as well as, the traditional devotions of the Stations of the Cross and the recitation of the Rosary.

Sacrament of Penance

Bishop LaValley encourages parishes throughout the Diocese to join Pope Francis in the "24 hours for the Lord" initiative from Friday, March 9 through Saturday, March 10 offering an opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Penance. In addition, other occasions for the Sacrament of Penance should be made available during the Lenten Season and the Sacred Triduum.

Easter Duty

All Catholics who have reached the age of reason must confess their serious sins in the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

They must also receive Holy Communion at least once each year between the First Sunday of Lent (Feb. 18) and Trinity Sunday (May 27).

Marriage

Although other seasons are more suitable, the celebration of marriage and the Nuptial Mass are not forbidden during Lent, according to The Code of Canon Law. When liturgical rules permit, the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage may be used and the nuptial blessing may be given. However, you should advise the spouses and their guests to exercise proper restraint in accord with the penitential character of Lent.

Obligation

All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law to do penance. The days set aside for fast and abstinence in Lent are special ways of doing penance and are an expression of unity for all the Church.

Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated Thursday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral i

Funerals during the Sacred Triduum

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, Funeral Masses may not be celebrated. However, a Funeral Service consisting of the Liturgy of the Word and the Final Commendation may be held in Church.

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: **March 6** - 6 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor

Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 13 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 14 - 12 p.m., Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 15 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Feb. 19 - Pontifical College Josephinum Board Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

Feb. 21 - 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 14 - Rev. John McDonald, 1879; Msgr. Gerald F. Kellogg, 1979; Rev. Charles Joseph Richard, 2007

Feb. 15 - Msgr. James H. Driscoll, 1928

Feb. 16 - Rev. André Marie Garin, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Joseph Alexander Fournier, O.M.I., 1904

Feb. 17 - Rev. Joseph Alfred Hervieux, 1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

Feb. 18 - Rev. Charles Guillot, M.S.C., 1985

Feb. 19 - Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

Feb. 20 - Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897

To Report Abuse

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

Environmental Stewardship

Looking for Something More This Lent than Giving Up Chocolate?

At the very beginning of Lent we hear Moses telling the people: "Choose life, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding his voice and holding fast to Him." "What might 'choosing life' mean in this twentieth century?"

First of all, as the scripture tells us, it is 'by loving the Lord, your God.' When we set time aside for prayer, we open ourselves to the experience of the unfathomable Love that God has for us.

When we, in faith, recognize His love, we are much more likely to hear His voice in our everyday experiences and act upon it.

Giving up chocolate or some other treat, as we know, can be very beneficial and meaningful as a spiritual exercise of self-discipline that can benefit us.

Are there other practices that I may choose that will not only benefit me but will have a ripple effect on the lives of others and the well-being of our common home, the earth?

One such practice, as mentioned last week, is to cultivate the virtue of simplicity.

This week's focus will be on consumerism. "Everyday life is sustained by materials from earth: food, clothes, cell phones, appliance and even toilet paper. The U.S. has 5 % of the world's population but consumes about 30 % of the world resources and creates almost 30% of the world's waste. The more we consume the less is available for others.

Simplicity is not frugality or penny-pinching. Rather it is a faith-inspired way of life that wants to be more responsible. It motivates us to make consumer choices that respect the limitations of our planet's resources and to make a good life possible for everyone." (Lent 4.2 Program from Liturgical Press)

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Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive the wrong that is done to me and You who are in all instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love toward me and my love ones.

EM

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A VOICE OF FAITH

Mind, body and spirit: they're all connected

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing writer

Ah, Lent, the time of year that we Catholics get to re-boot our New Year's resolutions, a second chance on a new beginning. Yes, this time I can't fail because I have the entire Church behind my effort to run 46 miles every week and drop ten pounds a day for the rest of the year and shred up all the credit cards I need to pay for gas in my car. Oh yes, Lent is when I can revisit the failure of my own self-improvement and relabel it under "Lenten penance".

Is this really what a Lenten penance should be? I don't think so. A resolution is about us, meaning that we are the cause and the focus of the resolution. We are the subject matter that prompts such wild flung, idealist images of ourselves and the changes we need to make in order to become that person.

But the cause and focus of our Lenten penance is Jesus, the Son of God. And while both a resolution and a penance require us to "do something different", the reason why is itself very different.

So that is why I have decided to do P90X for Lent. Yes, I'm taking on the popular and challenging home exercise program because I want that impeccable beach body come sun time in the summer. No, there is something more essential behind it than my physical appearance.

Lent happens every year during the most weather-challenged time for us here in the North Country. I am an avid runner and love to spend as much time outdoors as possible including gar-



dening, which is my favorite way to spend the evening in the summer and fall.

But during March and April (This year Lent is early so I have to include February) the weather is so unreliable that those outdoor activities that keep my mind alert and spirit lifted become very challenging, if not impossible to accomplish. It's one thing to go snowshoeing on one of the bright and airy January mornings but it is another to muster up the strength to get the rain jacket and insulated socks and ten layers of coats to go for a run when it is 35 degrees and raining. And I get sick every year from doing that anyway.

So every year my spirit slowly dwindles around Lent and so does my spiritual life. Mind, body, and spirit are all connected.

It has taken me this long in life to realize this

trend so I am taking this as God's prompting to get it together. So I'll begin my in-home work out on Ash Wednesday, which happens to be Valentine's Day, and also the appointment to do my taxes... see what I am saying?

We all have different needs in our lives but Lent is the time that we figure out in what way we need to reorient ourselves to the Lord, or in what ways we can support our minds and bodies so that we can reorient ourselves.

For some the challenge may be to stop eating sweets and to allow that temptation to bring to mind the temptations that Jesus experienced in the desert.

For others, it might be to begin that daily Morning Prayer routine that you've struggled to begin for a while now.

And for some, it means hitting the gym in order to wake up the spirit, to once again have the energy to carry on the tasks that the Lord presents to us.

So whatever you "do" for Lent this year, remember that the end goal is our focus on the Lord and that each of our paths to Him will be as varied as we are.

And if it so happens that you tried this same thing about month and half ago when the ball dropped at midnight, just make sure that He is the one who brought the idea back to you. If so, you will truly succeed: "He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it".

May the Lord bless us all on our Lenten journeys and may each one of our paths lead us to the Resurrection at Easter.

Now, keep that hand out of that cookie jar.

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Lenten Day of Recollection with Bishop LaValley

St. Augustine Church, Peru, NY
Saturday, March 03, 2018 - 10:00AM to 5:30PM

Join Bishop Terry LaValley, Fr. Alan Shnob, Fr. Timothy Canaan,
Fr. Albert Hauser, Fr. Jack Downs and Deacon David Clark
for talks, prayer, personal witness and opportunity for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lunch will be provided.

Anticipated Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Bishop LaValley
at 4:30PM at St. Augustine Church, Peru, NY.

Pre-registration is requested to assure seating and food.

A donation of \$10/person
is suggested upon arrival to help defray expenses.

Please pre-register by mail, email or phone by
Monday, Feb. 26, 2018.

Mail:
Ken and Kathy Racette
679 Cumberland Head Rd
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

E-mail:
racette@gmail.com
kracette1a@gmail.com

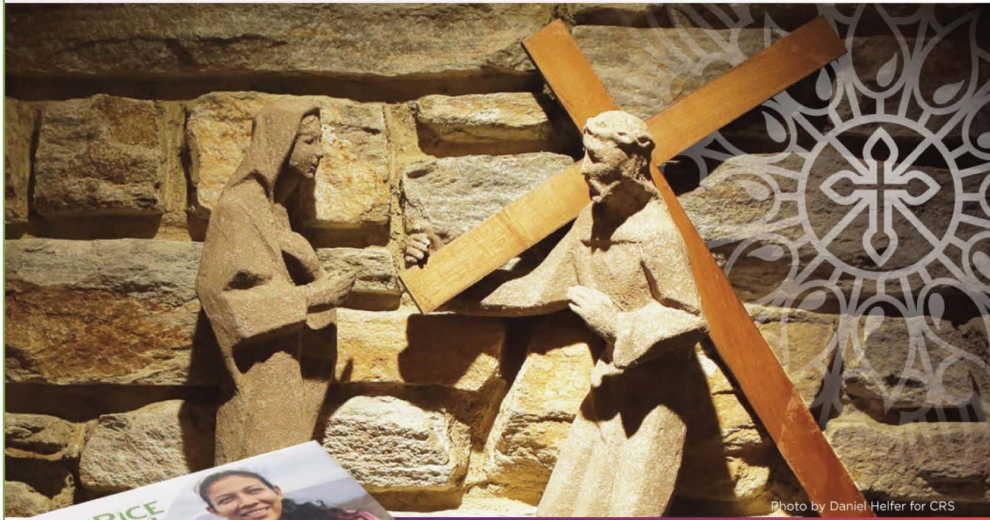
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encounter

Lent COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY



crsricebowl.org/begin

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Catholic Relief Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization;
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Catholic Relief Services eases suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

We are the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas Internationalis and the National Catholic Development Conference.

All of the information here can be found at: www.crsricebowl.org



God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion...

— Pope Francis,
Lenten Message 2016

crsricebowl.org



CRS Rice Bowls helps us to encounter Lent

What is CRS' Operation Rice Bowl?

We are called to love our neighbor. But, like the scholar in the scripture passage, we may find ourselves wondering, "Who is my neighbor?" This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program, will help us answer that question.

We are invited to reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor—as companions on life's journeys—can be transformative. We will see how our prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

Join nearly 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our brothers and sisters most in need around the world while forming families and faith communities in global solidarity. Take action to build the culture of encounter as missionary disciples with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) this Lent.

- Through **prayer**, we encounter Christ, present in the faces of every member of our human family, so often still walking that long road to Calvary.
- Through **fasting**, we encounter our own obstacles, those things about ourselves that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.
- Through **almsgiving**, we encounter our brothers and sisters around the world, asking what we can give up so that others might have life to the fullest.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we hear stories from our brothers and sisters in need worldwide, and devote our Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts to change the lives of the poor. Each day of Lent, individuals are invited to use the Lenten Calendar—included with every CRS Rice Bowl—to guide their Lenten almsgiving. These daily almsgiving activities—for example, give 25 cents for every faucet found in your home—help families reflect on the realities of our brothers and sisters around the world and how they can be in solidarity during the Lenten season.

How will you contribute to the culture of encounter this Lent?

How are your donations used?

Driven by our faith, we are committed to help those in need no matter where they may live. In that spirit:

75 percent of your gift supports CRS' programs around the world. Some examples include:

- Agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests
- Water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities
- Microfinance projects support small businesses
- Mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services
- Education projects provide resources and training

25 percent of your donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in your own community. Contact your CRS diocesan director at Catholic Charities in the diocese of Ogdensburg at 315-393-2255 to find out how they uses the 25 percent.



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Encounter Lent

Lent is a 40-day journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As companions on this journey, we are invited to reach out to our neighbors in need, no matter where they live.

A Digital Lenten Retreat

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you, your family and community to journey alongside the Good Samaritan, to reflect on the question: Who is my neighbor? So many of our neighbors are on the move: migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, travelers. The Good Samaritan—a traveler himself, one on the move—shows us what it means to encounter the stranger, to accompany one in need and become a companion on the journey. That's why CRS has prepared this digital retreat, juxtaposing the words of Jesus' parable with the words of Pope Francis, connecting an ancient teaching with a present reality. Because we are all called to be Good Samaritans, especially today, as so many of our brothers and sisters are forced from their homes, fleeing violence, economic hardship, persecution and climate injustice. Go to: www.crsricebowl.org/digital-retreat

Download the App

CRS Rice Bowl App It's time to think outside the bowl with the CRS Rice Bowl app. Bring Lent into your life, online, offline, anytime, anywhere. Tap into a rich spiritual experience and make the 40 days of Lent ones that will change your life—and the world. Join the conversation this Lent with new, integrated social media features. Receive daily reflections on your device, set and track progress towards a personal Lenten goal, use simple, meatless recipes to prepare and share on Fridays throughout Lent and read and watch stories of hope from people around the world. Available in English and Spanish in the Google Play and App stores.



Encounter Lent as a Family

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you, and your family and community, to journey alongside the Good Samaritan. Reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. Together, our prayers, fasting and almsgiving support migrants, refugees and others around the world who are seeking safety and opportunity. Visit <http://www.crsricebowl.org/families> to learn more about the activities below.

- Lenten Kit for YOUR Family
- Lenten Calendar
- Make your own CRS Rice Bowl.
- Read the Story of Hope as a family
- each Sunday.
- Set aside 5 minutes a day with the reflections on Jesus' life and example.
- Prepare—and share—simple meatless meals on Fridays.
- Put your Lenten sacrifices into your CRS Rice Bowl.

LOOKING FOR MEATLESS MEALS TO PREPARE THIS LENT?

Fasting from meat on Fridays during Lent helps us "acquire a mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." (CCC 2043). Fasting is meant to free us. It helps us feel our physical hunger, and in turn, our spiritual hunger for the infinite love found only in God. Try the recipe below and go to www.crsricebowl.org/recipe to find more meatless recipes.

UJENI NDIWO

VEGETABLES WITH RICE

Makes 4-5 servings



- 2 T fair trade olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 t curry powder
- 1 ½ T fresh ginger, grated
- 3 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1 T powdered milk
- 5 cups of kale or spinach, thinly cut
- Salt, to taste

In large pan, sauté onion in oil. Add curry powder and ginger; cook for 2 minutes. Add tomatoes. Simmer for 2 minutes, then add powdered milk. Stir in the greens, cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Serve with rice.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN



CNS PHOTO/JORGE SILVA, REUTERS

Erin Hamlin of the U.S. carries the national flag during the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics Feb. 9 in South Korea. Hamlin, of Remson, N.Y., who also makes her home in Lake Placid, is a four-time Olympic luger. She took the singles bronze medal in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, the first American to medal in single luge competition.



CNS PHOTO/YONHAP, EPA

Park Jong-ah of the Korean unified women's ice hockey team celebrates after scoring a goal during a friendly match against Sweden Feb. 4 in Incheon, South Korea. The presence of a unified delegation and team for North and South Korea at this year's Olympic Games gives people hope for a world dedicated to peace through dialogue and respect, Pope Francis said.

Cardinal Cupich: Pope's view of faith calls for changing underlying ideas

CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (CNS) — Pope Francis is inviting Catholics to take a more holistic approach to their faith, and that requires a change in underlying assumptions, said Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich.

The pope is not offering the new approach in a vacuum, but is basing it on church teaching, including documents of the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal Cupich said in a lecture at Cambridge University Feb. 9.

Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family, "Amoris Laetitia," makes the case that couples and families face challenges today that are different from the past, Cardinal Cupich said in the Von Hugel Lecture, a speech sponsored annually at the Von Hugel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry.

"Amoris" is nothing short of the Holy Father's call to action, in which he summons church leaders, both lay and clergy, to enter into a serious dialogue about how best to minister to couples and families in a way that is faithful, honest and creative," the cardinal said.

Some of Pope Francis' teachings in "Amoris Laetitia" have come under criticism by Catholics who think he is abandoning traditional church teaching on marriage.

But Cardinal Cupich said that, in calling for a change in approach, Pope Francis relied on consultations with the faithful and deliberations of the 2014 and 2015 Synods of Bishops on the family.

Failure to understand that holistic approach "has led some critics to misinterpret and misunderstand 'Amoris,'" the cardinal said, by limiting their scope "to an idealistic understanding of marriage and family."

He said an examination of the exhortation called for a

shift in thinking in six areas.

"Our ministerial approach should begin with the understanding that families are not problems to solve," the cardinal said. "Rather, they are opportunities for the church to discern, with the aid of the Spirit, how God is active in our time and what God is calling us to do, here and now."

He said Pope Francis reminds people that "the family is such a privileged place for God's self-revelation that nothing can stand in the way of God's grace."

"If we accept that families are the privileged place of God's self-revelation and activity, then no family should be considered deprived of God's grace," Cardinal Cupich said. This means God is not just found in families that meet the church's idea of an ideal marriage, but in marriages of other religious traditions and in couples who have remarried.

The church's ministers must shift how they interact with families and married couples, maintaining a balance between teaching and listening, the cardinal said.

"The most important consequence of this call to accompaniment ought to be greater attention to the voices of the laity, especially on matters of marriage and family life, for they live this reality day to day," Cardinal Cupich said.

The cardinal cited the definition of conscience in the Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes" to illustrate the shift needed to "a profound respect for the discernment of married couples and families. Their decisions of conscience represent God's personal guidance for the particularities of their lives."

Another shift is to incorporate insights of the faithful in

the church's understanding of marriage, Cardinal Cupich said. "There can be no better teacher for the church than the faithful who actively walk this path of personal development," he said.

Pope Francis is calling for a shift from a straight doctrinal approach to marriage to an approach that combines doctrinal and pastoral attitudes, Cardinal Cupich said.

"The result is not relativism or an arbitrary application of the doctrinal law, but an authentic receptivity" to God revealing himself "in the concrete realities of family life and to the work of the Holy Spirit in the consciences of the faithful." Consciences are not focused primarily on universal rules, he said, but are "immersed in the concrete situations which give vital context to our moral choices."

One of the best ways to do this is to create a culture of care and hospitality in parishes communities, especially for those in second marriages, Cardinal Cupich said.

While people who are divorced and civilly remarried generally are not allowed to receive the sacraments, they are still considered Catholics and are encouraged to attend Mass.

The final shift in thinking Cardinal Cupich identified involves putting mercy back at the heart of the Gospel.

"Doctrinal development is about remaining open to the invitation to see our moral teachings on marriage and the family through the lens of God's omnipotent mercy," the cardinal said.

In calling for these changes, Pope Francis is "retrieving a way of thinking about church teaching and practice that has its root in our tradition," Cardinal Cupich said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholics gather to pray lawmakers will protect Dreamers

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A group of priests, religious, young immigrants and their supporters gathered outside of the U.S. Capitol Feb. 6 to pray for the Dreamers, whose lives are in limbo, and for the legislators who have the power to change their situation. "We've done everything else ... now we pray," said Sister Mary Ellen Lacy, a Daughter of Charity, noting the many marches and protests that have taken place over the past months. "It really is in God's hands at this point." The prayer service was sponsored by several Catholic organizations, including the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, Network, the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Pax Christi USA, the DREAM Project, the Society of the Sacred Heart, the Franciscan Action Network and the Ignatian Solidarity Network. Members of many of those organizations were on Capitol Hill as a part of the final day of the Feb. 3-6 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

Social ministry group told of poor conditions on reservations

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Life on American Indian reservations is bad and shows few signs of getting better anytime soon, according to two speakers Feb. 4 at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington. "Today, Indians are the poorest of all American ethnic groups," said Father Michael Carson, a Choctaw Indian who is assistant director of Native American affairs for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church. "The suicide rate is 27 times the national average." "Nowhere is this better illustrated better than the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota," Father Carson added. "Unemployment, substandard housing, drug and alcohol addiction, rape, child abuse. The list seems endless," he said. "Why is this happening? What can be done about it?" The history of the maltreatment of Indians date back to the earliest colonizers from Western Europe. Rich May, a Houston-based national lecturer on issues facing American Indians, recommended that to remove obstacles to economic growth on reservations, "Indians must be allowed to develop their natural resources in ways that respect their own views of the environment, and to use land as collateral to start their own businesses."

FEMA shift opens door to disaster funds for religious groups

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) -- Superstorm Sandy-weary diocesan and parish officials lauded a Federal Emergency Management Agency policy change announced earlier this year that reverses a prior exclusion for religious organizations and houses of worship from applying for federal aid to recover from natural disasters. "This change in eligibility for FEMA public assistance to religious organizations is monumental," said Joe Cahill, director of the Diocese of Trenton's Department of Risk Management. Cahill's comments came before the Feb. 9 passage of the Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act by Congress as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act. The bill, signed into law by President Donald Trump, codifies this change in FEMA policy. The fairness provision directs FEMA to make disaster relief assistance available to houses of worship "on the same terms as other nonprofit entities," said a statement released the same day by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which had urged its passage.

Lent is time to become aware of false prophets, cold hearts, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Catholics should use the season of Lent to look for signs and symptoms of being under the spell of false prophets and of living with cold, selfish and hateful hearts, Pope Francis said.

Together with "the often bitter medicine of the truth," the church - as mother and teacher - offers people "the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting," the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins Feb. 14 for Latin-rite Catholics.

The pope also invited all non-Catholics who are disturbed by the increasing injustice, inertia and indifference in the world, to "join us then in raising our plea to God in fasting and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need."

The pope's Lenten message, released by the Vatican Feb. 6, looked at Jesus' apocalyptic discourse to the disciples on the Mount of Olives, warning them of the many signs and calamities that will signal the end of time and the coming of the son of man.

Titled, "Because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt. 24:12), the papal message echoes Jesus' caution against the external enemies of false prophets and deceit, and the internal dangers of selfishness, greed and a lack of love.

Today's false prophets, the pope wrote, "can appear as 'snake charmers,' who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go."

So many of God's children,

he wrote, are: "mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness"; enchanted by money's illusion, "which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests"; and convinced they are autonomous and "sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!"

"False prophets can also be 'charlatans,' who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless," he wrote. People can be trapped by the allure of drugs, "disposable relationships," easy, but dishonest gains as well as "virtual," but ultimately meaningless relationships, he wrote.

"These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love," the message said.

The pope asked people to examine their heart to see "if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets" and to learn to look at things more closely, "beneath the surface," and recognize that what comes from God is life-giving and leaves "a good and lasting mark on our hearts."

Christians also need to look for any signs that their love for God and others has started to dim or grow cold, the pope said.

Greed for money is a major red flag, he wrote, because it is the "root of all evil" and soon leads to a rejection of God and his peace.

"All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own 'certainties': the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the foreigner among us, or our neighbor who does not live up to our expectations," the pope wrote.

Another sign of love turned cold is the problem of pollution, he said, which causes creation to become poisoned by waste, "discarded out of carelessness or selfishness."

Polluted oceans also unfortunately become a burial ground for countless victims of forced migration and "the heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises," are slashed by machinery that rain down instruments of death, he wrote.

The remedy for these ills can be strengthened during Lent with prayer, almsgiving and fasting, he wrote.

Praying more enables "our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers," he said in his message.

"Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister," it said.

Urging people to make charitable giving and assistance a genuine part of their everyday life, he asked that people look at every request for help as a request from God himself. Look at almsgiving as being part of God's generous and providential plan, and helping his children in need.

Finally, "fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth," he said, while also letting people feel what it must be like for those who struggle to survive.

It also "expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor," he wrote, and "revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Pilgrimage of penance, good works, prayer

The season of Lent began this past Wednesday. Most Christians recognize it as a day for penance and reflecting on how we stand before God. Yes, and every year we hope to rise again from the ashes of our sins and failures "to create ourselves anew". Every year we take a journey, a pilgrimage through penance, self-discipline, prayer, and, hopefully, an abundance of good works.

We need to make reparation through our Lenten

penance for the horrible crimes by "unhinged" individuals against their brothers and sisters everywhere.

We need especially to safeguard our own freedom of conscience in the public square.

Our first reading is about God's terrible anger with the human race - all except Noah and his family.

Because of this just man and his family, God instructed him to build an ark so that he could escape the avenging flood-waters that would de-

stroy all other living creatures. After forty days, that ark must have been a rather smelly place!

As Noah stepped out of the ark, he breathed new freshness from a world washed clean by water.

Lent can help wash our world clean as we go from the ashes of violence and war, the murder of innocent children both in and out of their mothers' wombs, and the greed that has brought such economic misery to both the guilty and the innocent.

This Lent may we seek through God's grace to rid ourselves of laziness and blindness and come to a re-

FEB. 18

First Sunday of Lent
READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

newal of the promises we keep making to God - and then forgetting them.

Lent brings to us a greater appreciation for the Passion and Death of Jesus as He made for all of us a New Covenant in His blood.

The Gospel gives Mark's abbreviated story of Christ's temptation in the desert by Satan. The other evangel-

ists fill in more details.

Jesus experienced the same temptations the devil uses on all humans - the temptations to comfort and sensual appetites, the temptations to abuse whatever power we have, the temptations to pride and possessions. As Jesus went into the desert, so we should daily seek out a quiet space for reflection and renewal, for refreshing talks with Jesus, inviting our family members and neighbors to join us.

Remember the words of Jesus as he began his public ministry: "This is the time of fulfillment. Repent and believe in the Gospel".



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

RESPECT LIFE

Thanks, but no thanks, Governor Cuomo

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
NCC columnist

In 2013 Governor Andrew Cuomo tried to give New York women a present. He called it the "Women's Equality Act," a 10-point plan of policies for women that included protections against salary inequities, sexual harassment, discrimination, and domestic violence.

But for two long years all of those improvements for women were held hostage to the real prize: an expansion of our state's already liberal abortion laws. The rest was all just packaging, a cynical camouflage to ensure the passage of an abortion agenda.

In the end, though, the play didn't work. The pack-

age was ripped open by the legislature and broken apart into individual bills.

Governor's abortion-expanding budget: not good for women or children

Nine of them passed and were signed into law. The tenth bill, the dangerous expansion of abortion, was left untouched by the State Senate, like an unwanted gift under the tree.

This year the Governor is trying to re-gift the same unwelcome present. Now it's included in a bigger and better bundle of advances for women, and it's all wrapped up in his proposed state budget. But when you peel off the paper, it's the same radical abortion scheme.

The Governor's bill would remove all limits on late-term abortion, empower non-doctors to perform abortions, eliminate defenses for women who are

battered or coerced into abortion, and even remove protections for babies who are mistakenly born alive during an abortion. Taken together, these changes would make abortion less safe and less rare.

How is that good for women? Does the Governor really think we need more abortion in our state? And why do the so-called "women's groups" think this is progress?

History tells us that women were once treated as non-persons - we were voiceless, vote-less and powerless, oppressed by the strong and the powerful. Treating unborn infants as voiceless, vote-less, and powerless just passes the oppression on down. Women will never achieve genuine equality if it's dependent upon the maltreatment and persecution of another class of human be-

ings. About half of the babies destroyed in abortion are female. I wonder why the Governor doesn't object to snuffing out the lives of these future feminists.



Kathleen
Gallagher

In some countries, baby girls are deliberately targeted for abortion because sons are a more valued asset. How can abortion be celebrated as essential to female empowerment when it leads to such horrible degradation of our own gender?

And what of the thousands of women who suffer the pain and devastation that abortion can bring? Is there anything in that bag of women's goodies for them? Something to give them a voice, ease their suffering, end their nightmares? Nope, just more abortion.

I stand in solidarity with the Governor on a broad range of women's issues. I deplore the way our sexist culture objectifies women and denies basic human

rights. I abhor the economic marginalization of women and the disproportionate way that women and children fall into poverty. I have rallied against human trafficking and advocated for expanded maternity leave and child care.

But I will not stand silent in the face of a misguided and extreme abortion agenda that will invite more late-term abortionists into our state and undermine the health and dignity of women and children. Basic human rights have to be protected for everyone. Female liberation and fetal liberation are ultimately one and the same cause. We must love them both!

—
Because this has been labeled a "budget" issue, the fate of this legislation (S.7511/A.9511) will likely be decided by the state's fiscal deadline of April 1. Contact your lawmakers and voice your opposition to late-term abortion expansion today. Take action at www.NYSCatholic.org.

Follow Pope Francis on
Twitter!
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AT THE MOVIES

THE 15:17 TO PARIS

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

The good news about the drama "The 15:17 to Paris" (Warner Bros.), as well as the real-life events on which it's based, is that, given the right circumstances and motivations, ordinary people can achieve great things.

The bad news is that, when they are not doing so, such everyday folks tend to lead lives that are not of much interest to moviegoers.

Thus, the uneven nature of director Clint Eastwood's film recounting the circumstances that led up to the thwarting, in August 2015, of a terrorist attack and potential massacre on the train of the title.

Traveling from Amsterdam to the French capital as tourists, a trio of Americans -- Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos and Spencer Stone, who all portray themselves -- courageously stop a heav-

ily armed jihadist bent on a shooting spree among the captive passengers. In quelling the assailant, Skarlatos and Stone are able to rely on the training they received, respectively, in the Oregon National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Stone also uses his knowledge of first aid to keep a grievously wounded fellow traveler alive as the train races to the nearest station.

The portion of the movie devoted to these headline-grabbing incidents is taut and compelling. But, in adapting the three friends' book about their exploit and their lives before it, written with Jeffrey E. Stern, screenwriter Dorothy Blyskal fails to evoke much interest in the lads' humdrum childhoods and fitful careers.

As kids, they have minor skirmishes with their easily provoked teachers. Once grown, they chat about the ups and downs of their professional lives in a way that doesn't make

eavesdropping on them particularly rewarding.

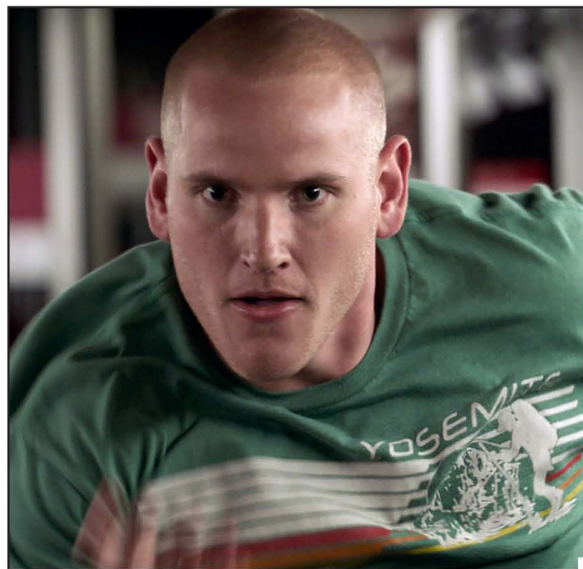
They talk sports, trade gentle insults and, once embarked on their European vacation, debate whether to include Paris in their itinerary. Edge-of-your-seat material this is not.

Still, faith and prayer are shown to be an important part of Stone's life. Twice we see him kneeling at his bedside reciting the "Peace Prayer" often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

And self-sacrificing heroism is obviously an integral element in the makeup of all three pals.

More honorable than entertaining, "The 15:17 to Paris" reaches an exciting destination. But, in this case at least, getting there turns out to be a good deal less than half the fun.

The film contains gunplay and nonlethal violence, a sequence involving gory wounds, a bit of sexual humor, a couple of uses of profanity and a pair of



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY WARNER BROS.

Spencer Stone portrays himself in the movie "15:17 to Paris." While on a backpacking trip in 2015 through Europe, Stone's Paris-bound train was attacked by a terrorist and he and two other childhood friends, Anthony Sadler and Alek Skarlatos, were able to subdue him, saving the lives of the more than 500 passengers on board the train.

milder oaths as well as numerous crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

ALSO PLAYING... PETER RABBIT



CNS PHOTO/SONY PICTURES

Peter Rabbit, voiced by James Corden, appears in the animated movie "Peter Rabbit." The anthropomorphic characters in Beatrix Potter's beloved children's books are showcased but also transformed in this manic comedy, a mix of live action and CGI animation directed and co-written by Will Gluck. The eponymous bunny, here a fast-talking juvenile delinquent, a hipster dude with a nasty murderous streak, is elated when the mean gardener (Sam Neill) next door kicks the bucket, allowing him and his furry friends access to his vegetables and cottage. When the deceased's grandnephew (Domhnall Gleeson) moves in and falls for his comely neighbor (Rose Byrne), the rabbits once more declare war. The film does impart some of the lessons of Potter's books, including the importance of family, honesty and forgiveness. But Gluck and script collaborator Ron Lieber cannot resist the ill-mannered behavior, low-brow jokes, and noisy eruptions that seem to be staples in children's films today, setting a discordant tone contrary to Potter's elegant style. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.
E-mail cward@dioogdensburg.org to sign up today.



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ADIRONDACK

RUMMAGE SALE

Lake Placid - St. Agnes School is holding its annual Rummage Sale

Date: March 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 2

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: Donations accepted. They may be dropped off at school.

Contact: call 518-523-3771 for more information.

CLINTON

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru - Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will be having a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Feb. 17

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; kids, 6-12, \$2.50; under 5, Free; Take-outs available.

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. 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 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: 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.

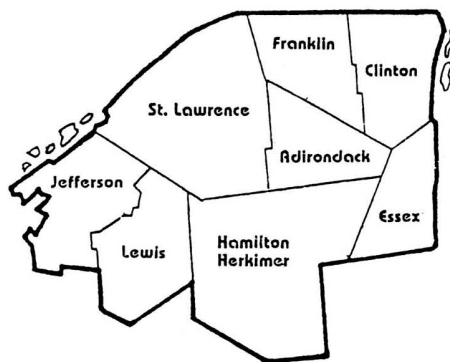
Contact: If you have any questions, please call: OLV at 518-531-1842, St. John's Church at 518-563-0730 or St. Peter's Church at 518-563-1692.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills - The K of C will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: March 4, April 22

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



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.

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

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

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.

SETON GALA

Plattsburgh - Seton Gala with the theme of Saturday Night Fever is set

Date: April 14

Place: Westside Ballroom

Features: Time to pull out the disco balls and polyester suits for a fabulous night of dancing and 70's music to support our Catholic Schools

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.

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.

FRANKLIN

SOUPER SUNDAY

Fort Covington - Souper Sunday to be held to benefit parish.

Date: Feb. 18

Time: Noon to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$6 (\$7 Canadian), kids 5-12, \$3 (\$4 Canadian); under 5, free
Features: Homemade cabbage roll, chicken noodle soup and chili. 50/50 Raffle and Gift Basket raffle. coloring activities for the kids.

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

ADDICTION RECOVERY

Watertown - The Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee, the Faith Community Nurses, and the Jefferson County Alliance for Better Communities is host-

ing a panel discussion on addiction and recovery.

Date: March 4

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: First Presbyterian Church

Features: Panelists Dr. Charles Moehs, Rev. Toby Schilling, Rev. Jeffrey E. Smith, and Genie Weaver will offer sources of courage and strength leading to a successful recovery from addiction. Free. Open to public. Refreshments

Contact: Sisters of St. Joseph, 315-782-3460; Alliance, 315-788-4660

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Watertown - A gathering for those who have lost a loved one is set

Date: Feb. 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

WISDOM COURSE

Evans Mills - St. Mary's Parish will be presenting Jeff Cabin's latest DVD Bible Course, Wisdom.

Date: beginning March 7, four sessions

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Workbook is \$20

Features: Covers Proverbs, Wisdom, Ecclesiastes, and Sirach. The course mixed formal learning with practical application. Each 90-minute session will include Cavins' 25-minute presentation plus discussion of the week's homework. Students will explore historical and theological dimensions of the topic through readings in the Old and New Testaments and the catechism. The final four sessions will be presented in the fall. The course is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 7471.

Contact: Registration is requested (315-629-4678) by March 1.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: March 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

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

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 to be held every Tuesday.

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Anthony's Church

LEWIS

K OF C BRUNCH

Lyons Falls - The Father Pascal Rys, OFM Conv. Council of the Knights of Columbus is holding a brunch

Date: Feb. 18

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

Menu: pancakes, maple syrup, eggs sausage, bacon, fruit, muffins, beverages
Prices: Adults, \$8; children, ages 5-12, \$5; under five, free.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - A one hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction has been planned

Date: Feb. 15

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church



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

Lenten sacrifices and reflection

As Lent approaches, take the time to spend some quiet moments reflecting on Christ's tremendous sacrifice of love for us. Imagine, a love so complete, so unselfish, so unsparring, that He willingly gave His life, so that you and I might know the promise of eternal salvation.

"To sacrifice ... to share ... to serve others" ... This commitment is at the very heart of our Catholic faith, and within the heart of every missionary disciple.

It is in serving others that we discover the best within ourselves, and we feel closest to God. During Lent, more than any time all year, we are challenged to "give up" our hearts to God; to do something more and hear the cries of those others who are in need.

"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" The familiar cry of Jesus on the Cross. In our own lives, we may also sometimes feel abandoned. As we cope with the serious illness of someone close to us. As we face economic challenges, the loss of a job. As we worry for our children or mourn the death of someone dear.

Yet, in the midst of our darkness, we remember that God did not abandon His beloved Son. The suffering of Good Friday transformed into the hope of the Resurrection. God does not abandon us.

Please consider a Lenten donation for the Missions today. Lent is a very serious season for some very serious action by all Christians.

As you know, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies which are the Holy Father's principal support system for the Missions of the Catholic Church.

This showcases the direct propagation of our Faith to the poor and neediest. The time is now and we urgently need your prayers and your help.

Through your generous and selfless support of the Pontifical Mission Societies, you make a lasting difference, in the lives of those most desperate among us. Your hands and heart give medicine to the sick, food to the hungry and faith to the hurting.

The certain knowledge of God's love and eternal life to those who are lost and without hope! From Africa to Asia, from Oceania to Latin America, your gifts support the mission Church, and directly serve the hungry, the abandoned, the poor, the forgotten.

"Give it up for Lent," they say. Yes, and give it to God by way of His most needy.

Such charity, such goodness, literally goes to the ends of the earth. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with a beautiful Easter Season.

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

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – Pauline (Schmitt) Tidd, 96; Memorial Services in Spring at St. Cyril's Church.

Altona – Priscilla T. (Lovejoy) Jubert, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 9, 2018 at Holy Angels Church.

Altona – Donald N. Pelkey, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2018 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Louis of France Cemetery, Sciota.

Brushton – Sally M (Nicklaw) Prue, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 9, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton – Elaine D. Ormsbee Kalal, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2018 at the Lawrence Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Carthage – Bette A. Shampine, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 10, 2018 at Augustinian Academy; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Clayton – Kenneth C. Luce, 72; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2018 at T.R. Jetty Funeral Home.

Fort Covington – JoAnn J. (Robinson) Lauzon, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb.

9, 2018 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in the Old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Lowville – JillAnne M. (Brodie) Bush, 47; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2018 at St. Peter's Church.

Lowville – Mary Eleanor (White) Dunkel, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 9, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena – Patrick J. Murphy, 55; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2018 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

Mooers Forks – T. Lucile (Perry) Willette, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2018 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg.

Morrisonville – Robert A. Rock, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

New Bremen – Anna Margaret Tabolt, 82; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. Peter's Oratory; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Norfolk – Rita A. (Tellier) Robert, 86;

Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 10, 2018 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Anna (Brothers) Willard, 62; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2018 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Hale Cemetery.

North Bangor – Ambrose G. Snyder, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Ogdensburg – Wayne G. Pray, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Lisbon Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Anita (LaRose) Reynolds, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 10, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

Ticonderoga – Stephanie J. (Gowett) Towne, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 9, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Watertown – Sharon R. (Finley) Gibbs, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2018 at the Lundy Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Acts of love, courage are signs of God's grace in U.S., Trump says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Acts of love, courage and sacrifice by first responders, parents and children alike are hallmarks of a country that is rooted in prayer and deep faith in God, President Donald Trump told the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 8.

The president held up as "American heroes" people from many walks of life who strive to help others as part of their daily routines and in emergencies. He said they are signs of God's grace during a 14-minute speech.

In particular, Trump cited American servicemen and servicewomen around the world "defending our great American flag," police officers "who sacrifice for their communities," teachers who "work tirelessly" for their students and parents who "work

two and three jobs to give their children a better, a much more prosperous and happier life" as signs of inspiration.

"American heroes reveal God's calling," he said.

"All we have to do is open our eyes and look around us and we can see God's hand in the courage of our fellow citizens. We see the work of God's love in the power of souls," he said.

Such actions are powered by prayer, he said.

Trump also revisited a theme of earlier speeches: the effort to push out Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. He said the militants had tortured Christians, Jews and even fellow Muslims in the territories they occupied, but that they had been almost totally overrun.

"Much work will always remain. But we will never rest until that job is completely done," the president said.

"Through love, courage and sacrifice, we glimpse the grace of almighty God," the president added. "So through that grace, let us resolve ourselves to ask for an extra measure of strength and devotion and seek a more just and peaceful world where every child can grow up without violence, worship without fear and reach their God-given potential.

"We can all be heroes to everybody and they can be heroes to us. As long as we open our eyes to God's grace and open our hearts to God's love, then America will always be the land of the free, home of the brave and the light for all nations."

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March will be held

Date: March 4

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

Contact: Call 315-348-6260

LENTEN ADORATION

Lowville - A First Friday Lenten Eucharistic Adoration is set

Date: March 2

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

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: morning prayer, Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations and world peace.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - St. Peter's is sponsoring Lenten gatherings of prayer

Dates: Thursdays, Feb. 22, March 15 and 22

Time: 4 p.m. to 5.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: One hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, 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: Feb 24, Mar 10 & 31, April

14 and April 28

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

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

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur - Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

Date: Feb. 16 to March 30

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15

Place: St. James School

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5 Free

Contact: Take-outs available, call for faster service, deliveries 315-287-0130.

CLM LENTEN PRAYER

Ogdensburg - A Lenten adoration or prayer and reflection for commissioned lay ministers in St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack deaneries is set

Date: Feb. 24

Time: 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 followed by 4 p.m. Anticipated Mass.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral Brzana Hall
Features: Deacon William O'Brien will address the theme: Behold Thy Mother. A snack will be included. There is no charge for this event.

Contact: Register with Jeannie Grizzuto at jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or calling 315-393-2920, Ext. 1413.

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOL KIDS MAKING MUSIC



PHOTO BY CANDACE O'NEILL

Marianne Augenstein, 6th grade teacher at St. Mary's School in Canton, led the music session for the students from St. Mary's, St. James in Gouverneur and Trinity Catholic in Massena who spent Friday of Catholic Schools Week together in Canton. The students, from grades three to six, also participated in a Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley, took part in a variety of workshops and shared a picnic lunch in St. Mary's School gym.

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 ; 315-782-3620.

ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS

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

Schedule:

• 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.

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

A Lenten retreat in two sites has been planned for grades 6-12.

Schedule: March 10 in Lowville from 10:30 a.m. to 5 or March 11 in Saranac Lake from 9:30 a.m. to 4

Features: Free. Pre-registration and a bagged lunch are required. The day will include fellowship, prayer, workshops,

Contact: Register at

www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat.

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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - A Rachel's Vineyard

after-abortion healing retreat is set

Date: June 1-3

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Father Mark Reilly will serve as the retreat chaplain. Confidential registration forms are located at the Respect Life webpage:

www.rcdony.org/prolife.

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Registration for Camp Guggenheim is open. Weeks 1-5 are open to ages 12-15, and Week 6 is open to 16-18 year-olds.

Contact: Register at

www.rcdony.org/camp

YOUTH RALLY

Canton - The annual diocesan Youth Rally to be held for grades 6-12.

Date: April 28

Place: St. Mary's

Cost: \$25 (Includes lunch and a guaranteed t-shirt) for those registered by March 15. \$30 (Includes lunch, T-shirt while supplies last) for those registered after March 15.

Features: The day will include keynote speaker Bob Perron, interactive park, prayer, workshops, and a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley.

Contact: Youth leaders can register their groups at

www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally