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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 39

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 28, 2018

THE CALL TO MARRIAGE



Seth and Amanda Conklin, parishioners of St. Mary's in Canton, are shown after their Oct. 1, 2011, wedding in Lake Placid. The couple talked about their first years together for the *North Country Catholic's* annual issue on Catholic marriage. See page 5

Thirsty souls quenched by God

VATICAN CITY (CNS)- The yearning for one's soul to be quenched must not be confused with longing for worldly desires, a Portuguese priest told Pope Francis and senior members of the Roman Curia during their Lenten retreat.

The spiritual significance of thirst is a reminder that all Christians must distinguish between a true desire to satisfy their spiritual needs and the false satisfaction given by worldly possessions

where "pleasure, passion and joy are exhausted in a wild consumerism," Father Jose Tolentino de Mendonca, vice rector of the Catholic University of Lisbon, said Feb. 19, according to Vatican Radio.

"Let us not confuse desire with need. Desire is a lack that is never completely satisfied, it is a tension, a wound that is always open, an endless" need for something from outside oneself, he said.

GIFT OF MARRIED LOVE

Natural methods empower couples to plan their families while honoring the promises they made to one another before God on the day that they were married

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Pope challenges youth

'It's time to break from fear, fake online personas and looking at the world through a digital screen display,' pope says

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Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

*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*

Lenten series on Catholic social teaching continues with essay on the call to family, community and participation

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dreaming of the perfect wedding

Forty years ago, I had a dream that was nothing less than a nightmare!

In the last few months before our summer wedding, my mind was focused on one critical decision after another: the invitations, bridesmaids' dresses, the band for the reception, the vows we were writing and on and on and on.

One of the final details on our list was flowers for the church which certainly had a place on the extensive to-do list.

But my sleeping brain went into a panic as I dreamed my

way through a wedding without boutonnieres and boutonnies. What could be more mortifying?!

Thank goodness that, by the first of July, all was in place for our special day.

The path towards that perfect wedding gets a little crazy for future brides and grooms who are willing to spend months of their lives and thousands of their dollars in its pursuit.

I dare say it's even crazier today than it was back in 1978!

But wise young people today, just like in the old days, know that the most important prepa-

ration they make is for the months and years that follow even the most perfect wedding day. Such wisdom extends to the Catholic Church which offers support for married couples through every stage of their lives together.

The vocation of marriage is always the focus of the *North Country Catholic's* annual wedding issue. This year, we can point to a special life and family conference "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond" to be held April 14 in Massena.

The Family Life Department along with the offices of Vocations and New Evangelization are combining forces to bring Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak.

This conference aims to

build up marriage and family life in the North Country and help married couples and those thinking of marriage understand the importance of the vocation of marriage as a path to holiness for themselves, their spouse and their children.

And, in the meantime, we can thank the bishops of the United States for bringing together educational and spiritual resources to help couples of all stages of life to live out a happy, holy marriage.

Check out www.foryourmarriage.org and sign up for the diocesan conference.

After all happy, holy marriages are good for spouses, good for our church and most certainly, good for our world.



Mary Lou
Kilian

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

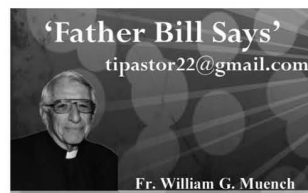
As members of God's Kingdom, we *all* matter

I hope that you remember the Gospel reading at Mass on the First Sunday of Lent. Each year the Gospel reading on that Sunday is the same story which appears in each of the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. When I read this I think of Jesus making a retreat in preparation for his public ministry.

This story has become an image for our Lent. The desert that Jesus entered was not one of those sand dune kinds. Rather, it was a barren, rocky, unproductive land. Truly it still is a desert. It never rains there.

My experience of a desert was the stretch of land around our parish in Mollendo, Peru. All the way up to the city of Arequipa, a trip of about 50 miles, it is all desert, a rocky and barren land. What I discovered was that the desert soil was productive; all it needed was water.

Halfway up the road to the city, there is an irrigation project. A section of this desert is heavily irrigated and it is



Fr. William G. Muench

green. The land is truly productive with crops and animals. It is quite a sight!

The section of the country is rather spectacular all because of water. The rest of the area in between is barren and rocky with no water.

The Gospel story tells us that in the desert Jesus was tempted by Satan. I have no idea what this experience was like for Jesus but I have some thoughts of my own about this situation.

So, I want you to consider this scenario. Do you suppose the tempter was trying to discourage Jesus from ever beginning this public ministry, his teaching and preaching to come?

The challenge might have been this: "You are only one person. What can one person

accomplish? No one is going to listen to you. No one is going to accept you. You are going to be disappointed. All this will fail."

Of course, Jesus was never distracted by all this.

I have a feeling that all of us have suffered through similar temptations, maybe many times. Such a temptation begins with doubts about ourselves, as a person. After all, you are only one person – do you really matter? Do you think you have any real value? Does what you do or say really matter to anyone? Can you ever believe that the way you live your Christian life will bring anyone closer to the Lord?

Will it ever make the world a better place?

I can tell you that I know that many times I have been confronted with just such temptations. Certainly, I was just one person – would anyone really care what I did or said or wrote. Have you ever been there? I suspect you have.

Jesus came to our world and continues to come to us to help us overcome just such

temptations. Jesus' message through Scriptures and through our Catholic Church is that our lives matter. They are important and meaningful to God. We are disciples of the Lord and the Lord needs us to bring his message to our world.

Jesus wants us to be members of the Kingdom of God and, as such, we truly matter. Our actions demonstrate our own commitment to our faith in the Lord and the message of Jesus. We are witnesses to our belief in God before the whole world, our world.

You do matter. Jesus wants you to be his disciples in all ways, in all that we do and say. Let the world know and recognize our faith in Jesus. People notice you.

Finally, a quote from Thomas Merton from his book, "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander:" To live well myself is my first and essential contribution to the well-being of all mankind and to the fulfillment of our collective destiny. If I do not live happily myself how can I help anyone else to be happy, or free, or wise?"

MARDI GRAS FUN



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

At the Mardi Gras celebration for religious education students at St. Augustine's Parish in Peru, K of C Council 7273 Grand Knight Keith Kemp presented a \$500 New York State Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. check to St. Augustine's religious education director Janice Morse and Father Alan Shnob to benefit the parish's religious education program. The New York State Council matches council donations of up to \$500 to parish religious education programs. St. Augustine's Council 7273 donated \$2,000 to the St. Augustine's Religious Education Program at the beginning of the school year. The State Council also matches council donations to Catholic schools. \$500 matching fund checks have been mailed to both Seton Catholic Central and Seton Catholic Academy in Plattsburgh.

Funeral held Feb. 20 for Mercy Sister

LAKE PLACID— A Mass of Christian Burial for Mercy Sister Mary Paula Richard, 93, was held Feb. 20 at the Reiss Memorial Chapel at Elderwood at Uihlein of Lake Placid.

She died Feb. 16 at Elderwood. Spring burial will be St. Alphonsus Cemetery in Tupper Lake.

Sister Mary Paula was born Sept. 7, 1924, in Ogdensburg, the daughter of Frank and Mary Emma (Lanthier) Richard.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Tarrytown, NY in 1942 and after final profession began her professional career by becoming a student nurse in Mercy Hospital Watertown.

Over the years Sister Mary

Paula was an operating nurse, head nurse, director of nursing service, purchasing agent, community coordinator and manager of the Mercy vacation house Villa Catherine.

She served in Tupper Lake, Port Jarvis, Watertown and British Guiana.

After retirement, Sister Mary Paula spent several years with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown. In 2007 she relocated to St. Margaret Convent in Lake Placid and became a Friendship Volunteer for Mercy Care for the Adirondacks.

She was predeceased by her brothers, William and Father Charles Richard, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdens-



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I ask every Catholic family to subscribe to the *North Country Catholic*, our wonderful, award-winning diocesan newspaper. Those who read the *NCC* enjoy timely and relevant articles on prayer, scripture, Church and religious news. Please consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

—Bishop Terry R. LaValley



The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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LORD MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

Call to family, community, participation

By Stephen Tartaglia
Diocesan family life director

Third in a series

The person is not only sacred but also social. 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. 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. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined.

(USCCB, Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching)

The mission of the Christian family is to sanctify and transform our present society according to God's plan (*Familiaris Consortio*, #52). Spouses are responsible to

help each other get to heaven, generate children, and raise their children to be physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy.

The Catechism (#2202), says that the traditional nuclear family, the man and woman united in marriage and their children, is the norm and that public authorities have an obligation to recognize it.

Families are good for society. Studies have shown that traditional nuclear families are economically stronger, more law abiding, more active politically, more productive with fewer days off school and/or work, have less childhood poverty, their children experience better educational outcomes, and present less of a financial burden on the state than other non-traditional families.

The Church and the State have, historically, both supported families. The rights of families are listed in *Familiaris Consortio*, #46. The link between healthy families and healthy society is so strong that governments recognized a vested interest in protecting families and supporting rights that correspond to their familial duties. Many Supreme Court cases over the past hundred years have supported family autonomy and parental authority.

Over the past several decades the traditional family form has given way to adaptations brought on by the prevalence of such things as same-sex relationships, divorce, and out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

These adaptations are problematic for children raised in conditions that are less than ideal and have placed the government in a strangely contradictory position. It still sees the value in supporting families but in doing so, it often works against the traditional family, perpetuating problems

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

which caused the rise of alternative forms in the first place.

The Church teaches that sexual intercourse is an expression of love only proper between a man and woman married to each other and their intercourse must be open to the transmission of life. Sexual intercourse outside of this context is seriously immoral and a grave sin. Society's very contradictory view separates love and life from the act of sexual intercourse, emphasizes pleasure, and proclaims that everyone has the right to express sexuality however he or she chooses just so long as 'it doesn't hurt anyone else.'

Ironically, this faulty viewpoint hurts other people, especially women and children. Women are seen as objects to be used rather than equal partners to be loved and cherished.

Children are no longer seen as good in and of themselves and contributing to the welfare of their parents. They are viewed as burdens, less than human, equivalent to pets, to be had for the pleasure or usefulness they bring to the parents, to be prevented or killed if they are not wanted. Children living in family adaptations are frequently deprived of at least one of their biological par-

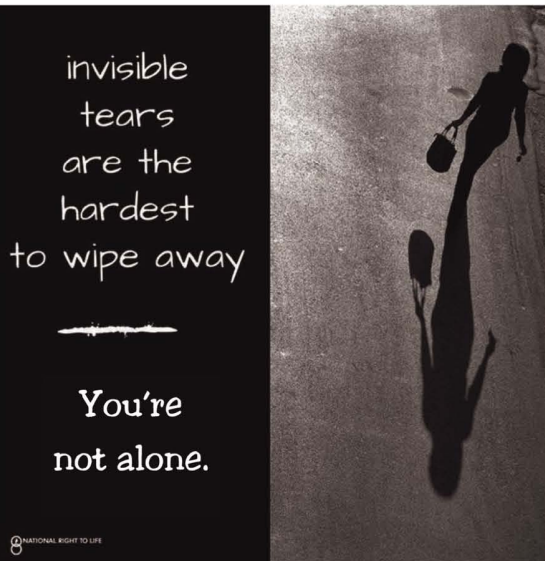
ents, at higher risk for physical or sexual abuse, more likely to have failed marriages themselves and to struggle with anxiety.

The last 50 years shows clearly that Pope Paul VI's four predictions in *Humanae Vitae* have come true. He said that if Church teaching on contraception was disregarded there would be an increase in marital infidelity; a general lowering of moral standards; a loss of respect for women because man would "reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires"; and that governments would coerce people into using contraception and intervene in citizens' sexual relationships. Nothing undermines families more than society's faulty view on sexuality, and this is precisely what leads to most adaptations in family structure. The adaptations themselves should not be promoted nor encouraged.

On the other hand, the people who live in those adaptations are vulnerable and must be supported both materially and spiritually. Family Law must, wherever possible, focus on restoring and promoting a healthy relationship between children and their biological parents, instead of separating them.

All families need help. When we consider helping families through public policy, we need to be clear that the help we are providing is in accord with Catholic teaching. We should oppose laws that increase the availability of pornography, harmful recreational drugs, gambling, abortion, or which allow euthanasia.

Types of policies we should support include: paid family leave, immigration policies that keep families together, living wage, affordable housing, and parental choice in education.



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are the
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to wipe away

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Young couple looks back on their first six years of marriage

'Awed by our blessings'

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

One wedding, six years, two moves, two children, and several jobs later, Seth and Amanda (Miner) Coughlin find their love is stronger than ever. "Marriage has really exceeded our expectations," Seth explains. "We are just awed by the ways God has blessed us."

When the couple, who met as students at DeSales University, married in 2011, they had strong faith and a clear understanding of the vocation they were committing to. In fact, Amanda had previously considered religious life, and Seth had discerned priesthood years before they knew each other. Then, as their friendship deepened, they sought to know if marriage was God's plan for them and prayerfully discerned that it was.

The pair chose to be married on October 1, the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, to whom both have a deep devotion.

"Our wedding was not just a party for Amanda and me," Seth recalls. The day was all centered around the Eucharist."

Amanda adds that even Seth's Methodist relatives were moved by the Mass and marriage ceremony. "Those family members told us that ours was the most beautiful wedding they had ever been to."

The first year of marriage found the couple working in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, living comfortably.

"Money was not an issue then," Seth relates. "We did not have financial worries and were pretty focused on ourselves." Then, wanting to settle near one family or the other (Seth's in Pittsburgh;



The Conklin family, Seth, John, age 3; Amanda, and Emma, 4½; are parishioners at St. Mary's in Canton. As the Conklins reflected on their vocation to married life, Seth said, "Marriage has really exceeded our expectations. We are just awed by the ways God has blessed us."

Amanda's in Saranac Lake), they moved to the North Country when jobs opportunities arose here.

Seth taught theology at IHC in Watertown while Amanda served as campus minister in Canton.

"Then Emma was conceived, and life was no longer about us and our enjoyment," says Seth. "Our son John arrived less than two years after Emma. The personal and financial demands increased. But watching the two of us expanding into a family has been a very deep joy!"

Amanda agrees. "Watching our children, the embodiment of our love, is so amazing. Your kids force you to be more selfless. I saw this in Seth right after John was born. I had an

epidural which led to complications; Seth was there for me, patient and loving and selfless. That difficult time, like all our challenges, made our love so much stronger! Looking back, God is always working through our rough patches and our imperfections to bring us closer to him and to each other."

"We have seen how God has led us," Amanda continues. "We moved up here because we were both offered jobs. Then my grandfather was diagnosed with cancer. I was quite close to him and was glad I could spend more time with him."

Recently, it was providential that Seth's co-worker told him about a job opening for prison chaplain. When Seth applied, some-

one else had taken that position, so they offered Seth a job in Malone. The timing was perfect, just before Christmas break. Looking back, we see God's plan and timing is always perfect."

Seth agrees. "I loved teaching, but it is a job that never stops. Now I am not legally allowed to bring work home—so when I'm home, I'm home. Because it provides better income and more time with my family, this job allows me to be a better husband and father, which is my primary vocation."

Amanda is grateful that her job - campus minister for St. Lawrence and SUNY Canton - respects her family responsibilities.

"The church has been wonderful in letting me flex

my schedule," she said. How do they juggle all this?

"We do tend to realize when we are burning out and need to reconnect," Amanda said. "We know date nights are important and plan them whenever we can. "Our marriage is the foundation of our family, so we do our best to put each other first."

Seth echoes: "My spouse is my best friend, so we make time to have fun together, to laugh together, and to enjoy each other. We support one another in every way possible."

That includes respecting each other's love languages.

Saya Amanda, "Mine involves touch and quality time; Seth's is words of affirmation. After six years, I understand this, but at first it was so foreign. Speaking the other's love language means coming out of self to love the other."

Seth agrees: "Marriage makes you a better person because it forces you to practice virtues, like self-giving love, and it forces you to chip away at your vices for the sake of the other."

Any advice for young couple? "Sunday Mass as a family is essential. The Eucharist must be the center of your life and love. Christ gave all, and we must be willing to do the same. Confession is very important to growing in virtue because through it God gives the grace we need. Take the time to learn the richness of Church teaching on marriage and sexuality. Learn what the Church means by love: a choice to will the good of the other."

"The most important thing is to stay rooted in Christ, realizing that marriage will be hard, but it will be good, better than you can imagine."

2018 Pre-Cana Schedule

City	Date	Time	Location
Gouverneur	March 8	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	St. James School
	and March 10	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur, NY 13642
Carthage	March 16	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	St. James Minor Church
	and March 17	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	327 West Street Carthage, NY 13619
North Bangor	March 22	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	St. Augustine's Church
	and March 24	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 12966
Gouverneur	April 5	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	St. James School
	and April 7	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur, NY 13642
Lowville	April 22	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville, NY 13367
North Bangor	April 26	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	St. Augustine's Church
	and April 28	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 12966
Saranac Lake	September 28	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	St. Bernard's Grade School
	and September 29	8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	63 River Street Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Carthage	October 12	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	St. James Minor Church
	and October 13	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	327 West Street Carthage, NY 13619

For more information about Pre-Cana please contact:

Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader
315-287-2874
dleader@rcdony.org

Steve Tartaglia
315-393-2920
startaglia@rcdony.org

**St. Jude Novena**

O Holy St. Jude, great in grace, rich in miracles, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your patronage in time of need, I come to you, seeking your special aid before the throne of Almighty God. Help me in my present and urgent petition. (Here state your requests.) In gratitude, I promise to make your name known, so that others can invoke your heavenly assistance, to the glory of God and for the good of souls. Amen.

With grateful thanks, M.A.L.

To Report Abuse

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

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**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. Further information is available from Jill Lawrence, 315-393-2920, ext 1440
Upcoming sessions:
March 3 - 10 a.m., St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy
March 6 - 6 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor
March 10 - 10 a.m., St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills
March 14 - 6 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena

Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 28 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 1 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

March 2 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 3 - 12 p.m., Cursillo Lenten Day of Reflection at St. Augustine's Church in Peru
4:30 p.m., Mass at St. Augustine's Church in Peru

March 4 - 7:30 a.m., Mass at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville

March 5 - 7:15 p.m., Novena & Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 6 - 10:50 p.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg
6 p.m., Recognition Dinner for the National Honor Society members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter at the Italian American Club in Watertown.

March 7 - 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg
1:30 p.m., Guidance in Giving Meeting at the Bishop Brzana Building in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

March 1 - Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, 1997

March 2 - Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952

March 3 - Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

March 4 - Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

March 5 - Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951; Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

March 6 - Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

Environmental Stewardship**Making choices**

Last week we heard from members of the 2018 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering who meet in February to address the topic "Solidarity in Our Common Home."

We as church members may not be aware of how our behavior towards our environment may have negative consequences for people with whom we don't necessarily come in contact. Adelson da Silva, an indigenous leader from the Javari Valley in Brazil traveled 10 days to speak to the Group of the plight of his community and of other "relatives of the forest" . . . the uncontacted tribes, or isolated people now struggling to stay alive in the Amazon. He stated "We no longer have clean air, we're sick. . . The air is polluted, the water is polluted, the fish are dying. We face this big problem, and we will suffer the consequences. You, too, belong to the Amazon."

The Amazon is often called the "lungs of the earth," because it absorbs carbon dioxide and converts it into oxygen that we breathe. Though Adelson's community and others who live in the rainforests may be the first ones to experience the negative consequences of deforestation, climate change and dwindling resources, no amount of money or power will be able to help the earth's "thirst" and the disasters that humanity will experience. He implored Catholics to "defend" and "fight for the Javari Valley he calls home. (Source: Catholic News Service)

Pope Francis in his recent visit to Peru met with many leaders of the Amazon tribes to express his concern for their plight. He echoes the plea of Adelson to become more aware of the consequences of our behaviors. Some ways we may respond: pray for those people most affected by ecological injustices and for those inflicting the devastation of the earth merely for profit; and become more aware of the environmental practices and the provisions provided for their workers in the places where you shop. Make choices that reflect ecological justice for all.

The gift of married love

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Diocesan NFP director

On their wedding day, couples are asked to affirm that they have come together freely, to commit themselves to one another for life, and to accept children lovingly from God.

"These are different ways of asking the same basic question: Are you ready to accept this person, and all that may come from your union, completely and forever?" (Married Love and the Gift of Life, 2)

Married love is unique. In "Married Love and the Gift of Life" (p. 5), the U.S. bishops write:

"By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God's gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God's creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

However, "When married couples deliberately act to suppress fertility, sexual intercourse is no longer fully marital intercourse. It is something less powerful

and intimate, something more 'casual.' Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple's unity. The total giving of oneself, body and soul, to one's beloved is no time to say: 'I give you everything I am--except...' The Church's teaching is not only about observing a rule, but about preserving that total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity."

Natural methods

Natural methods empower couples to plan their families while honoring the promises they made to one another before God.

While contraception/sterilization deliberately exclude fertility from the total gift they have promised, couples using Natural Family Planning include fertility as an essential part of their mutual gift of themselves.

Such couples believe that they are "wonderfully made" (Psalm 139). They know that God's plan is good, and that he did not make mistakes in designing them.

Understanding that design is at the heart of Natural Family Planning: couples learn to identify and interpret the physical signs of fertility, which empowers them to know when they are fertile and when they are not. If they are avoiding pregnancy, they abstain during the fertile time; this knowledge can also be used

to achieve pregnancy according to the couple's intention. Properly understood and applied, NFP is as effective as the Pill, but is entirely free of its side effects.

More than family planning

Yet NFP is far more than a highly effective means of family planning, as Fletcher Doyle shows in *Natural Family Planning Blessed our Marriage: 19 True Stories*.

"NFP brought about a profound change in the way I look at my wife...She became even more beautiful to me. Now, more than ever before, I had to consider her in her entirety as a person and avoid the trap of thinking of her as someone to take care of my needs. My life with my wife became more an act of giving than of taking...My appreciation for what I had in life increased exponentially, and I became fully aware of my blessings. This has brought me great peace. God really does know best."

His wife Tracy agrees. "I am now able to see God's hand in everything. With NFP, I don't have to say one thing and live another. The total surrender of my fertility to God has allowed me to surrender in other areas of my life as well. I feel at

peace with my faith and with my sexuality, and I am happier than I have ever been."

Another of the "19 True Stories" is told by Michael and Lauri Hahn, who started to rethink their Pill use when they had their first child baptized.

"When you promise to bring your child up in the faith, I thought, 'What am I promising here?'" One question led to another; eventually they decided to learn NFP.

Says Michael, "One of the biggest benefits of NFP has been the impact on our relationship, because conversation about the method opens us up. It becomes a conduit to a better relationship. We learned more about each other's fears and feelings, more so than when Lauri would just take a Pill

every day."

For Lauri, "The spiritual growth I have had these past few years, and the stronger relationship with Mike, have convinced me that NFP is one of the best things we could have done for our marriage."

"The great strength of NFP," concludes Doyle, "is that it requires a spouse to focus on what's best for the other and not on his /her own wants. And spouses do this in the most intimate aspect of their married lives... Natural Family Planning isn't a cure-all for the problems that plague couples. However, many couples attest that NFP promotes communication, commitment, mutual respect, faith in God and sexual compatibility. When it comes to a successful marriage, that's a pretty good place to start."

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The Holy Father offers a message about marriage

Young people need well-formed consciences

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Catholic Church must dedicate itself to properly forming and safeguarding the conscience of its faithful, especially young people so they can see God's plan for the sacrament of marriage as a great joy for the church and all of humanity, Pope Francis said.

The recent synods on marriage and the family, as well as the apostolic exhortation

on the family, "Amoris Laetitia," were focused on "how to save young people from the uproar and deafening noise of the ephemeral, which leads them to reject taking on stable and positive commitments for the individual and collective good," the pope said.

In a speech Jan. 29 to members of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, which mainly deals with appeals filed in marriage annulment cases, the pope examined the central role conscience plays

in the process of discerning the nullity or validity of the bond of marriage.

"The conscience takes on a decisive role in the demanding decisions engaged couples must face in accepting and building a conjugal union and family according to God's plan," he said.

That means all those involved in pastoral programs or ministry for marriage and the family need to dedicate themselves with renewed concern to helping engaged couples build and safeguard

"the inner sanctuary of their Christian conscience."

It is critical, the pope said, to help young people have a continuous experience of faith, hope and charity, so that they can recognize, "with a sure conscience, that the conjugal union, open to the gift of children, is a great joy for God, the church and humanity."

The conscience is that inner space "that only God enlightens and opens to life, if people let him in," the pope said.

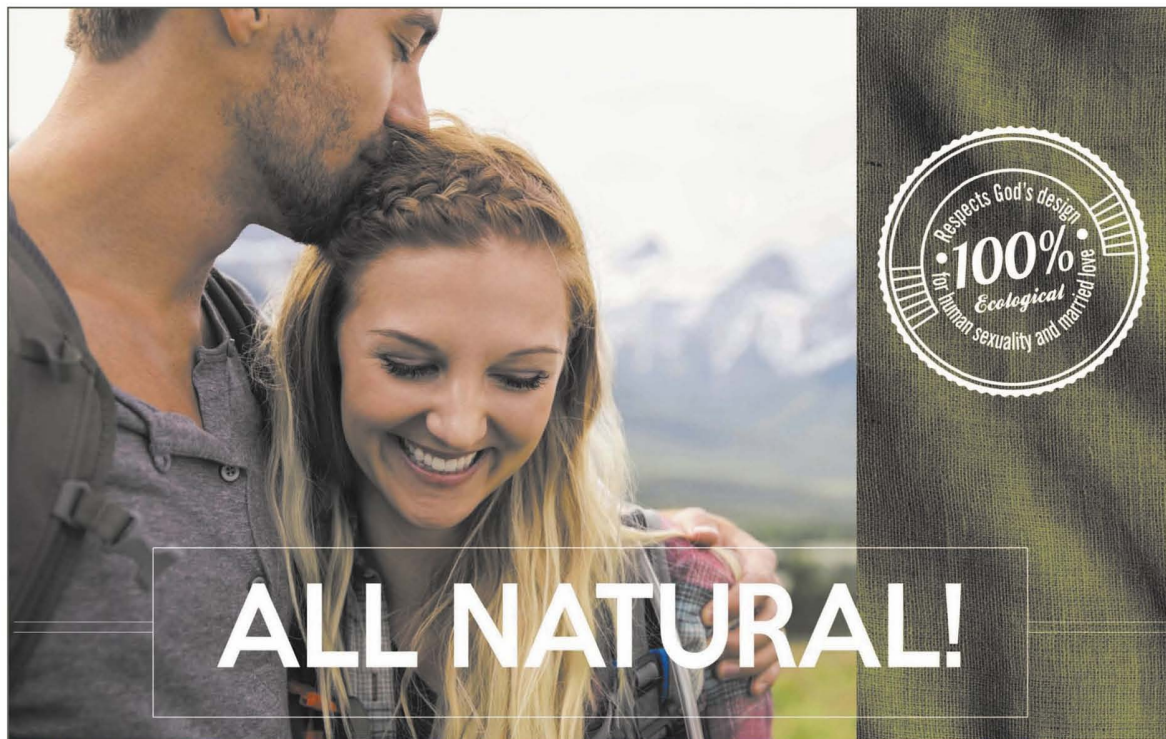
Pastoral activity dedicated to "the recovery, the protection and the care of a Christian conscience, enlightened by Gospel values," he said, is "so priceless and urgent" right now.

It is a long and difficult task that must involve bishops and priests who "tirelessly work for enlightening, defending and upholding the Christian conscience of our people."

The synods and exhortation made a key point, he said, about the "necessary relationship between the 'regula fidei' (rule of faith), that is, the church's faithfulness to the magisterium that must not be touched, as it is in regards to the Eucharist, and the urgent attention of the church to the psychological and religious processes of all people," who are called to choose a life of marriage, he said.

As discussed at the synods, a marriage catechumenate would be indispensable for reawakening the Christian conscience of young people and couples, he said. Fostering a lifelong, consistent formation, like with a "permanent catechumenate," would be necessary so the conscience of every baptized Catholic always be open to "the light of the Holy Spirit."

In this sense, the union of marriage "can be called true only if the human intention of the spouses is oriented toward that which Christ and the church wants," he said. Guiding couples so they will be aware of this will require the work of all church leaders, religious and the lay faithful, he said.



ALL NATURAL!

Natural Family Planning

Good for the body. Great for the soul!

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Diocesan NFP Office

www.rcdony.org/nfp

Email: apietropaoli@rcdony.org • Tel: 518-483-0459

For Your Marriage

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has launched a website, ForYourMarriage.org, offering resources and support for couples at every stage of marriage, as well as a section for family ministry leaders.

WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The Confirmation II Class from St. Peter's, St. Hedwig's, and St. Mary's Lowville, participated in a "Walking Stations of the Cross" at the Maple Ridge Center, Lowville. Some of the students read the Scriptures at the Stations; all composed their own intentions for a Station. A hot dog roast and conversation with Father Jay Seymour, pastor, was enjoyed by all. Pictured are Kali Foster, Kiley Zicari, Colden Pike, Kelsey Beyer, Kyla Reed, Kassandra Shackelford, Madison Houppert, Mikayla VanNest, Cole Reed, Deb Mullin, Father Jay Seymour, Ariel Wener, Hayden Beyer, Danny Fayle, Bobby Farney, Amy Beyer, Randy Helser and Sam Beyer.

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holiness of your Son, Jesus,
the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to
you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

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Day Offering
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March



MARCH

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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.myvocation.net

Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office

Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.



Saturday, April 14, 2018

Trinity Catholic School and Sacred Heart Church in Massena

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Speakers:

Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak

Cost: \$20 per person

The Department of Family Life, in conjunction with the Offices of Vocations and Evangelization, will present day-long workshop on Marriage and Family Life. Our Keynote speakers will be Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak. This conference aims to build up marriage and family life in the North Country and help married couples and those thinking of marriage understand the importance of the vocation of marriage as a path to holiness for themselves, their spouse and their children. The family is the basic building block of society, and as such, strengthening family life through strong and resilient marriages, helps build up a culture of love and stability.

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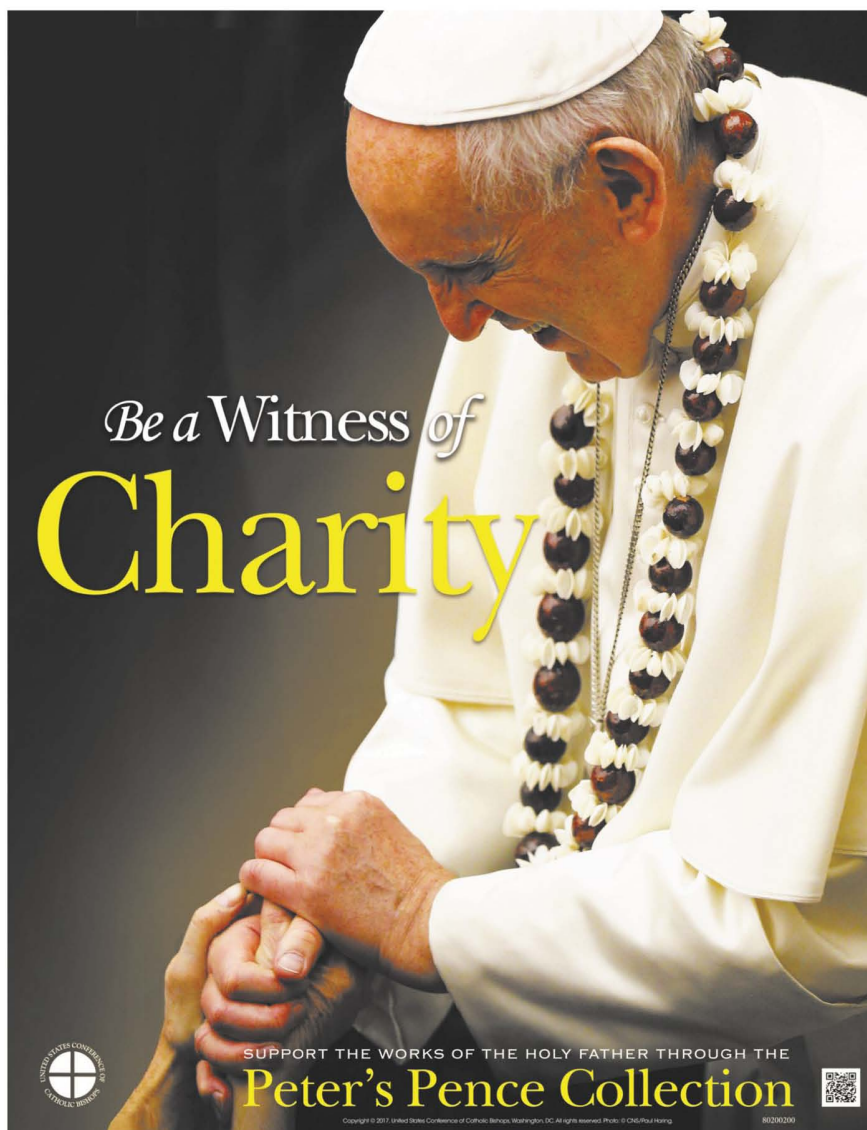
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Special note for anyone who is preparing for marriage or is married please check out the USCCB's web site. The materials and helpful articles are designed for helping build strong marriages. Every marriage matters, because marriage comes from the hand of God.

For more information on these events or programs, please contact the Steve Tartaglia at the Family Life Office 315-393-2920 or visit our website at www.rcdony.org/familylife





In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has called each of us to be a witness of charity. He encourages us to **"open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!"**

(Misericordiae Vultus [MV], no. 15).

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Collection Weekend: March 10 & 11

Cardinal speaks up for immigrants

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Leading with a story about his Irish grandmother who made Boston her home after leaving County Kerry, Ireland, New Jersey Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin urged Americans, in a Feb. 21 opinion piece in the on-line publication The Hill, to remember their family's immigrant roots.

He also voiced disappointment at attacks against immigrants lobbed by politicians and others who call themselves Christian.

"Over the past year, the level of vitriol directed to undocumented families has been astonishing," he wrote.

"Elected officials proclaim their hard-line stance on immigration as a badge of honor, even as some proclaim to be people of faith."

To lawmakers "who follow the Judeo-Christian tradition," he reminded them "of the millennial prohibition against persecuting the stranger as well as the fact that Jesus and his family were refugees."

He also took issue with those who use the words "chain migration," which groups such as the American Immigration Lawyers Association have called a "pejorative" term and a "misleading nativist buzzword" to describe "family-based migration." "There is nothing more hurtful to describe the human migration experience and its importance to society than to use a term such as 'chain migration,'" wrote the cardinal, who heads the Newark Archdiocese.

With disparaging words and actions, "we are witnessing an escalating display of hatred for undocumented individuals and families. We have stopped seeing the faces of our immigrant brothers and sisters, and the stories behind their faces," the cardinal wrote.

He reminded Americans that the number of family-based immigrants admitted to the U.S. each year "is not unchecked - it is limited by Congress. Due to congressional limits on migration, very rarely do family members who wish to come to the U.S. have the ability to simply apply for and receive a visa in a reasonable time period," he said.

Families wait for years and sometimes decades before being reunited with loved ones. And much like his family, they come seeking better lives, not intent on harming others.

Especially painful, he said, was watching the debate involving young adults who were brought to the U.S. as minors without proper documentation and who are often referred to as "Dreamers."

"It pains me to see the acrimonious debate involving undocumented youth," he said. "They were brought to this country as children, and now they're being forced to leave to score political points. We use the broad category of 'Dreamers,' but we should remove the statistics and highlight the faces and stories of those impacted by what can be perceived as open season on immigrants," he said.

Highlight the upcoming March 5 deadline Trump gave Congress to find a legislative solution that would help the young adults, the youth are "being portrayed in the media as pawns in a larger game," he said.

"It is clear we're a country that refuses to look at our own immigrant experience. But as a leader within the Catholic Church, I am compelled to speak up," he wrote. "My message to Congress and Americans who have forgotten their own immigrant story is simple: Look again and truly 'see' Dreamers, and then act in the best traditions of our history and of our faith."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholic schools, spared from mass school shootings, vigilant

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Eight days after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, a Catholic high school more than 1,000 miles away conducted an active shooter training - planned two months ago - that suddenly had added urgency. During the Feb. 22 training, teachers and administrators at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland, just outside of Washington, were asked when was the last time someone died in a school fire. The answer: 50 years ago. When asked when was the last time someone died in a mass school shooting the answer was last Wednesday. Reinforcement of safety drills and discussion and training about how to respond to crisis situations is something schoolteachers and administrators in public and private schools across the country have long been accustomed to since the 1999 school shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Catholic schools have not experienced mass shootings, but school leaders know they need to be continually vigilant by reviewing safety procedures and urging students to be responsible for each other.

Saints are 'regular people humbly living the Gospel'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Of the many tasks and challenges before the Catholic Church, the most important thing is to help people be holy, the papal preacher said. Everything the church does -- the sacraments, ministries, documents, pastoral initiatives -- must serve this goal, said Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, explaining the theme of the Lenten meditations he will offer to Pope Francis and members of the Roman Curia. The theme of his Friday reflections, held from Feb. 23 to March 23, is St. Paul's invitation to "clothe yourselves with Christ." Saints are regular people, not superheroes, the preacher told the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Feb. 22. Saints are humble disciples of Christ and are "clothed in him," he said. One thing that is amazing, he said, is the great variety of different kinds of saints there are. "God is able to make saints out of all kinds of cloth, to make his flowers bloom in every climate, even the most hostile." "Saints are the Gospel lived out; they are the ones who make the church credible," he said.

Rev. Graham dies; famous evangelist was admired by most

MONTREAT, N.C. (CNS) -- The Rev. Billy Graham, a fiery Baptist preacher who was easily the most famous evangelist of the 20th century and for decades one of the world figures most admired by Americans, died early Feb. 21 at his home in Montreat, according to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He was 99. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for many years, although he continued to lead crusades until 2005, when he held his last one in New York. In recent years, he also suffered from cancer, pneumonia and other ailments. Rev. Graham will lie in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda Feb. 28-March 1. Senate Majority Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, will receive the casket with his body when it arrives at the Capitol and will take part in a bicameral service. Members of the public will be able to pay their respects. Rev. Graham will be the first private citizen to lie in honor on Capitol Hill since civil rights heroine Rosa Parks in 2005. His body will be returned to North Carolina for his funeral March 2 at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte. The service will be private and by invitation only.

Pope to young people: Take the World Youth Day challenge

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- It's time to break free from fear, fake on-line personas and looking at the world through a digital screen display, Pope Francis told young people.

"Do not allow the spark of youth to be extinguished in the darkness of a closed room in which the only window to the outside world is a computer and smartphone," the pope told youths in his annual message for local celebrations of World Youth Day.

"Open wide the doors of your life! May your time and space be filled with meaningful relationships, real people with whom to share your authentic and concrete experiences of daily life," he said in the message, published Feb. 22 at the Vatican.

In preparation for the next international celebration of World Youth Day - which will be held in Panama Jan. 22-27, 2019 - many dioceses will have their own celebrations Palm Sunday, March 25.

The Panama gathering will focus on Mary's response to the angel Gabriel's announcement that God had chosen her to bear the child Jesus: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." The 2018 theme chosen by Pope Francis is the angel's reassurance, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Many young people today are afraid -- afraid of never being accepted, of finding a good job and even of their real selves, the pope said in his message.

"Today, there are many young people who feel the need to be different from

who they really are, in an attempt to adapt to an often artificial and unattainable standard," he wrote. "They continuously 'photo-shop' their images, hiding behind masks and false identities, almost becoming fake selves."

This sense of inadequacy is the root of many uncertainties and even obsessions, such as "receiving as many 'likes' as possible" on social media, he added.

No one is exempt from doubt or fear, which even can be seen in the Bible in the lives of Mary, Moses, Abraham, the apostles and many others, he said. In fact, he added, the biggest obstacle to faith in God is often fear, not skepticism.

The only way forward is to face one's fears head on, identify them clearly and come to terms with them, he said, "so as not to find yourself wasting time and energy by being gripped by empty and faceless ghosts."

People have to act, which requires faith in God and his grace, otherwise fear and doubt will make people "become inward-looking and closed off to defend ourselves from everything and everyone, and we will remain paralyzed," he said.

The pope told young people to look for God in prayerful silence and the sacraments so they could

draw on the needed courage, wisdom and grace, and to turn to members of the church for encouragement and support.

God is always there to help everybody, he said. He does not ask people to present a stellar resume of their lives, "full of merits and successes."

Receiving God's grace will not mean life's problems will disappear, he said, "but it does have the power to transform our life deeply."

"The unknown that tomorrow holds for us is not a dark threat we need to overcome, but a favorable time given to us for living out the uniqueness of our personal vocation, and for sharing it with our brothers and sisters in the church and in the world," he said.

Being with others on life's journey is always key, he said, because it helps unlock one's own gifts, inspires dreams and opens new horizons.



"Never lose the enthusiasm of enjoying others' company and friendship, as well as the pleasure of dreaming together, of walking together," he said.

That is why it is so important young people break out of the "darkness of closed room" and the virtual world so as to experience meaningful relationships with real people, he said.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Lent: time to bring faith into the public square

Our readings for this Sunday are heavy with righteous anger, calling us to justice.

In the first reading, we have Moses coming down the mountain bearing the ten commandments of a new covenant. They had been fused in fire and smoke on two stone tablets.

As you recall, Moses broke those tablets in his anger when he found the people worshipping a golden calf! Only when he had "cooled down," and the people had repented, did he make two more tablets, writing down

God's words from memory.

The first three commandments told the people that there is only one God, and Him alone should they worship every seventh day.

If they were faithful to God, then the other seven commandments, commanding right relationships with their neighbor; would be easy.

Just as Moses had displayed righteous anger because of the people's injustice, so we witness the righteous anger of Jesus toward their lack of respect for His Father's house.

What a scene he creates,

overturning tables, driving people and animals helter-skelter in all directions!

Once he has "cleaned house", He himself takes possession of the temple, and begins to teach the people. Of course, the Pharisees object at once, demanding a sign that he has authority to do these things.

What a sign he gave! "Destroy this temple (meaning His Body), and I will rebuild it in three days".

Only when he broke through the rock of his tomb on Easter Sunday, did even his apostles understand what he meant.

There is a place for "righteous anger" in this year's Lenten journey.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MARCH 4

Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

The U.S. Bishops are angry with the attempt of our government to force Catholic hospitals and charitable organizations to violate their consciences by paying for contraception and medications leading to abortion for workers that they must insure.

Are we angry with our legislators for failing to treat immigrants justly in regards

to their human dignity and aspirations for education, health, and security as persons? Are we angry enough to protest loudly?

Are we angry at the poverty of so many of our citizens because of inability to find work or pay for transportation to get to work?

Are we angry at the many shootings in our schools, with little efforts to change really ineffective gun laws!

The readings for this Third Sunday provide much to help us shape our prayer, our fasting, and our almsgiving this year.

Lent is a time for Catholics to bring their faith into the public square.

VATICAN LETTER

An inspiring pope.... man of joy.... future saint

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - While Pope Francis thinks Blessed Paul VI wrote "the greatest pastoral document that has ever been written," great writing does not make a pope a saint.

A saint is a person who has lived a holy life to an extraordinary degree. The Catholic Church officially has recognized thousands of women and men as saints, and it honors millions more, unnamed and unnoticed, on All Saints Day each November.

Pope Francis said in mid-February that he would add Blessed Paul VI to the host of formally proclaimed saints this year.

Particularly after the death of St. John Paul II, the pastoral wisdom of canonizing popes has been the object of debate. After all, one reason for so publicly and formally recognizing a person as a saint is to provide modern Catholics with models to imitate in their own striving for holy living, and the life of a pope is not exactly that of an average Catholic.

But the Catholic Church also canonizes certain women and men to highlight specific Christian virtues at a specific time.

For example, while it obviously was not the only reason, the canonization of St. John Paul II in 2014 - just nine years after his death - could be seen as affirming before the world the dignity and value of human life even when it is obviously fragile. And the canonization of St. Teresa

of Kolkata in 2016, during the Year of Mercy, highlighted how receiving God's mercy should lead to sharing it with others, particularly in concrete works of mercy.

Pope Francis often speaks of
Pope Paul VI's influence on him

That Pope Francis has a similar point to make about Pope Paul VI, who led the church from 1963 to 1978, can be seen in comments he has made about his predecessor throughout the five years of his own papacy.

The remarks go well beyond his repeated praise for "the greatest pastoral document that has ever been written," a reference to "Evangelii Nuntiandi," the 1975 apostolic exhortation on evangelization in the modern world. Pope Francis' own "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel") pays tribute to it, not just in its title, but in its whole focus on the obligation of every Christian to "go out," joyfully sharing the faith with others.

Asked by Catholic News Service about the commonalities between Pope Francis and Blessed Paul, Father Carlos Maria Galli, dean of the faculty of theology at the Catholic University of Argentina, sent a 29-page essay he wrote on the topic. The central point of contact, he said, is "the communion of both with the Good Shepherd and on the mission of communicating the joy of Christ."

Father Galli identified a long list of commonalities, including: their devotion to the Scriptures and the Eucharist; sensitivity to modern cultures; commitment to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council; "a great ecumenical heart" and commitment to interreligious dialogue; and, "above all, a life shaped by pastoral charity."

For both, he said, a bishop or priest must be "a shepherd who goes before, beside and behind the flock entrusted to them."

Members of the flock, however, can and do disagree with their shepherd. The very public criticism of both popes is another thing the two share. For Pope Paul VI, the criticism honed in on the Second Vatican Council and, especially, on "Humanae Vitae," his 1968 encyclical on married love that included a reaffirmation of church teaching against artificial contraception.

For Pope Francis, it's a pastoral style that seems to downplay rules and regulations; that is particularly true with the question of Communion for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics.

"After 'Humanae Vitae,' many difficulties and misunderstandings emerged that were the result of all of the tension accumulated in the first years after the council," said Msgr. Gilfredo Marengo, a professor of theological anthropology at Rome's Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family and leader of a group of scholars researching how and why Pope Paul wrote the encyclical.

Paul VI was well aware of the upheaval and "suffered greatly because of it," Msgr. Marengo

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

GAME NIGHT

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Family values and much enjoyable humor are offset by numerous distasteful jokes and an excess of vulgar language in the comedy "Game Night" (Warner Bros.).

The final score?

Directors John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein's film makes acceptable viewing for at least a few grownups.

Competition-loving Max (Jason Bateman) and Annie (Rachel McAdams) cherish the frequent game nights they share with fellow couple Kevin (Lamorne Morris) and Michelle (Kylie Bunbury), bachelor Ryan (Billy Magnussen) and Ryan's date du jour.

Though their policeman neighbor Gary (Jesse Plemons) and his ex-wife used to be part of the mix as well, his painful divorce has accentuated Gary's peculiari-

ties, and they now shun him.

The ensemble's placid evenings of fun are suddenly shaken up by the arrival in town of Max's suave, domineering brother, Brooks (Kyle Chandler), a highly successful businessman of whom Max has always been jealous.

In lieu of Risk or charades, Brooks arranges for something closer to a murder mystery party: a fake kidnapping that Max, Annie and their friends will have to vie with each other to solve.

As the audience realizes before the characters do, however, something all-too-authentically criminal soon begins to unfold amid the entertainment.

Though the film's premise rests on an unlikely coincidence, some of the comedy it facilitates definitely works. Plemons, for instance, is hilarious as the awkward, vaguely sinister

Gary.

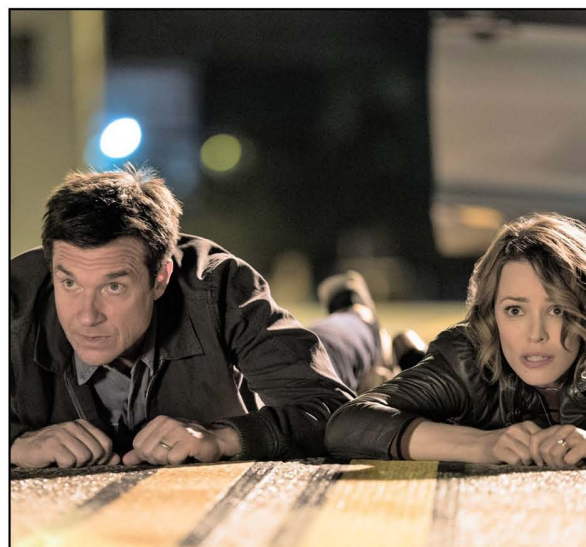
Less welcome is the fact that the often-wayward humor includes a few sight gags that are quite gory.

Despite its tendency to go astray, though, screenwriter Mark Perez's script does promote a positive view of marriage and parenthood.

Additionally, Brooks' materialistic lifestyle is shown in a negative light while Ryan's taste for the company of bimbos is challenged when he invites brainy co-worker Sarah (Sharon Horgan) to join him on the fateful night and, despite themselves, they begin to fall for each other.

Though bedroom jokes and a surfeit of cuss words make it far too gamy for kids --as well as for most of their elders - such redeeming factors keep the movie from being deemed inappropriate fare for anyone.

The film contains much sexual humor, more than a dozen uses of profanity and



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Jason Bateman and Rachel McAdams star in a scene from the movie "Game Night."

several milder oaths and pervasive rough and crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.

Inspiring

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

told CNS. "Evangelii Nuntiandi" was his attempt to close a problematic season in the life of the church - a season in which opposition to 'Humanae Vitae' was just the most noticeable sign - and set the church again on the path of mission and evangelization."

In "Amoris Laetitia," his document on the family, Pope Francis cites "Humanae Vitae" as Pope Paul VI's contribution to church teaching on marriage and family life.

The fact that Pope Francis quotes the document "excludes any formal distancing by Francis from this part of the magisterium of Paul VI," Msgr. Marengo said, apparently responding to per-

sistent rumors among a small group of Catholics that Pope Francis, with Msgr. Marengo's help, was preparing to "lift the ban" on artificial birth control.

Speaking to a group of pilgrims from Brescia, Italy, Pope Paul's home diocese, Pope Francis said his predecessor had "experienced to the full the church's travail after the Second Vatican

Council: the lights, the hopes, the tensions. He loved the church and expended himself for her, holding nothing back."

And, beatifying Pope Paul in 2014, Pope Francis noted that even in the face of "a secularized and hostile society," Pope Paul "could hold fast, with farsightedness and wisdom - and at times alone - to the helm of the

barque of Peter while never losing his joy and his trust in the Lord."

Pope Francis referred to him as "this great pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle," who demonstrated a "humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his church."

Those are qualities that make a saint.



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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

CLINTON

OPEN HOUSE

Plattsburgh - Open Houses to be held for Seton Academy and Seton Catholic.

Schedule Seton Catholic: March 8, 4 p.m. 5th grade parents; Grades 6-12 are welcome from 5 p.m. to 7

Seton Academy: March 15, 6 p.m. to 7, Grades Pre-K - 5th Grade

Features: Meet teachers, students and get a glimpse into all that makes Seton Catholic a great place

FISH FRY

Chazy - Sacred Heart parish to have their annual all you can eat Fish Fry.

Date: March 16

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

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$11; Children 6-12, \$5; All Take-outs, \$11

GUYS AND DOLLS

Plattsburgh - Seton Catholic to present Guys and Dolls, Jr.

Date: March 23 at 7 p.m.; March 24 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Contact: Tickets are available at Bob's Music, Pearl Physical Therapy, and the Party Factory or by calling 518-561-4031 ext. 2555

BECOME A HOST PARENT

Plattsburgh - International students from around the world attend Seton Catholic to improve their English skills and immerse themselves in American culture. Host families are needed

Features: Host parents receive a generous stipend, a handbook and 24/7 support for guidance

Contact: Cara Chapman, Director of International Students, at cchapman@thesetonschools.org or 518-561-4031 ext. 2004 with questions or for an application

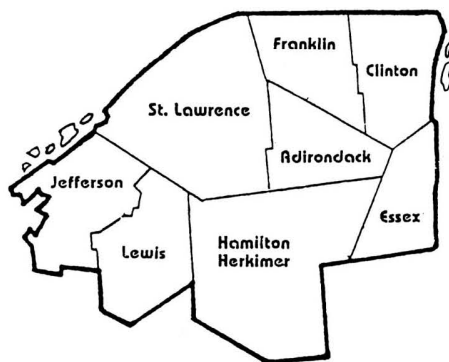
LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Peru - Lenten Day of Recollection to be held with Bishop LaValley.

Date: March 3

Time: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Church



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.

Cost: A donation of \$10/person is suggested to help defray expenses.

Features: Bishop Terry LaValley, Fathers Alan Shnob, Timothy Cnaan, Albert Hauser and Jack Downs and Deacon David Clark present talks, prayer, personal witness and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lunch will be provided. Bishop LaValley to celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Pre-registration is requested by Feb. 26. Mail: Ken and Kathy Racette, 679 Cumberland Head Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901; E-mail: racette@gmail.com, kracette1a@gmail.com; or phone: 518-314-1505 518-578-3056

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: Mar. 4 & 25; Apr. 8 & 22; May 6.

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's

Features: discussion, prayer, dinner.

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

LENTEN 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 offers a simple, practical and humorous journey designed to help us grow stronger in relationship with God and one another.

Contact: 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.

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

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

ALBUMS NEEDED

Plattsburgh - Seton school is in need of 33 record albums from the 1970's for use as decorations for the Saturday Night Fever Gala, April 14th.

Contact: Susan Pellerin at spellerin@thesetonschools.org.

LENTEN 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.

ESSEX

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Elizabethtown - The annual St. Patrick's Dinner sponsored by the St. Elizabeth's Parish to be held.

Date: March 11

Time: 2 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$12; children under 12, \$5

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

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

CARING FOR CREATION

Old Forge - A program "Caring for Creation" by Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ to be held.

Date: March 5

Schedule: 5:15 p.m. Mass, Potluck Supper and 6:30 p.m. presentation.

Place: St. Bartholomew's Church

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar Rosary to have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: March 22

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

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

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

ADDICTION RECOVERY

Watertown - The SSJ Social Justice Committee, the Faith Community Nurses, and Jefferson County Alliance for Better Communities is hosting a panel discus-

sion 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

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. 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

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

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org



Sister Mary Ellen Brett is pictured with the Martin family. Paul and Veronica met in Mollendo, Peru, and are now raising their children, Valerie and Paul, Jr., in Connecticut. Sister Mary Ellen shares their story here.

Loving connection

Paul Martin of Connecticut and Veronica Sanchez of Peru, South America were married in 2008. They received the Sacrament of Matrimony following a relationship that began in Mollendo, Peru.

In May 2003, I was invited by Father George Maroun, then Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru. The Peruvians were happy to see their former pastor, Father Maroun, and other diocesan priests who traveled to Mollendo for the celebration.

The Peruvians warmly welcomed us with dancing and native food. One young lady, Veronica, was telling me about herself and hoping to learn some English while I was venturing to understand some Spanish.

Veronica invited Paul Martin into the conversation. Paul became very interested in Veronica's story. Likewise, Veronica wanted to know something about Paul. She quickly asked, "Is Paul a priest?" I assured her that he wasn't; he was the great nephew of Father Roger Martin who was one of the first priests from the diocese to serve in Mollendo. The brief introduction led to Veronica and Paul "Samba Dancing" the night away.

Paul returned to the USA and time passed each hoping that they would receive a letter from the other. Finally, Veronica wrote to Paul and the correspondence continued through letters, emails and the sharing of family pictures. Paul visited Veronica in Mollendo several times.

Never doubting their love for each other, there were mixed feelings about marriage for them with the distance between North America and South America, the language barrier and the cultural differences. Over time the relationship grew into plans for marriage with blessings from their parents.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

OBITUARIES

Chazy – Benjamin Gregware, 41; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church.

Clayton – Dr. John S. Eppolito, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Gouverneur – Paul Roeser, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2018 at St. James Church.

Lake Placid – Robert Raymond Reiss, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 21, 2018 at St. Agnes Church.

Malone – Jean Margaret (Sprague) Hyde, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Cathy (Martin) Clary, 59; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2018 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Olin J. Fountain, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Betty Lou Squier, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 26, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Norfolk – Brian P. Trombley, 20; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2018 at the Buck Funeral Home.

Norfolk – Kester Lawrence Wells, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 24, 2018 at Church of the Visitation.

Norfolk – Alan J. Woodall, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2018 at Church of

the Visitation; burial Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – William Delvalle, 64; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2018 at Buck Funeral Home; burial Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood – Dale Joseph Wells, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 24, 2018 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Ogdensburg – Dian D. (Bastien) Fitzgerald, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 16, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg – Brian "Bubba" W. Willard, 45; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2018 at Frary Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Roland A. Blaise Sr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 21, 2018 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – James F. Judkins, Jr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Mary's of

the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Plattsburgh – Kathleen M. (Frennier) Lozier, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Sackets Harbor – Florence M. (Saur) Olshfski, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2018 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery.

Watertown – Dominic A. "Mego" Doldo, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2018 at St. Anthony's Church; burial Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Helen M. (Wetsig) Garnesey, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2018 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

Watertown – Margaret A. "Peggy Ann" Ryan, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery

Diocesan Directory



The Official 2018 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me, how You are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3X).

With grateful thanks, M.A.L.

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

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

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

Dates: 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.

ST. LAWRENCE

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

Massena - A Lenten Day of Reflection to be held by the SLFA CLM Association.

Date: March 10

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. with Mass to follow

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Our guest speaker will be Dr. John Levison. Lunch will be provided and there is no fee for this event

Contact: To register, please contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315 393-2920, Ext. 1413 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

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: 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.

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.

EUCARISTIC 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

ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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.

YOUTH RALLY

Canton - The annual diocesan Youth Rally to be held for young people in 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

PERUVIAN CONNECTION



From left are Maria Claverias, Father Stephen Rocker, Paul and Veronica Martin, and their children, Valerie and Paul, Jr. The Martins live in Baltic, Connecticut. Veronica had lived in Mollendo, Peru before marrying Paul. Maria is from Mollendo, and was visiting the Martins as well as Father Rocker in Colton, and Father James Seymour in Lowville during her visit to the United States. In this week's Mission Column, Sister Mary Ellen Brett, diocesan Mission Director, writes about the love that blossomed between Paul Martin, a nephew of Father Roger Martin, one of the first missionaries to the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate in Mollendo, Peru; and Veronica. Father Rocker and Father Seymour were among more than 20 diocesan priests who served as missionaries in Mollendo.

Loving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

In May 2008 Veronica Sanchez became Mrs. Paul Martin in Paul's home parish in Connecticut.

Recently reflecting upon their ten year marriage, Veronica and Paul attest to their love for each other. They are forever grateful that God brought them together through Father Maroun's invitation to Paul to join the mission trip.

They now know the value of corresponding over a period of time considering the cultural challenges that were ahead of them. They have two children, Valerie, eight years old and Paul, Jr. seven years old who are growing and learning to live complementing different cultures.

They admit that for them speaking two different languages, communication can be a challenge. They have had to learn different ways to see life and understand and solve problems. That challenge is not always easy.

Paul and Veronica do know and speak openly that the faith and love that God has put in their hearts is what they have in common and that is what brings hope and happiness into their marriage.

We know that every couple has a story of how they met. We trust that through the Sacrament of Matrimony, that God who truly brought them together will be their source of strength in sorrows and joys.

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