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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 36

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 7, 2018

## Real-time help from God

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** - Listening to the Scripture readings at Mass is hearing God speak directly to his people, offering spiritual sustenance and needed guidance for life's difficult journey, Pope Francis said.

For that reason, the prescribed texts should never be

skipped or substituted during the Mass, lectors should read clearly and people should always listen with an open heart so that the words may eventually bear fruit in good deeds, the pope said at his weekly general audience Jan. 31

. Continuing his series of

audience talks on the Mass, Pope Francis spoke about the Liturgy of the Word and the importance of listening to the Bible readings at Mass. "In the Liturgy of the Word, in fact, the pages of the Bible stop being something written and become the living word, delivered by God him-

self," the pope said.

As the readings are proclaimed, people in the pews should be silent and receptive, opening their hearts and minds to what is being said, not looking around or making small talk and criticizing what other people are wearing, he said.

## Decades of marching



Colleen Miner, who with her husband, John, directs respect life ministry in the diocese, wrote about her 22 years of walking in the annual March for Life in Washington. Above, she is shown at the march with Dale Barr of Cornwall, Ontario, who has spoken in the diocese about her regret over an abortion.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## 'On fire for life'

Two young adults who traveled to Washington for the March for Life share their unique perspective

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## YOUNG PRO-LIFERS ON THE MARCH



PHOTO BY CANDACE O'NEILL

Two Youth Buses for Life traveled from all points in the Diocese of Ogdensburg carrying teenagers and their chaperones to the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Bishop LaValley also traveled to Washington and met up with the group. He is shown above with some of the teenagers. Among the young marchers were members of the Diocesan Youth Council who were invited to write about their experiences. The reflections of three of them appear on page 4.

## CONSECRATED LIFE DAY

Held on Feb. 2



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

St. Joseph Sisters Marie Cordata Kelly and Mary Paul Blank, shown during the 2017 Religious Jubilee are two of the consecrated religious who serve in the diocese. Consecrated men and women reflect the light of Christ and are witnesses to that light "in a world that is often shrouded in shadow," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, said Jan. 29 as the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "They are the glory of God's people. We pray for the perseverance of consecrated men and women and ask God to continue enriching the church with their unique vocation."

**VALENTINE'S DAY-ASH WEDNESDAY:** Roses are red, ashes are gray... p. 10



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Of life and love and letters

Before we move too far into the second month of the year, the NCC is taking a look back at one of the signature events of the first month. Once again, hundreds of Catholics from the North Country spent days away from home to participate in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The pages of this week's paper are filled with photos and reflections from teenagers, young adults and from our diocesan director of respect life ministry who participated in the march for the 22nd time.

Back in the 1990's, Colleen Miner and her husband, John, walked with their three little girls. This year, two of those girls and two of their grandchildren were among the hundreds of thousands on the streets of D.C.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

This year the marchers were encouraged by the youthfulness of the crowd and the support of the president. Forty-five years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion across the country, they see more reason for hope than ever.

But, the wisest among them know that marching is not

enough. Just days after the march, the New York State Catholic Conference issued a "memorandum of opposition" to Governor Andrew Cuomo's bill which would strip all mention of abortion in New York State's laws.

The consequences would include:

- Expansion of late-term abortion, allowing abortion at any time during a pregnancy, for any reason
- Empowering non-doctors to perform abortions
- Eliminations of protections for pregnant women against coerced abortion or intentional assaults on their unborn child
- Legalization of infanticide for babies who might (mistake-

only) be born alive

•Increase in the state's abortion rate.

The Catholic Conference (which represents all the bishops of New York State) asks every Catholic to "Please let your State Senator know that they must not allow the state budget to be used as a vehicle for making late-term abortions more available and legalizing infanticide."

A visit to nyscatholic.org website will provide all the information about the issue (and other critical Catholic priorities) and offer a quick and easy way to let legislators know what you think.

You don't need to leave home to make your voice heard!

## FATHER MUENCH SAYS

## If today, you hear his voice...

I am sure you are aware that the Scripture readings for the Sunday Masses are assigned on a three-year cycle. So, every three years, we begin again using the same series of readings.

Personally, that means that some of my favorites come up often again.

Recently, one of my favorite psalm responses from Psalm 95 was used at Mass: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

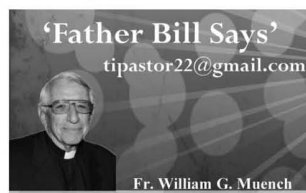
I have ideas for a homily that I use every time that this response appears.

"If today you hear his voice" – some are surprised at this response.

How can any of us experience hearing the voice of God?

I believe there are innumerable ways for the voice of God to come to us, for us to discover the message of the Lord. Though not actually hearing the actual voice of God – it is just as if we heard the actual voice of God.

One way in which we certainly hear the voice of God is in Sacred Scripture. The



Gospels bring us the voice of Jesus telling us the stories that he used to teach us God's message.

At times of personal prayer, if we listen carefully we should recognize God's voice, God's message.

At Mass, the voice of God comes through the actions of our liturgy.

Often someone, like a friend or a family member will share with us something that surprisingly seems to come from God. Children are so good at coming up with a divine message. It even seems like the voice of God.

Personally, I truly believe, from my own experience, that God has a message for each of us each and every day - sometimes an encouragement,

sometimes a challenge.

Often at the end of the day, I look back at something I have done or said that was simply perfect. I know it was the Lord – guiding and helping me – speaking to me.

In the Gospels, Jesus makes it clear that he will be with us to show us the way. He will be with us like a friend.

"Harden not your hearts" – there are times when we literally block out the voice of the Lord. Our psalm tells us that this is when we "harden our hearts." Hearing the Lord is the action of the heart. To find God, we must have a loving heart, a heart that is alive in faith.

At the Last Supper, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to us and make an abode in our hearts. When our hearts are hardened, we will

lose touch with Our Savior.

Jesus came to this world to soften our hearts so that we can find the presence of God. Jesus gives each of us the opportunity to soften the hearts of others, by the way we live our lives, living like Jesus, by the way we treat others, by saying and doing the right thing. In this way as disciples of Jesus, we make the world a better place.

It is all about gratitude. Our Lord and Savior, came to this world to live with us and die for us. Jesus rose to new life for us through his resurrection.

Jesus comes to walk with us and be our friends – bringing us God's message of love and peace – bringing us the voice of God.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

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## SUPPORT FOR SEMINARIANS



**ABOVE**  
Fourth graders at Immaculate Heart Elementary in Watertown created pop-up valentines in art class for their classroom seminarians, Nicholas Olley and Carter Pierce. Olly of Carthage and Pierce of Heuvelton are both students at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. For the fourth graders, Jean Stowell is the classroom teacher and Linda Chamberlain is the art teacher.



PHOTO BY PETER STETSON

**LEFT**  
January 27 marked a defining moment in the priestly formation of seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum - including Matthew Conger of Ogdensburg - as Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, admitted them to Candidacy for Holy Orders. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy is celebrated when a seminarian, usually in his second year of graduate study, has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination. In the presence of the bishop, he publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end, so that he will serve Christ and the Church faithfully. Conger is pictured with Bishop Campbell and Msgr. Christopher J. Schreck, rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

## Ash Wednesday collection set

Parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14.

### For the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Donations to this collection, support the Church in over 25 nations still struggling to recover from the oppression of communist rule.

Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, seminary formation and poverty outreach programs.

More information is available at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).



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# YOUNG FAITH



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

**Two Youth Buses for Life** traveled from points in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19. In addition to the march the young people gathered for Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and toured the Holocaust Museum. Among those representing the southeastern corner of the diocese were Alisa Barror, chaperone, with Sienna Secor and Danielle Ramirez of Schroon Lake and James Burke of Ticonderoga.



Father Martin Cline, pastor in Adams and Henderson, is shown at the Lincoln Memorial with students from Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, John Tyler, Michael Mitchell, Matt Murdock, Christopher Kiser, Dominic Duah, Avery Rabb and Megan Welch.

## Diocesan teenagers on the March for Life

### Maureen Pierce, Heuvelton:

This was my second year on the March for Life, but even though I'd been before, the power still affected me in an important way. It is always amazing to see just how many people care about this cause. At school, pretty much all of my friends think that abortion should be legal, and with what seems like the vast majority on the wrong side

of truth, it feels like we'll never get this atrocity revoked. But then, at the rally, when the President of the United States spoke to us, supporting our work, I felt inspired to work even harder for our goal. It made me so happy that I came, and to want to come every year, as long as we need to march for the unborn.

Something different this year that happened was that I actually talked to some fellow marchers. Behind us were a group from Nashville, TN. Last year, there were many people around us, but nobody was really interacting. When I got to have a conversation with other faithful, the mission felt different, and more

connected. The realness of the other people fighting for the same cause only served to buoy my spirits more to hope that very soon we will see a truly pro-life generation.

### Giara LeRoy, Malone:

My favorite part about going on the March for life is listening to the speakers during the rally before. Some of their stories are very moving. My favorite this year was lady that said when she went to the doctors, they said she had no chance at having this baby and that she needed to abort it and abort soon or she could die. But she didn't they thought of different

way to make the baby survive and they ended up with a beautiful little girl that was standing next to her on stage.

This story truly moved me because she never gave up hope even when everyone said she should. I also enjoy seeing all the other teens there that share the same thoughts on abortion as I do. It's good to see us all sticking together.

### Nick LaPoint, Watertown:

The March for Life was a great experience and was truly eye opening despite it being my second time going. Other than how great it was to see so many friends from Guggenheim

that I've made in the past, this year the Holocaust Museum had the greatest impact on me. Outside the museum hangs a sign that reads 'Never Again'.

For myself and thousands of others who went to there that weekend we understood that in America the holocaust of abortion is still happening and just like during Nazi Germany the Catholic church is willing to stand against the atrocity of abortion. We are all called to help other understand the lies behind abortion that are being told in America and across the world because just like the Holocaust society will eventually have to recognize the truth.

### Editor's note

**Members of the Diocesan Youth Council** Were among more than 100 passengers on the 2018 Youth Buses for Life. Here, three share their impressions of the March for Life in Washington, D.C.



*Respect life director looks back on 22 years of marching for life*

# Leading the 'pro-life generation'

**By Colleen Miner**

Diocesan director, respect life ministry

Twenty-two years ago when I attended my first March for Life in Washington, DC, I had no idea it would become a yearly pilgrimage. I was simply taking part in an event with my husband and three young children (the youngest was n't even walking yet) that my in-laws had mentioned.

I was amazed at what I saw. This was a big movement with many different groups. Some were silent, a few had megaphones, some were praying, others were singing.

There were all types of signs - manufactured and homemade - indicating their group or the message they wished to convey. This aspect of the March has not changed but the size and age of the crowd has. This year's estimated attendance was half a million; the overwhelming majority of attendees was in their teens and twenties. The sign I saw most often while walking in the 45th annual March for Life down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court was "I Am the Pro-Life Generation".

## A different perspective

It wasn't until I got home that I realized that I have marched in nearly half of all the DC Marches for Life. And I never marched alone - until this year.

While our travels to DC have grown from our mini-van to two mini-vans to a 15-seater van to half of a bus to one bus to what is now The Youth Buses for Life - with over 100 high school students and chaperones traveling from the North Country to DC for the three-day pilgrimage, I was always surrounded by family and friends



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

**Ellen Miner of Saranac Lake, a student at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland; and Leagon Carlin, of Plattsburgh, a diocesan seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, were among the tens of thousands of college students at the 2018 March for Life in Washington. Ellen's parents, John and Colleen Miner of Saranac Lake, are directors of the diocesan Respect Life office. Here, Mrs. Miner looks back on 22 years of marching for life, noting that Ellen joined them before she could walk.**

But this year, I went further forward at the Rally before the March to get some photos and when I returned, the group had moved. Phone circuits were overloaded, calls could not be completed and texts were not being delivered. So, I walked alone.

I didn't mind. After 22 years, I knew where I was going and where our group would meet. I welcomed the opportunity to think.

Earlier in the day, our group had done something we had never done before - we visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum before the March for Life. We had visited as a group before but never the day we marched. We had made the correlation between abortion and the holocaust, even knew that abortion is referred to as a hidden holocaust and is the

human injustice issue of our day. But this year, the tour was different for me.

## Form a single line...

Our group was asked to form a single line before entering the memorial to make going through the metal detectors easier. We placed our belongings in bins and were given an identification card that read: "For the dead and the living we must bear witness." Each card was different and told the story of a real person who lived during the Holocaust. The last page told whether your person survived, or not.

Next, as leader of the group, it was my job to line up everyone on the stairs in rows of four, before we were led to the room where the memorial was explained to us.

I thought about how this

memorial was dedicated to those who formed single lines, placed their belongings in bins, were placed in groups before being led to death.

It was ironic that we were referred to by the museum workers as the Youth Buses for Life as we were surrounded by memories of death.

Much like the abortion holocaust of our day, the victims of the Holocaust were largely unknown to the world. The powers-that-be only shared the information that they wanted the world to know. Many had no idea what was going on and some who packed as if they were going on a holiday.

Who would have imagined that such a horrific taking of innocent life could go unnoticed for so long - that groups of people would be so discriminated against

and found so inconvenient and inadequate that they would be killed?

The Holocaust memorial has a room of shoes belonging to victims. Another room has an examination table and two ovens. Following that is a large photo of human hair that had been packed into 40 lb bags for resale.

In the middle of the museum is a tower of photos, smiling faces, young and old, photos of victims from the floor to the ceiling. It's only after your eye follows the photos up, that you realize they are in the shape of a chimney. There is a wooden ghetto handcart used to stack victims who were starved or died from sickness and even a full size replica of a cattle car used to transport the holocaust victims to their deaths.

## Abortion Memorial Museum?

It made me wonder what might be included in an Abortion Memorial Museum - it's not unreasonable to believe there will be one someday.

Over 60 million have lost their lives since the US Supreme Court decision in 1973. We only know what the media shares with us. People line up, even bring their daughters, girlfriends, spouses to the abortion clinic, to have a member of their family killed.

We have learned recently that aborted baby parts are sold. We see the photos and hear the testimonies of those who are Silent No More, bravely sharing their abortion stories.

What more do we need?

Do we need to see the examination tables? The incinerators? The refrigerators that hold aborted babies - referred to mockingly as "nurseries" in abortion clinics?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# Leading

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

One quote near the end of the museum stayed with me. Martin Niemoller, an early Nazi supporter who was later imprisoned for opposing Hitler's regime, said, "First they came for the socialists, I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one

left to speak for me."

## There is hope

But there is hope, for many are taking to the streets to speak out for those who have no voice - the unborn. I believe this is the generation that will end abortion.

The two Memorial signs that are seen on the literature, magnets, mugs are: "Never Again." and "What You do Matters." This museum wishes to keep the Holocaust memory alive as

a force for change—inspiring people to confront hate, prevent genocide and promote human dignity.

The theme of this year's March for Life was "Love Saves Lives." Together with loving action, we will be the generation that abolishes abortion so that one day there will no longer need to be a March for Life.

Participants of the first March for Life were interviewed and one lady said they did not think it would take so long - they figured two maybe three years and the Roe v Wade decision would be reversed. But 45 years later, we still march.

And I'll continue to march and lead groups to march until the dignity of life is respected and protected.

## To Report Abuse

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

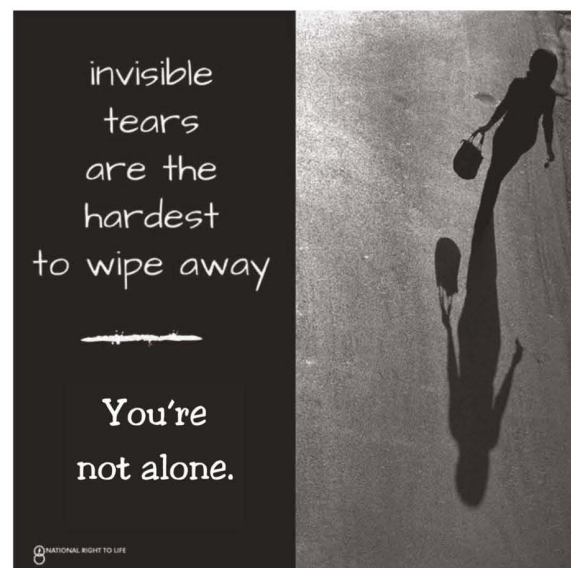


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Confidential registration:  
[www.rcdony.org/prolife](http://www.rcdony.org/prolife)

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[www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

## Bishop's Schedule

**Feb. 8-11** - Josephinum Deacon Class Visit with the Papal Nuncio at Nunciature in Washington, D.C.

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

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

## Protecting God's Children

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

Upcoming sessions:

**Feb. 7** - 12 p.m., Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake

**Feb. 7** - 6 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

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

## Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 8** - Msgr. Patrick Bernard Riley, 1981

**Feb. 9** - Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

**Feb. 10** - Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

**Feb. 11** - Deacon David P. Wells, 2017

**Feb. 12** - Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

**Feb. 13** - Rev. Richard J. Maloney, O.M.I., 1893; Deacon Edward F. McAuliffe, 1986; Rev. Harry E. Giroux, 2012

## Environmental Stewardship

### Preparing for a 'Springtime of the Soul'

As we approach the Lenten Season, we are invited to ponder how this sacred Season can truly be a 'springtime for my soul.'

In the Ash Wednesday Gospel reading from Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18 Jesus gives us a threefold prescription for spiritual growth and wellness; namely prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

One practice or virtue that connects all three of these practices with environmental stewardship is that of the Christian virtue of simplicity. Choosing to embrace a more simple way of life can help reorient our hearts and find treasure that will never perish.

"Simplicity means setting limits that reflect the values of our faith by not being excessive or wasteful in using God's creation. Pope Francis in Laudato Si' challenges us to transform the way we understand and relate to earth. He speaks about cultivating a "Simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess." It is a call to conversion. The way we consume must change, insists the pope, so we can respond to 'both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'"

(Taken from Lent 4.2 Caring for our Common Home by Liturgical Press)

Caring for creation and living more simply are an essential part of faith for those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus today. Embracing simplicity embraces Gospel justice and includes being good stewards of God's creation. The virtue of simplicity means setting limits that reflect the values of our faith by not being excessive or wasteful in using the natural resources meant for all life on the planet. Why not spend some time this week with Jesus and consider: what is one way that I can simplify my life that would enable others to simply live.

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#Pontifex



# Young adults 'on fire for life'

By Kristen Skovan  
Crane School of Music '16

Every January, college students from across the Diocese of Ogdensburg travel over 400 miles to inspire our culture to uphold the sacredness of life at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

This year, in addition to the march, our college group attended the 19th annual Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life. At this conference, I was privileged to attend a session where Sister Gianna Maria of the Sisters of Life described an analogy for living the Gospel.

Sister Gianna Maria told the story of a man who dreamt he was walking through a dark and windy forest, holding a single candle to light the way. As he sheltered the flame against strong winds to protect his light, he heard a dark voice tell him to give up. The voice simply said, "Blow out your candle."

Though we do not face windy forests, each of us as Catholics is given a flame. This is the flame that is ignited by Baptism and strengthened through the sacraments. This is the fire that inspires a culture of life, and at times it is a fire we feel tempted to blow out.

Personally, I witnessed this "fire" at the Vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Although this was my fifth time attending the vigil Mass, it was my first time experiencing it in the "lower church." In the past, I had watched thousands of people pray in the upper part of the Basilica. I never realized that the lower church, below the Basilica, was filled with just as many people as the upper church. The silence, reverence, and



Father Bryan Stitt, pastor in Canton, drove a group of college students and recent college graduates from the North Country to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Pictured are Kristen Skovan and Sara Buskey who wrote about the experience, seminarian Kevin McCullough and other young adults who are or were recently studying in colleges across the North Country.

prayerfulness of those in the lower church, far away from the altar, was astounding. They were on fire for the culture of life.

I was completely moved by the fact that I had been attending a Mass for years that was actually double the size I had previously observed.

Mary Skillan, Director of Campus Ministry at SUNY Plattsburgh, describes her experience marching with college students from the diocese and witnessing this "fire."

"Each year when I attend the March for Life, it never ceases to amaze me the number of young people on fire for life," she said.

Jessica Sokol, a sophomore at the Crane School of Music and first time marcher, observed a variety of religious backgrounds at the march.

"I was really blown away by how passionate everyone was about being pro-life. There were people of all religions, not just Catholics," she said.

Although we live during a time when many college

students and young adults are allowing their fire for the culture of life to be extinguished, the students who represented the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the 45th annual March for Life show that there is hope for the future of the pro-life movement.

## Abortion hurts Women

By Sara Buskey  
Parishioner at St. Anthony's in Watertown,  
graduate of Jefferson Community College

I had the great opportunity to attend the 45th March for Life with an amazing group of young adults. Although the reason behind the March for Life, the legalization of abortion, is a somber reality, the atmosphere surrounding the March was one of joy and hopefulness that our cause will one day be heard. We have the science and truth behind our cause.

As the Declaration of Independence states, we all have the right to life. Human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death.

Upon our arrival in Wash-

ington D.C. we attended the opening Mass for Life at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The building was filled with thousands and thousands of Catholics. It was truly inspiring to be at a Mass so filled with believers that there was no room to sit.

It was motivating to be surrounded by so many like-minded people who had gathered together to, as Cardinal Dolan said in his homily "advocate and give witness, to advocate for those who cannot yet speak or walk with us, the preborn baby."

As we traveled on the metro an individual noticed our pro-life attire and entered into a conversation with two of the members from our group. This individual held a strong pro-choice/pro-abortion stance. While the opinions of our group and this individual were very different, the conversation did not turn hostile.

The most notable words he kept repeating were that he wanted to 'empower women' and he didn't want

to 'take away their choice'. But had I gotten to share my thoughts with him, I'd have pointed out that the rate at which women commit suicide is six to seven times more likely than woman who give birth.

Hurting someone never empowers them. Abortion hurts women and kills an innocent person.

On our way home, we stopped for Mass in the beautiful cathedral in Harrisburg, PA. A young couple sat in the pew in front of us holding their one-year old son. As I looked at this tiny, beautiful, innocent baby boy I couldn't help but think that there are so many babies that will never be lovingly held by their parents or grandparents because of the legalization of abortion.

The cause that we had marched for only a couple days earlier had never been as clear to me as in the moment that I came face to face with baby Oliver.

During the trip, our group joined tens of thousands of others in praying that the dignity of every person, born and unborn, will one day be recognized.

We prayed for those who have been hurt by abortion and for their healing.

We prayed for our elected and appointed officials and for the medical personnel who have performed any type of procedure to deliberately end a life.

Please continue to pray with us.



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*





Jack and Julie Gould became Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart last December and Julie Hutchins on Dec. 8, 2017 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown. Lay Missionaries follow the charisma of the founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), Jules Chevalier. Their motto is "Let the Sacred Heart of Jesus be known everywhere." Pictured, from left, are Father Jonas Tandyu, MSC; Julie Hutchins, Father Vincent Freeh, MSC; and Julie and Jack Gould.

## Foundation announces new board members, officers

**WATERTOWN**-The Sacred Heart Foundation in Watertown has announced that Francee Calarco and Nancy McCabe, have joined the Board of Directors starting January 2018.

Mrs. McCabe, a member of Sacred Heart Parish, is returning to the board after a previous term. She is retired from the Department of Transportation after 33 years of service. She and her husband Joseph McCabe have two daughters, Terri L. (Jimmy) Coffey and Sara M. (George) Tapinelksand three grandchildren Brenna, Danny, and Dylan Coffey

Ms. Calarco has been a licensed funeral director and manager with her father at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc. for 34 years.

She serves on the Flower Memorial Library board, the Jefferson County Historical Society board, the Hospice of Jefferson County board, the Watertown Noon Rotary Club, and is the treasurer for the Jefferson Lewis Funeral Directors Association.

The selection of officers for 2018 Board of Directors



Nancy McCabe

has also been announced. Thomas J. Bruno will be serving as president with Dan Villa as vice-president. Tamara Sharlow will be returning as treasurer, and Frank

Reff joins the executive committee as secretary. Jayme St. Croix is past president and Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Vincent T. Freeh will continue as the MSC representative.

The mission of the Sacred Heart Foundation is to spread the word of God by raising funds which provide financial assistance for the education of those studying to be priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart anywhere in the world.

While many are not personally able to spread God's love throughout the world, a financial contribution to ed-



Frances Calarco

ucate such aspiring young men, becomes a valuable contribution to this mission.

Since its inception in 1968, the Sacred Heart Foundation has awarded over \$1.78 million to support the formation of priests through the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Locally, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart serve as priests in the Catholic communities of Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown.

Those interested in becoming a supporting member of the mission of the Sacred Heart Foundation may do so by becoming a member; attending the annual benefit dinner in September; or entering the Sacred Heart Foundation/Frank Caprara Memorial Golf Tournament in June. Information is available on the website [www.sacredheartfoundation.com](http://www.sacredheartfoundation.com) or by contacting the Sacred Heart Foundation office at 315-782-3344.



## REMAIN IN ME 2018 YOUTH RALLY

Open to Grades 6-12

April 28  
St. Mary's, Canton

Register by  
March 15: \$25

Register after  
March 15: \$30

[www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally](http://www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally)



### OUR READERS WRITE

#### For religious rights

A comparison between President Donald Trump's first year in office on the issue of religious liberty, and that of his predecessor, President Obama, showed a considerable difference: religious rights spiked under President Trump.

On February 1, 2017, Trump chose Judge Neil Gorsuch to take Antonin Scalia's place on the U.S. Supreme Court. Gorsuch is a strong proponent of religious liberty, holding that conscience rights are paramount.



Trump endorsed school choice, championing the cause of tax incentives to businesses that fund private schools; he emphasized the need to help minorities.

An executive order on religious liberty was signed by Trump. It sent a clear message to his cabinet on how to proceed with such matters.

A bill to allow the states to strip funding from Planned Parenthood was signed into law by Trump. This encouraged several states to pass bills restricting abortion.

#### GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.  
E-mail [eward@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:eward@dioogdensburg.org) to sign up today.

President Trump authorized direct assistance to persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

As important as anything, a religious exemption to Obama's HHS mandate was granted by Trump.

The religious elements of Christmas were celebrated at the White House. Under Obama, they were downplayed. In fact, an ornament depicting a mass murderer, Mao Zedong, was hung from a tree. Obama chose several anti-Catholics to be in his administration; no bigots were selected by Trump.

*(Reprinted with permission from Journal of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights)*

JOAN BOULIER  
DEXTER



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Your donations help strengthen the Church of this region through grants to Catholic organizations that help those in need receive food, shelter, medicine, pastoral care, and compassion through the light of Christ.



## Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday-style

## Soup dinner and no dessert?

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)-- Many people looking at their February calendars are doing a double-take with Ash Wednesday falling on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.

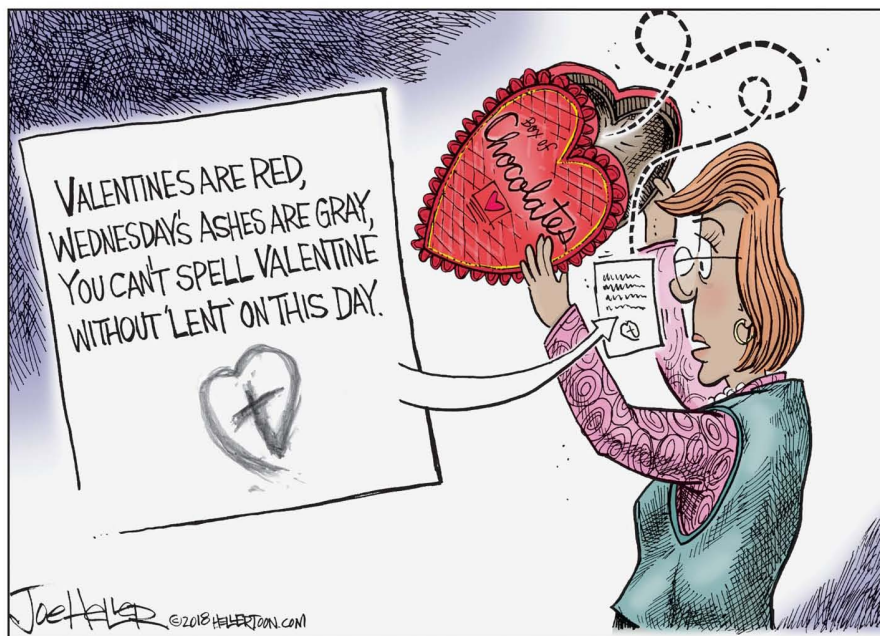
The two days, steeped in tradition, don't have too much in common beyond their religious roots. Valentine's Day, named after St. Valentine, a third-century martyr, is all about romance with its emphasis on cards, candy, flowers and nice dinners, where Ash Wednesday takes a more somber tone as the start of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent.

Ash Wednesday also is one of two days, along with Good Friday, that are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholic adults -- meaning no eating meat and eating only one full meal and two smaller meals. In other words, not a day for consuming candy hearts, chocolate cakes or fancy steak dinners.

And for those who wonder if Catholic bishops might grant a dispensation from the day's fasting requirements, as they sometimes have with the no meat rule when St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday in Lent, they should probably think again.

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, told Catholics in his diocese that "some have wondered whether a dispensation for the standard laws of fast and abstinence would be granted" Feb. 14.

"A dispensation will not be given," he wrote, stressing that this decision was "out of respect for the importance of Ash Wednesday in the lives of so many -- including our non-Catholic brethren -- and the way this custom underlines the importance of the Lenten season at its outset."



CNS ILLUSTRATION/JOE HELLER

Many people looking at their February calendars are doing a double-take with Ash Wednesday falling on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.

He suggested Catholics celebrate Valentine's Day on another "non-penitential day," maybe even Feb. 13 -- which is Mardi Gras.

"The good Lord, who suffered so much out of love for us, will surely reward our fidelity and sacrifice," he added.

A Jan. 26 statement by the Archdiocese of Chicago similarly suggested celebrating Valentine's Day on Mardi Gras: "a traditionally festive time before beginning our Lenten observance."

"Catholics throughout the world recognize Ash Wednesday as the solemn beginning of a period of prayerful reflection and penance, as is evident by the large number of churchgoers on this day," the statement said, stressing that the day's "obligation of fast and abstinence must naturally be the priority in the Catholic community."

Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the Archdiocese of New York, told Catholic News Service that New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan did not give any dispensation for Catholics for Valentine's Day and pointed out that St. Patrick is the patron saint of the archdiocese, which puts the celebration of that day "into a different category."

Despite the rarity of this year's Ash Wednesday date, an article on the CARA website notes that it is unlikely the U.S. bishops would give an Ash Wednesday dispensation as some of them have on St. Patrick's Day mainly because not much is known about St. Valentine.

It points out that he is said to have been killed at the command of Emperor Claudius in the year 278 for marrying Christians at a time when the emperor was trying to recruit single men for the

army.

Not only are there few details of the saint, there are also mixed accounts of possibly three different martyrs named Valentine that share a Feb. 14 feast day. The confusion and lack of details led the church to remove the liturgical feast of St. Valentine from the general church calendar in the late 1960s.

Instead, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, brothers known as the "Apostles of the Slavs" for their work in spreading the Gospel throughout Eastern Europe in the ninth century, have the Feb. 14 feast day spot on the church calendar, although this year their day is superseded by Ash Wednesday.

These brothers -- who developed an alphabet and translated the bible and other works in a Slavic language -- have just as much to say about love on a day when that is celebrated because of

their emphasis on communication, which is so key to relationships, said Father Leo Patalinghug, who has a cooking show on the Eternal Word Television Network called "Savoring our Faith."

The priest, who knows a thing or two about making a good Lenten meal, and also writes and talks about couples keeping their relationships strong by celebrating with good meals once a month, sees no conflict in the Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day overlap. Instead, he views it as a great teaching moment.

In between cooking segments Jan. 31 for his television program, the Baltimore priest who is part of a community of consecrated life called *Voluntas Dei*, told CNS that the overlap was a "special providence of God" because it can offer a deeper sense of what love really means -- which at times requires sacrifice.

"Love is not just sweets and chocolates," said the priest who wrote the 2012 cookbook: "Spicing Up Married Life" which includes recipes, prayers and conversation topics. "You can have chocolate cake anytime," he added.

As he sees it, the bigger lesson is to think about "going without and where that will lead you."

"So often people treat love like fast food when love -- and all things of God -- take time," he added.

He said this Valentine's Day couples have the "perfect day to start Lent and to have that discussion of what love means." And, they can also have a modest meal that is delicious.

Overall, it's "absolutely a win-win," he noted because couples can have a "Lent appropriate menu" essentially infused with the day's reminder "to know humbly we are from dust."



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Decry Senate failure to pass 20-week abortion ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York decried the Senate's failure to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would have banned abortions after 20 weeks of gestation, and called on senators to "rethink" their stance on late-term abortions. The cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called the vote "appalling" in a statement released late Jan. 29. "The Senate's rejection of this common-sense legislation is radically out of step with most Americans," the statement added. Although the bill received 51 votes, under Senate rules it needed 60 votes to end debate and move to a final vote. Three Democrats joined 48 Republicans in supporting the measure. The final vote was 51-46.

## Say vilification of immigrant children, families must stop

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Hours before President Donald Trump's first State of the Union address Jan. 30, immigrant supporters said they were concerned with his administration's "systematic targeting of vulnerable populations." In particular, they were bothered by the portrayal of migrant children, youth and families as gang members and criminals. The president and Congress are haggling over a plan about how to fix some of the country's most urgent immigration woes in which immigrants, legal and otherwise, have been caught in the middle of verbal fire. The most urgent includes finding a solution for some 800,000 young adults brought into the country illegally as minors by their parents and who now face a March 5 deadline for the end of an Obama-era protection that granted them some legal relief to remain in the country. In September, Trump announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, and charged Congress with passing a bill to save the program. Wendy Young, president of Kids in Need of Defense, or KIND, moderated a Jan. 30 panel that included representatives of faith communities who say the administration and "anti-immigrant members of Congress are relentlessly targeting children and families in a cynical, cruel strategy that plays politics with the lives of the most vulnerable."

## Major flu outbreak prompts prevention protocols

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The nationwide flu outbreak has prompted dioceses to take steps to suspend traditional rituals to prevent the spread of the virus as much as possible. From encouraging a simple nod or a smile during the sign of peace to draining holy water fonts, the actions come as the flu sweeps through virtually every corner of the country in the worst outbreak of the disease in nearly a decade. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Jan. 26 that most people are being infected with the influenza B, or H3N2, virus. Tens of thousands of people have been hospitalized since Oct. 1, the start of the flu season. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops maintains a page on its website devoted to the liturgy and influenza. It offers information about the flu as well as how to prevent the spread of any disease at liturgy. The page can be found at <http://bit.ly/2nuetHf>.

# Men and women religious called 'witnesses' to the light of Christ in world

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Consecrated men and women reflect the light of Christ and are witnesses to that light "in a world that is often shrouded in shadow," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, said Jan. 29.

"They are the glory of God's people. We pray for the perseverance of consecrated men and women and ask God to continue enriching the church with their unique vocation," he said in a statement as the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

Cardinal Tobin's statement came in advance of the annual celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

The feast of the Presentation also is known as Candlemas Day, when candles are blessed to symbolize Christ as the light of the world. St. John Paul II instituted the day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life in 1997.

With his statement, the committee headed by Cardinal Tobin also released the results of a survey of women and men religious who professed perpetual vows in 2017 in a religious congregation, province or monastery based in the United States.

The survey was conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, based at Georgetown University in Washington.

Among the major findings were:

- Nearly nine in 10, or 86 percent, of the responding religious said they regularly participated in some type of private prayer activity before they entered their religious institute. About two-thirds participated in eucharistic

adoration, prayed the rosary, or attended retreats before entering. Nearly six in 10 participated in spiritual direction before entering.

- One-half of responding religious attended a Catholic elementary school, more than four in 10, or 44 percent, attended a Catholic high school, and a near equal proportion, or 43 percent, attended a Catholic college before entering their religious institute.

- On average, the responding religious reported that they were 19 years old when they first considered a vocation to religious life, but half were 18 or younger when they first did so.

- Nearly nine in 10, or 87 percent, of the responding religious reported that someone encouraged them to consider a vocation to religious life. Over four in 10, or 43 percent, said that a parish priest encouraged their vocation. Half said they were encouraged to consider a vocation by a religious sister or brother; women religious were more likely than men religious to say so. Over four in 10, or 41 percent, reported that they were encouraged to consider a vocation by their friends.

CARA asked the 768 religious institutes, provinces or monasteries that are in the United States to provide the names of women religious or religious brothers and priests who professed or were planning to profess perpetual vows in 2017. A total of 600 major superiors responded, or 78 percent, with the names of 208 men and women religious. Of that number, 100 sisters and nuns and 51 brothers and priests responded -- representing a response rate of 73 percent.

The average age of responding religious is 41. Half

of the responding religious are age 36 or younger. The youngest is 24 and the oldest is 86.

Two-thirds of the respondents, or 64 percent, identify as white; more than one in six, 18 percent, identify as Asian; and more than one in 10, or 11 percent, identify as Hispanic. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents were born in the United States. Of those born outside the U.S., the most common country of origin is Vietnam.

Among those identifying as Hispanic/Latino, almost six in 10 -- 62 percent -- are foreign born. Of those identifying as Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, seven in 10 are predominantly foreign born. Six percent identify as African-American/black. Ninety-four percent, or nearly all, who identify as Caucasian/white are U.S. born.

Other findings include:

- Nearly nine in 10 of the responding religious, or 88 percent, have been Catholic since birth. More than three-quarters -- 77 percent -- come from families in which both parents are Catholic.

- Half of the respondents attended a Catholic elementary school, 44 percent attended a Catholic high school and 43 percent attended a Catholic college.

- The survey found the profession class of 2017 is highly educated, with 25 percent of responding religious earned a graduate degree before entering their religious institute. More than two-thirds -- 69 percent -- entered their religious institute with at least a bachelor's degree.

- Nearly all of the responding religious, 88 percent, participated in some type of vocation program or experience prior to entering their religious institute.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Living out the call to always show mercy

Today's readings provide guidelines for the way we should exercise mercy in our lives.

This also involves the gentle touch of love.

Just recently, some scientific studies have shown that babies who are never touched will never develop normally, and may even die. Even with adults, there is the touch that heals, encourages, and consoles.

A hand on the shoulders or back, or a gentle kiss reduces a sense of loneliness. One of the losses in old age is not being touched.

The Book of Leviticus mandated that people with

skin diseases, especially leprosy, were unclean, and must never be touched. They must live outside the community, and could not even worship God.

Their humiliation and loneliness of life were harder for them to bear than even their deformed bodies.

In today's Gospel, the people who were listening to Jesus' teaching must have been indignant at the leper who dared come physically close to Jesus, and beg Him for a cure.

They must have been horrified that Jesus actually crossed the line and touched the leper. Not only

was this a physical healing, but an emotional and spiritual healing as well.

What a powerful lesson Jesus' action taught that day! He was obviously compassionate, generously sacrificing his own social status by healing the man.

Jesus must have sensed the great longing in that outcast to be again accepted not only by society, but also to be again considered a friend of God's.

And what a price Jesus paid for His mercy!

Because the newly-cured leper spread the word of the healing throughout the region, it became impossible for Jesus to be seen in any public place without being mobbed by those seeking a similar cure.

While the leper returns to

FEB. 11

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

society, Jesus is forced out!

After this incident, Jesus' listeners knew they should never fear to approach the Master because of their past sins or social standing. He would understand and show compassion.

To the "dark side" in each of us, Jesus brings light and healing to those who trust and believe

What is holding me back today from approaching Jesus for healing or just for

His friendship?

There's no such thing as an "outsider" in Jesus' book. All are welcome who seek His loving touch.

Who are the lepers in my life? Do I avoid those who are repulsive to me? Do I shun those with whom I disagree, or those I just don't like? We can all learn from one another.

Remember Jesus' words, "I will reject no one who comes to me." We can at least follow the advice of today's second reading and "avoid giving offense."

A smile, a welcoming word, patient listening and then giving a loving response is not going to kill us! By our seeing in them the face of Jesus, they will see in us that same holy face.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

## Helping atheists discover of the joys of faith

By Father John Catoir  
Contributing writer

Recently, I came across an amusing cartoon depicting two snowmen; one was rebuking the other. The caption read, "Don't be absurd! Of course, no one made us! We evolved from random snowflakes".

Poking fun at Darwin's theory of evolutions is considered irreverent in some circles, but I take delight in it. His theory gave so much comfort to atheists in their effort to deny God's existence.

I gladly admit that the theory evolution is a scientific fact, but this in no way proves that God does not exist.

Albert Einstein and I do not understand how a serious person can deny the necessity of the existence of a supreme intelligence behind the cosmos. But that's just

us. We believe there are many ways of knowing: rational deduction is one and intuition is another. Albert thrived on intuition.

**I intend no personal disrespect toward atheists in general. My effort is to discredit the atheistic movement**

Atheists are quick to dismiss these tried and true methods, saying that the burden of proof is on the believer to prove scientifically that God exists. No problem!

I am pleased to tell you that there is new scientific evidence that is helping us to understand some very important theological truths. Permit me to share a quote from a mathematical physicist named Frank Tipler, from Tulane Univer-

sity. His book is entitled, *The Physics of Immortality*.

Doctor Tipler wrote, "When I began my career as a cosmologist some twenty years ago, I was a convinced atheist. I never in my wildest dreams imagined that one day I would be writing a book purporting to show that the central claims of Judeo-Christian theology are in fact, true. And that these claims are straightforward deductions of the laws of physics as we now understand them. I have been forced into these conclusions by the inexorable logic of my own special branch of physics."

Wow! The usual claim of science that the existence of God cannot be scientifically proven has now been discredited by many professional physicists.

Check out Google, and you'll find 40 quotes that were made by former atheists who are now believers.

They talk about the folly of denying God's existence. Those who deny this essential truth in the name of science are performing an act of deliberate inadvertence.

This new understanding has affected my attitude toward atheists in general. I now find their hubris a bit sad. How can a serious person conclude that a random scattering of atoms accidentally fell together to form our complex universe? One cannot even imagine the possibility of it.

Common sense is at play here. Walt Whitman, in his poem *Leaves of Grass*, wrote, "A single mouse is miracle enough to convert a thousand infidels."

No one should defy right reason. Especially not, since we now see that the higher levels of physics are compelling many to admit that God must exist. Of course, you knew that, but those who denied this fundamen-

tal truth for years can no longer claim to be intellectually superior; quite the opposite.

I intend no personal disrespect toward atheists in general. My effort is to discredit the atheistic movement.

There are many atheists who are good human beings, and who have shown real charity to those in need; perhaps more than you might suspect. I just want to help them find their way home, and to discover the joys of living a life of faith.

May the Lord be your strength and your joy.

—  
*Author, former host "The Christophers" TV program, Father Catoir has been a Catholic priest for over 55 years. He is the founder of St. Jude Media. Further information is available on Websites, Messengerofjoy.com, and johncatoir.com.*



## AT THE MOVIES

# DARKEST HOUR

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

The spotlight shines brightly on British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour" (Focus), a historical drama about political leadership and back-room intrigue during a pivotal moment of World War II.

Churchill (1874-1965) was 65 years old and, it was thought, in the twilight of his political career when he was tapped to lead a wartime coalition government in May 1940. The war was going badly for the Allies, and Nazi Germany was marching into Belgium and France, threatening an invasion of Britain.

It was truly the country's darkest hour, and director Joe Wright ("Atonement"), working from a screenplay by Anthony McCarten, offers a thrilling take on Churchill's first three weeks in power.

The film is in some respects a companion piece to the 2017 film "Dunkirk," taking place at the same time. While "Dunkirk" neglected politics in favor of personal stories, "Darkest Hour" goes behind the scenes, revealing how Churchill rallied a skeptical cabinet to fight the enemy rather than sue for peace, and arranged the miraculous evacuation of nearly 350,000 soldiers stranded on the French beach.

Beneath some remarkable facial prosthetics and layers of padding, Gary Oldman disappears into the role of Churchill, capturing the gait, cadence and charisma of the man. This is a warts-and-all portrayal of a decidedly quirky individual who loved his cigars and booze, was often rude and sarcastic, but who in private had moments of self-doubt.

At his side was his stalwart wife, Clementine

(Kristin Scott Thomas), proud that her husband was finally getting his chance to lead, however late in life.

"When youth departs, may wisdom prove enough," Churchill says, as he accepts the offer of King George VI (Ben Mendelsohn) to form a government. "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

Churchill succeeds the feckless Neville Chamberlain (Ronald Pickup), whose policy of appeasement with Nazi Germany has left Britain woefully unprepared for war. But Chamberlain enjoys the king's favor, as does the politically ambitious Viscount Halifax (Stephen Dillane). The trio schemes to disgrace Churchill and put Halifax in power.

As Europe is overrun, Churchill is pressured to sue for peace. The idea of bowing to Adolf Hitler and the Nazis is anathema to his lifelong belief in justice and liberty.

"You cannot reason with a tiger when your head is in

its mouth!" he roars at Halifax.

"Darkest Hour" proceeds at a breakneck pace as Churchill gradually convinces his colleagues to fight and rallies the nation. Although some liberties are taken with the facts (including a marvelous moment when Churchill interacts with ordinary people on the subway, which never happened), the film offers an important history lesson for young and old about a time when statesmanship mattered most.

Churchill's greatest asset was his voice, which he used to great effect on the radio and in Parliament to inspire the nation. As he composed his stirring speeches, Churchill was aided by his secretary, Elizabeth Layton (Lily James), and his most faithful ally, the secretary of state for war -- and future prime minister -- Anthony Eden (Samuel West).



CNS PHOTO/FOCUS FEATURES

Lily James and Gary Oldman star in a scene from the movie "Darkest Hour."

"We shall never surrender!" Churchill tells his parliamentary colleagues, forcing Halifax to admit, "He just mobilized the English language and sent it into battle."

And the rest, as they say, is history.

The film contains brief scenes of wartime violence and some mature themes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

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Week 2: July 8-13

Week 3: July 15-20

Week 4: July 22-27

Week 5: July 29-August 3

**16-18 Year-Olds:**

Week 6: August 5-10

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315-605-1037

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## CLINTON

## LAKESIDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

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

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's

**Features:** discussion, evening prayer and dinner.

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

## CDA MAKES DONATION

**Dannemora** – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Mother Admirable #592 recently presented North Country Cancer Fund volunteers Barbara and Thomas Douglas with a \$1725 check for the Cancer fund following a fundraiser held by the court.

**Volunteers:** Among the members who worked on the event were Nancy Clancy, regent; Rose Bruce, Margaret Talford, Marjorie Waldron, Anna Lucia Joanne Plumadore and Louise Mazuchowski.

## PARISH BREAKFAST

**Altona** – All you can eat breakfast to be held.

**Date:** Feb. 11

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Church Hall

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

## PAINT AND SIP PARTY

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

**Date:** Feb. 11

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**Cost:** \$30 payable at the door.

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

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

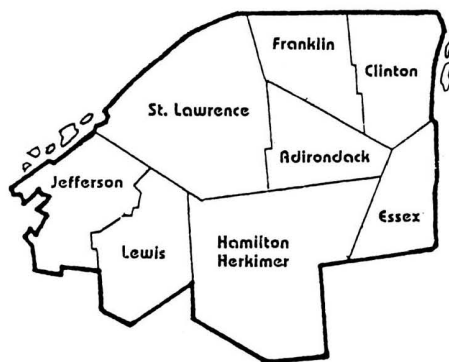
## LENTE RETREAT

**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,



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.

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.

**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** – Save the date for the Seton Gala with the theme of Saturday Night Fever.

**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. Why? Because we love to have fun and 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

## 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

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

**Date:** Feb. 15

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**Lowville** – Middle School Youth Group to meet.

**Date:** third Wednesday of each month

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

## IMPACT NIGHTS

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

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

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** For all high school students.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## MIDLANDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Schedule:** Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 31, April 14 & 28

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

**Contact:** Fr. Doug Lucia dluca@rc-dony.org/315-348-4466

## STEAK OR FISH DINNER

**Ogdensburg** – K of C Council #258 will be having a dinner with the choices of either steak or haddock.

**Date:** Feb. 9

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. until gone

**Place:** K of C Hall

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

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE





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

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

# Looking to Lent to be missionaries

As the 2018 Season of Lent will quickly be upon us, we seek ways to draw closer to Jesus. It is an opportune time to share our faith stories with family, friends and fellow parishioners.



Listen to the word of God. Learn about the Scriptures. Apply the Scriptures to daily life. Maybe form a faith sharing group. You will find that faith sharing groups provide excellent opportunities to grow in holiness, to become more welcoming and to witness to Christ more consciously in the family.

Perhaps you could share your thoughts on Lent in the neighborhood or the workplace. Try to be a Lenten Missionary. By sharing your faith stories, other people may be encouraged to find God in their daily lives' experiences. Lent is after all the time to reflect, sacrifice and pray more.

You may wish to be a Lenten Missionary in a special way in your home.

Perhaps schedule family activities to promote Lent. One family suggestion is to have your family gets a map or globe of the world and place it in the room where the family eats together. Find the following countries where starvation and hunger are major problems: Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Peru, Nigeria, Syria and Dominican Republic.

When you gather for a meal and after you have thanked God for your food, look at your map or globe and pray for the poor and hungry people of a city in one of the countries; today, let us pray for the poor and hungry people in Haiti. Maybe tomorrow you reflect on those in Syria. Pray for those Catholics misplaced there by the war-torn conditions they have endured for many years.

What country will you pray for during Lent? Whatever you do, please pray that the love of Christ will be shown in the missions through prayer and sacrifice. Pray for our missionaries. They work and live in harsh conditions far from their loved ones.

Look at your globe and reflect on those far away doing the hard work of our Lord.

**Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will. [www.rcdony.org/mission](http://www.rcdony.org/mission)**

## OBITUARIES

**Black River** – Eugene Clarence Leary, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2018 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery

**Bombay** – Eunice M. Harvey, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Canton** – Lallo Frank, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Chazy** – Donald G. Thibault, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 29, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Clayton** – Donald C. Bourcy, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Vincent DePaul Cemetery, Rosiere.

**Copenhagen** – Theodore "Ted" Joseph Colton, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

**Dannemora** – Joyce Rayn Tolosky, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish

cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Robert Daly Timmons, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 2, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

**Liverpool, N.Y.** – Margaret Sholette Amo, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2017 at St. Joseph the Worker; burial, Notre Dame Cemetery, Ogdensburg.

**Long Lake** – Daniel Clifford Holler, 70; Mass of Christian Burial in June at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

**Long Lake** – Patricia Jane (Sullivan) Touchette, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 20, 2018 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

**Malone** – John W. Allen, 37; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2018 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home.

**Malone** – Eleanor T. (Benware) Maneeley, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – James S. Laboda, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 2, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Peru** – Linda L. (Keet) Way, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Schuyler Falls Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Kyle Michael Stockwell, 21; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Anthony N. Sylvester, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Willisboro** – Lucy (Raymond) Belzile, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 29, 2018 at St. Philip of Jesus Church.

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 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](http://www.adultchildren.org)



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# Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

## ST. LAWRENCE

### CLASS ON ST. PETER

**Massena** - A 10-week series on St. Peter is set

**Date:** Tuesdays, beginning Feb. 6

**Time:** 2 to 4 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** DVD video presentation followed by group discussion. There is no cost for participating, though donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of materials.

**Contact:** Call (315)769-2469.

### 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 :sramion@massencatholics.com

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room

### ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

**Heuvelton** - St. Raphael's Food Pantry will be open every Friday.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 11

**Place:** Parish Center

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### RITE OF ELECTION

**Ogdensburg** - Rite of Election to be held.

**Date:** Feb. 25

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Contact:** Shayne Lippincott e-mail: slippincott@rcdony.org ; 315-782-3620.

### VIRTUS FACILITATOR TRAINING

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

**Date:** Feb. 15

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

**Place:** The Library in the Bishop Loverde Building on the campus of the diocesan offices

**Features:** Facilitators conduct VIRTUS awareness training sessions throughout

## AT THE MARCH



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Among the adults who joined diocesan teenagers on the Youth Buses for Life for the Jan. 19 March for Life in Washington, D.C., were Kelly Donnelly of Plattsburgh, diocesan youth ministry director; and Cecilia Poulin of Saranac Lake.

the diocese when needed. As you think about your role in protecting God's children, please consider taking advantage of this free training and certification.

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

### MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

**Massena** - The Department of Family Life in conjunction with the Offices of

Vocations and Evangelization, will present an all-day Life and Family Conference and workshop entitled Marriage: God Calls, We Respond.

**Date:** April 14

**Place:** Trinity Catholic School

**Speakers:** Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak

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

### 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.

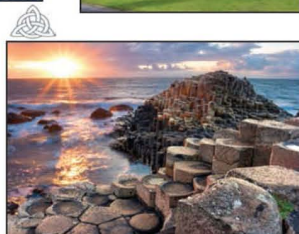
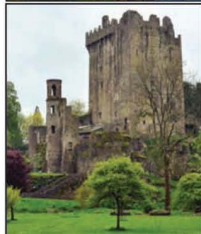
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