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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 45

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 28, 2018

The lessons of springtime

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Despite the chill and gusts of wind in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis welcomed the beginning of spring with an impromptu lesson about gardening and how to grow into being better Christians.

"Does a tree or plant that is

diseased bloom well? No! Does a tree or a plant that isn't watered ... bloom well? No. And does a tree or plant with no roots bloom?" he said before delivering his general audience talk March 21. Christians can learn from what makes spring flowers

flourish, the pope said, because for Christians, their root is Jesus and the water that replenishes those roots are the sacraments and prayer, which makes lives bloom with Christian virtues and good works. "I wish that this spring would be for you

a spring in bloom" and an Easter that blossoms, he said. Offering a saying that is well-known in Argentina, the pope said, "The flowers a tree puts forth come from what it has underneath.' Never cut off (one's) roots with Jesus."

Cathedral filled for Chrim Mass

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the annual Chrim Mass March 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Priests, deacons, religious, Catholic school and religious education students along with hundreds of Catholics from across the diocese filled the cathedral for the Mass.

The liturgy featured the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment as well as the Blessing of the Holy Oils and consecration of the Sacred Chrim for use in churches throughout the diocese in the coming year.

FULL STORY, PAGE 2, 3 & 5

Social teaching of solidarity

NCC's Lenten series on Catholic social teaching 'Make Me An

Instrument of Your Peace' continues

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

PAPAL HONOR FOR SISTER DONNA



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin, who served as director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Ogdensburg for more than two decades, was honored upon her retirement with the *Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice*, (Cross for the Church and the Pontiff.) The award, conferred for distinguished service to the church, is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the pope. Above, Deacon James Crowley, chancellor, and Bishop LaValley present the medal and plaque to Sister Donna at the clergy luncheon following the March 22 Chrim Mass. Cindy Elliott, who has worked with Sister Donna at Catholic Charities for several years, is at left.

HAPPY EASTER: Bishop LaValley shares his ALLELUIA message... p. 6

HOLY WEEK

Pope to lead traditional rites



CNS/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis washes the foot of a female inmate during the Holy Thursday Mass in 2015 at Rebibbia prison in Rome. This year on Holy Thursday the pope will celebrate Mass at Rome's Regina Coeli prison and wash the feet of 12 inmates. The pope's schedule for the remainder of Holy Week: Holy Thursday, morning chrim Mass in St. Peter's Basilica; Good Friday afternoon liturgy of the Lord's Passion in St. Peter's Basilica. Nighttime Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum; Easter vigil at 8:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Basilica; Easter morning Mass in St. Peter's Square, followed by the papal blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you, bless you, Sister Donna

While Bishop LaValley didn't announce any new diocesan initiatives at this year's Chrism Mass – something he's done more than once (!) – the day was unique for another reason.

At the traditional clergy luncheon after the liturgy, a special guest was honored.

Sister Donna Franklin, who completed 22 years of service as director of Catholic Charities in December, probably hoped to

move out of the diocese without a lot of fanfare but her diocesan admirers would never have let that happen.

Mary Lou
Kilian

Last October, at the Catholic Charities Caritas dinner, she received the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Last week, after the Chrism Mass, the honor was slightly more distinguished since it came from the pope.

On March 22, Sister Donna was the recipient of the *Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, a papal honor recognizing extraordinary service to the Catholic Church.

Those of us who have witnessed the generosity, intelligence and grace of Sister Donna's ministry among us know how much she deserves this honor.

Unstopped by ice storms, illness or even the high expectations of four bishops, Sister Donna has done everything within her power to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless

and comfort the afflicted in our part of the world.

She understood better than anyone that her work required both direct service to those in need as well as work to change systems which keep poor people poor. I am grateful for every opportunity I had to work by her side.

As Sister Donna makes her move to live with her Daughters of Charity community members in Albany, she goes with our gratitude, our love and our prayers.

You will be missed, dear Sister Donna. You will be missed.

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Chrism Mass brings great opportunities

I never miss the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. You do remember the Chrism Mass – this is the Mass at which our Bishop blesses the sacred oils that will be used for the sacraments for this year in each of the parishes of our diocese. This Mass draws nearly every priest in the diocese to the cathedral.

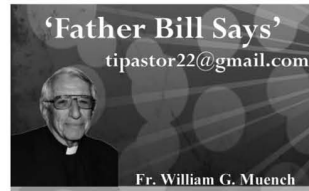
I remember ages ago when I was a student at Wadhams Hall. In those days, the Chrism Mass was in the morning of Holy Thursday – and, of course, all was in Latin – and it was very long.

I remember as a student then I was a bit anxious. (I think one of the reasons was that our Easter vacation began after that Mass.) I was, however, impressed by all the priests who were there.

This year, the Chrism Mass is earlier in Lent which gives the priests of the diocese a better opportunity to attend. As always, this Chrism Mass is a wonderful opportunity for all the priests to gather together. In addition, we, priests, enjoy a stupendous meal after the Mass.

At the Chrism Mass, Bishop LaValley blesses the sacred oils: the Sacred Chrism, the oil of the sick, the oil of the Cate-

chumens for this year's sacraments. This is a perfect symbol of the union of each parish with our bishop and with our



Fr. William G. Muench

cathedral. All sacraments begin and unite each parish with the Cathedral Church.

The Chrism Mass is connected with the Holy Thursday celebration of the Lord's Supper. At this time, we remember and celebrate the ordination of the first priests by Jesus – his apostles. This Mass becomes an anniversary of the ordination of all of us, priests.

This is an important reason for the gathering of the priests of the diocese at the Chrism Mass. As part of the Chrism Mass, the priests renew their priestly promises in the presence of the Bishop and people of the diocese.

Let me remind you of just a part of the promises that are asked of the priests. The first

promise asks: "Are you resolved to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more closely conformed to him?"

At this time we, priests, are asked again to make a firm dedication to continue a close relationship with Jesus. Actually, each time I prepare to celebrate Mass anywhere I have a new opportunity to open myself in friendship with Jesus.

Each Mass is also a time to recognize all that Jesus means to me – my part in the Church as a priest will always lead me to conform my life more closely to Jesus.

This same promise asks me to remember the day I was ordained. The words of the first promise are these: "denying yourselves and confirming those promises about sacred duties towards Christ's Church which, prompted by love of

him, you willingly and joyfully pledged on the day of your priestly ordination.

I must admit I do think often of just how long ago my ordination was. Each time I visit the cathedral, I touch the spot where I knelt as I prepared to be ordained. I definitely pledged myself to the Lord Jesus and to the Catholic Church.

I have been constantly supported over all of these years is definitely the love of God – that I learned through Jesus – that I experience again as I pray through Holy Week.

Because of God's great love for me – I am a loved person – a loved priest. Jesus has demonstrated to me God's great love for me through his Passion and Crucifixion. I know well that I must live like a loved person.

This becomes ever more real for me each time I renew my priestly promises.

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'No one is exempt from God's call to be holy'

Bishop LaValley's homily for the Chrism Mass,
March 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral

It's 2018 and the times they are a-change-in! Pope Francis tells us that "Today we are not living in an age of change so much as a change of age." So much seems upside down today. We're told: What's right is wrong and what's wrong is right.

This 'change of Age' must prompt a radical change in our understanding of what it means to be a Catholic Christian today—really what it has always meant. No matter the "Age," Christian or post-Christian, the need for a missionary spirit is urgent as challenges in transmitting the faith mount in an increasingly secularized world. No one, student or teacher, child or parent, cleric, religious or lay person, no one is, has ever been, exempt from responding to God's call to be holy.

Every one of the baptized should understand him or herself as a follower, a disciple of Jesus. To be sure, there has been a lot of publications out there about intentional discipleship, disciples in mission and the like. They all have a common theme: Church life today cannot, must not, remain business as usual.

"All disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God" (cf. Acts 2:42-47), "should everywhere on earth bear witness to Christ and give an answer to everyone who asks a reason for the hope of an eternal life which is theirs." (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15) I love these inspiring words from St. Peter. Each of us is called to *bear witness and to give an answer for our hope*. There is hope for the student who struggles with grades or with making friends, hope for parents who struggle to make ends meet. And there is hope for the exhausted priest who will hit the roof if this bishop asks one more thing of him. One of the gifts that Bishop Chbeir gave me was a renewed hope when he spoke about his ministry to his people in Syria.

Ours is a lived faith that must be learned and deepened constantly amid a changing landscape. Yes, serious challenges in living and sharing our faith are growing so rapidly. The support we grew up with in a Christian culture has virtually disappeared. *Christian life today must be lived deeply*, or else it may not be possible to live it at all. And that place of depth grows from within our hearts.

That's a piece of the societal context from which we come to our cathedral to celebrate this Chrism Mass 2018. What's part of the uniqueness about today?? -- the Blessings of oils to be used for sacramental anointings in all our parishes and the renewal of the Priestly Promises by our priests.

You will hear me pray, as I consecrate the oil, that all those anointed with the Sacred Chrism will be "inwardly transformed... that the anointing will make those anointed radiant with the goodness of life that has its source in God." *In-*

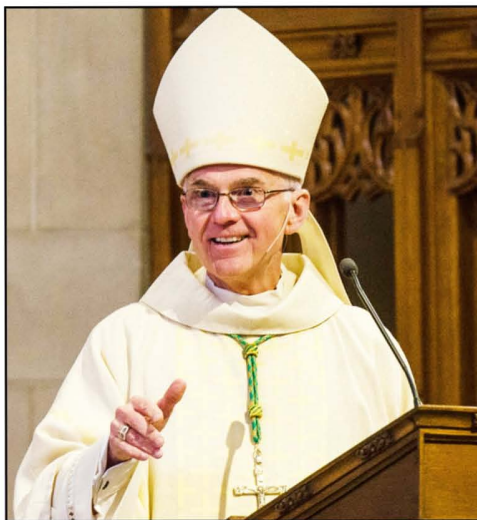


PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop LaValley delivers the homily at the 2018 Chrism Mass held March 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

ward transformation and radiance with life's goodness happens to the degree we open ourselves to the power of the anointing which we have all received at our baptisms, confirmations, ordinations. Inward transformation leads to radiance of goodness and joy, don't we need a plentiful dose of radiance of just plain goodness today? We must claim our anointing!

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings...to heal...to announce a year of favor...to comfort...to give them oil of gladness..."

Anointed with God's Spirit we have it within us to move from self-reliance to God reliance. All is grace. As the Holy Father assures us, "Christ will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which he has entrusted to us." (EG,275) One of the most common reasons why people begin the spiritual journey but then turn back is because we find ourselves failing, wearing out, or getting tired or discouraged because we rely on our own strength or intellect or talent rather than on the Lord. We have been anointed. Hear Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2Cor 12:9) There is power and strength in the anointing.

Is my heart saturated enough with God's love and mercy that the anointing I've received soaks through and energizes my whole being? Authentic missionary discipleship for the parent, spouse, student, teacher, deacon, for the priest, consecrated religious, the bishop, must begin with the heart. That's why I thought how fortuitous that our Lenten journey began this year on Valentine's Day.

At this Chrism Mass, I ask myself, "Has the sacramental anointings I've received over the years touched your heart?" What about yours?

Every day, in prayer, we must check the condition of our hearts. Prayer is a matter of the heart. Church leaders must personally live deeply our faith and provide the setting in our parishes for our parishioners to do likewise. As St. John Paul II insisted, "Our Christian communities must become genuine schools of prayer...It would be wrong to think that ordinary Christians can be content with a shallow prayer." Our priests tend to the hearts, minds and souls of our parishioners in these schools of prayer.

**Is my heart saturated enough
with God's love and mercy that
the anointing I've received soaks
through and energizes my whole being?**

I know that the ministry of our priests is often packed full of plans, projects and activities (often in response to this bishop's expectations): from catechesis to liturgy, to works of charity, to pastoral, financial and administrative concerns. Amid all of these, we must still ask ourselves: What is my heart set on? We know that Father is anointed for his people. His ministry must touch the hearts of his parishioners.

My brother priests, the priestly heart configured to the heart of Christ is one of fidelity, humility, closeness and gentleness. Pope Francis said that the heart of the priest must be filled with a joy born of forgiveness, the joy of a heart changed by mercy. The heart of the priest, like the heart of Christ must be a large one, filled with zeal, compassion and joy. It is the richness of the heart of Christ, giving the mercy and love of God primacy in our hearts so it might be shared with our people, all God's people.

Priests are disciples who are in love with the Master, shepherds with the smell of the sheep, who live in their midst to bring the mercy of God to them. Every priest knows that he is a disciple on a journey, constantly being configured to Christ. Priests are not mere functionaries or managers of the sacred, but men with compassionate hearts, who show forth the tenderness of God.

"It is impossible to persevere in giving genuine Christian witness unless we are convinced from personal experience that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known him; it's not the same thing to walk with Jesus as it is to walk without Him; it's not the same thing to worship Him, to find our peace in Him, as it is not to. It is not the same thing to try to build the world with his Gospel as to try to do so by our own lights," as Pope Francis would say.

Jesus walks with you, speaks with you, breathes with you, works alongside you. Brothers, thank you for your intimate walk with Christ, whom you so love and for whom you have given everything, your very hearts. Your selfless journey with the Lord motivates and inspires ours. I am so grateful. We are all so blessed.

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

The social teaching of 'solidarity'

By Marika Donders
Director, Office of Evangelization

Seventh in a series

The Church's social teaching of Solidarity begins with Creation. God created everything and everyone, and therefore each one of us stands in relation to the rest of creation.

Solidarity means that we need to have an awareness of each other and of each other's needs

Especially in the west, we tend to think of ourselves as independent beings, as standing on our own two feet, and we value that independence. The reality is that none of us can go it alone. St. Paul expressed it very well: We are all members of the Body of Christ.

Solidarity means that we need to have an awareness of each other and of each other's needs. This aware-

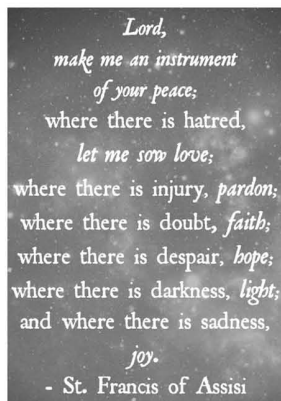
ness of the needs leads us to action to help alleviate the root causes of the other's suffering.

Sometimes, this may mean that we offer financial assistance, but primarily it requires that we acknowledge and respect the other person and work side-by-side, rather than simply impose a solution.

In other words, solidarity is a commitment to a relationship of equals that leads to action.

On a smaller scale, this might mean that, rather than the simple act of putting money in a homeless beggar cup (which might help, but primarily makes us feel better), we take time to go a buy a couple of sandwiches and invite the homeless person to share our meal, because he is hungry for more than just food. Or, when we put money in his cup, we take a moment to talk and simply acknowledge his humanity by looking him in the eye and offering a smile or a touch.

A good example of soli-



arity is our aptly names Solidarity in Faith endeavor. The Diocese of Ogdensburg has begun a twinning relationship with the Diocese of Latakia in Syria. It is not primarily a fundraising project, but rather, it is a building of a relationship with a bishop, his priests and the faithful people of Latakia.

It is not an abstract idea of donating money to a far-away cause. Rather, a particular relationship was established between our Bishop and a Bishop in Syria, namely Bishop Chbeir. This relationship included an exchange of letters, the establishment of a coordinating committee leading to a visit by Bishop Chbeir to our diocese.

In his visit us in the North Country, Bishop Chbeir told us the stories about the struggles of his priests, of the difficulties in training seminary candidates to

learn French so that they can better study theology. He shared with us that the Church in Latakia, in addition to the normal providing sacraments and religious education, also needs to care for refugees from the war, of children who are traumatized by violence.

Yet despite the hardships and struggles of leading a diocese in a war zone, Bishop Chbeir also shared with us the peace he found by gardening and the joy of being able share the bounty of the garden to feed his staff and seminary candidates.

He showed us the beauty of the roses that he propagated in his garden, symbolic that war cannot destroy the human spirit. With pride, he shared with us the dedication of his priests, who, in spite of poverty and sometime ill health, go out to minister to the people.

Our solidarity with the people of Latakia is not about offering a handout, but rather a building a relationship of prayer and faith. In this relationship, we have learned from Bishop Chbeir's ready smile that, even in suffering and hardship, faith and joy endure and that we have brothers and sisters on the other side of the world who count on our prayers and solidarity.

Pope Francis echoes this understanding when he said during the 2013 World Youth Day celebration that

"the culture of selfishness and individualism that often prevails in our society is not ... what builds up and leads to a more habitable world: rather, it is the culture of solidarity that does so; the culture of solidarity means seeing others not as rivals or statistics, but brothers and sisters.

This awareness of the needs leads us to action to help alleviate the root causes of the other's suffering.

"And we are all brothers and sisters," he said

Suggestions for this week,

- Watch Bishop Chbeir's appeal for prayer and fasting for peace in Syria, which can be found on our Diocesan Website at <https://www.rcdony.org/ab-out-the-diocese/solidarity-in-faith/what-can-you-do.html> and learn more about life of our brothers and sisters in Syria by reading <https://www.rcdony.org/ab-out-the-diocese/solidarity-in-faith/learn-more.html>

- Read 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12
- When you give a donation, whether to your parish, or some other charitable organization, think about and pray for the people who will receive the actual benefit.

- Do you allow others to walk with you when you are in need? How hard is it for you to ask for assistance and give others the opportunity to enter into solidarity with you?



As we celebrate the Last Supper which leads us to the feast of Resurrection, the family of Monsignor Robert McCarthy would like to thank all the priests who came from across the diocese to con-celebrate his funeral on January 12th.

Special thanks also to Bishop LaValley for his many visits and support, to our uncle's long time friend, Fr. Dan Keefe for his frequent phone calls and to Fr. Steve Murray, Monsignor Whitmore and Fr. Wylie for the many years of fraternal and pastoral care.

Easter blessings on all of you!

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BISHOP BLESSES OILS... PRIESTS RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE

The priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg made a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service at the 2018 Chrism Mass held March 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Also at the Mass, Bishop LaValley consecrated the chrim and blessed the oils of the sick and of catechumens for use in churches throughout the diocese. The newly baptized are anointed and confirmed with the sacred chrim. Catechumens are prepared and made ready for baptism by the oil of catechumens and the sick are anointed in their illness by the oil of the sick.



Bishop LaValley breathes over the vessel of chrim oil symbolizing the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the oil.



Deacons Neil Fuller of Clayton and Ronny Gingerich of Lowville carry two of the vessels of oil that were blessed by Bishop LaValley.



Amy Schirmer of St. Mary's Cathedral reads from the scriptures.



SCHOOL PHOTO

Confirmation students of Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh were among many students from across the diocese who attended the Chrism Mass. Pictured, front from left, are Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Olivia Barnett, Savannah DeJordy, John Conti, Lea DeJordy, and Father William G. Reamer; back, Father Scott Seymour, Alec Hemm, Gillian Boulé, Haley Murnane, Sofia DeJordy, and Father Timothy G. Cnaan.

BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE

Alleluia! He is risen!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"I have risen, and I am with you still, Alleluia." One would be hard pressed to find words more uplifting than these found in the Entrance Antiphon of the Easter Sunday Mass. Most often at this Mass we sing a glorious Easter processional hymn rather than voice the words of this antiphon. Yet, the message remains the same: Christ has risen and remains in our midst today!

Where do we find Him? We see the Risen Savior: in the nurses and doctors who travel across the world and risk their lives to minister to the innocent victims of senseless violence; in the soldier who bravely works to bring peace to terror-stricken lands; in Christians who courageously worship the Risen Lord risking persecution and death; and in the youth who give up vacation time to lend a hand, a heart and hope to the poor in Latin America.

We find the Risen Christ in the parish catechists who generously offer their time and witness to help form our youth; in the

parish priests ministering to God's holy people over miles of back roads; in moms and dads who give Christian witness to their faith in a cultural environment that is so lacking in support; and in the parishioner who serves the needy in the parish outreach center.

Yes, we see the Risen Christ still active in our midst two millennia after that Easter morn. There is plenty of reason for hope! Easter assures us that God's promise of presence is fulfilled. The risen Christ, now seen in such lives of heroic service, continues to visit humankind with compassion and mercy. The entire world is filled with a new Presence. We cry out, ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!!

Blessed Easter to you and your loved ones!

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

To Report Abuse

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

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. Preregister 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 28 - 9 a.m., diocesan offices, Ogdensburg
March 28 - 5 p.m., Seton Catholic Central, Plattsburgh

Bishop's Schedule

March 28 - 9 a.m., St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg
12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 29 - Holy Thursday
9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 30 - Good Friday
9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
3 p.m., Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

March 31 - Holy Saturday
9 a.m., Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
8 p.m., Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 1 - Easter Sunday
8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 3 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 4 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home 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 28 - Rev. Walter C. McMahon, 1978; Rev. Lawrence A. Mallette, 1989; Rev. Joseph P. Trombley, 2001

March 29 - Rev. Joseph Taney, 1880; Rev. J. Aime Troie, 1955; Rev. Ross A. Garnsey, 1986; Rev. Euclid Marier, 2003

March 30 - Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960; Rev. Victor Lamore, 2017

March 31 - Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

April 1 - Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002

April 3 - Msgr. Philias Garand, 1942

Environmental Stewardship

Eucharist 'the living center of the universe...'

We celebrate during Holy Week the most sacred mysteries of our faith. These mysteries are embedded in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. Pope Francis sees the sacraments as connecting us with creation.

In Laudato Si he describes Jesus' purpose in the Eucharist, "The Lord... chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter... The Eucharist is also a light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation." (#236)

We might ask how the Eucharist is connected to care for the earth.

Thomas Merton may give us some insight: "From the moment you put a piece of bread in your mouth you are part of the world. Who grew the wheat? Who made the bread? Where did it come from? You are in relationship with all who brought it to the table. We are least separate and most in common when we eat and drink."

"Food is not only central to survival. It is a sacramental gift of God's grace and providence. Eating is a moral act. Anyone who eats participates in our agriculture system and the ethical dimensions of food production. We vote three times a day. Taken from: Lenten 4.5 Program/Earth and Spirit Center

During the Triduum of Holy Week - the Last Supper, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - let us pay attention to what we are eating (or not eating on Good Friday.)

One way that we might show respect for creation is to begin with a prayer of gratitude - for the gifts of sun, soil, water, air that provide the elements for food to grow, and for all those who brought it from the earth to our table. Then, consider where it is coming from and how well we are protecting and caring for the health of the planet and for the well-being of the farm workers who produce it.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Court examines freedom of speech at pregnancy centers

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In oral arguments before the Supreme Court March 20, justices seemed skeptical about a California law that requires pro-life pregnancy centers in the state to visibly display information about abortions to their clients that the centers say violates their right to free speech. A few of the justices asked about the state's motivation to put the law in place, wondering if it was more about educating women about state-provided services or if it was meant to specifically target centers offering pregnancy-related services that clients might assume are medical facilities. Justice Elena Kagan said it would be a problem and a First Amendment issue if the law was "gerrymandered" to only apply to certain types of service providers. The law's requirement that licensed and unlicensed centers disclose their status in advertisements in large type and in many languages was seen as an "undue burden" by Justice Anthony Kennedy, who asked if this would apply - and was told it would - to an unlicensed facility that wanted to have a "choose life" or "pro-life" billboard. Justice Sonia Sotomayor agreed that aspect of the law, in some cases, was "burdensome and wrong."

Pope asks youths to help rejuvenate church

ROME (CNS) -- The Catholic Church needs the enthusiasm, daring and hope of young people so that it can preach the Gospel energetically and respond to the questions men and women raise today, Pope Francis told some 300 young adults. "We need to rediscover in the Lord the strength to get up after failure, to move forward, to strengthen hope for the future," the pope said March 19, opening a weeklong meeting in preparation for October's Synod of Bishops. Most of the young people gathered with the pope at the Legionaries of Christ's Maria Mater Ecclesia College in Rome were chosen as delegates by their national bishops' conferences. Others represented a variety of Catholic movements or ministries, including religious life. But the Vatican also invited delegates from other Christian churches, other religions, including Islam, and young people who describe themselves as nonbelievers. Pope Francis told the young people that they are the ones who can help the church fight "the logic of 'it's always been done this way,'" which he described as "a poison, a sweet poison that tranquilizes the heart and leaves you anesthetized so you can't walk."

Bishops disappointed with inaction on Conscience Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and religious freedom committees said it was "deeply disappointing" that Congress omitted the Conscience Protection Act from the congressional funding bill for fiscal year 2018. "We call on Congress not to give up until this critical legislation is enacted," said a March 22 joint statement from Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chair of the Committee for Religious Liberty. The church leaders said the legislation is "an extraordinarily modest bill that proposes almost no change to existing conscience protection laws on abortion laws that receive wide public and bipartisan support." They also said it aims to "provide victims of discrimination with the ability to defend their rights in court to help ensure that no one is forced to participate in abortion."

VATICAN LETTER

Five wounds of Christ: Pope urges recovery of traditional devotion

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis seems to be fixated on the wounds of Christ. And he has suggested that other Catholics might want to be as well.

He has offered meditations on Jesus' pierced hands, feet and side throughout his pontificate, but since January, his references in impromptu speeches and homilies have been so frequent that it seems to be a major focus of his own prayer life.

In his homily at morning Mass March 20, he shared the advice of a spiritual director: "Look. Look at the wounds. Enter in to the wounds. By those wounds we were healed. Do you feel bitter, feel sad, feel life just isn't going the right way and you're also ill? Look there. In silence."

Sometimes, the pope said, artists want to focus more on Jesus' post-resurrection glory, so they will make a crucifix of gold and adorn it with jewels. But when one is feeling lost or frightened or in pain, he said, look at a crucifix "before the glory" and recognize how Jesus "annihilated himself" to defeat evil and death.

Reciting the Angelus prayer March 18, Pope Francis recommended a centuries-old devotion in which a person contemplates one of the five wounds of Christ and recites an Our Father before moving to the next wound.

"When we pray that Our Father, let's try to enter through Jesus' wounds and arrive deeper and deeper, to his heart," the pope said. "Enter into his wounds and contemplate the love in his heart for you, and you, and you, and me, for everyone," the pope told thousands in St. Peter's Square.

The wounds of Christ were a natural topic of reflection during Pope Francis' meeting Feb. 10 with members of the Stigmatine order; after all, their spirituality is inspired by devotion to the passion of Christ, vividly shown in the wounds he endured for the salvation of the world.

A devotion to Christ's wounds "may sound a bit medieval," the pope told the priests. In fact, meditating on "the five sacred wounds" became popular in the 12th and 13th centuries, but it also enjoyed a resurgence in the 20th century with the growing attention to the Divine Mercy devotions of St. Faustina Kowalska. The Polish

nun wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, "When it seems to you that your suffering exceeds your strength, contemplate my wounds."

But Pope Francis' remarks seem to have more in common with the meditations of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and, perhaps naturally, with the popular prayer, "Anima Christi" or "Soul of Christ." The prayer often is attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the pope's Jesuit order, and is included in the saint's Spiritual Exercises.

Mercy, the central theme of Pope Francis' pontificate, and "the gift of shame," something he mentions often, intersect in the two treatments of Christ's wounds.

St. Bernard's reflection includes the line: "Where have your love, your mercy, your compassion shone out more luminously than in your wounds, sweet, gentle Lord of mercy?"

At a morning Mass in mid-December, Pope Francis was talking about the tenderness of God and mentioned how when a child gets hurt, his or her dad or mom asks to see the scratch or the bruise, kisses it and says, "all better." Pope Francis said he imagines God doing the same; God wants to see the wounds of his children, to touch them, bandage them and heal them.

"There, in the encounter of our wounds with the wounds of the Lord, which was the price of our salvation, there is the tenderness of God," he said.

And, he told priests and religious in Chile in January, wounds are not something we should hide from God or from others. In fact, recognizing one's own wounds, and the woundedness of the church, is the first step to being able to see and treat the wounds of others.

After the resurrection, "Jesus Christ does not appear to his disciples without his wounds; those very wounds enabled Thomas to profess his faith" after he expressed doubts that the Risen Lord was really Jesus, the pope said in Santiago, Chile.

"We are not asked to ignore or hide our wounds," he said. "A church with wounds can understand the wounds of today's world and make them her own, suffering with them, accompanying them and seeking to heal them. A wounded church does not make herself the center of things, does not believe that she is perfect, but puts at the center the one who can heal those wounds, whose name is Jesus Christ."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The most joyful feast of the Church year

Easter is the most joyful feast of the entire Church year, but like all feasts, it requires careful preparation if we are to have a good celebration.

Hopefully, we made good use of the opportunities offered during Lent. If we really “got into” prayerful reflection on Scripture, fasting and almsgiving for the needy, and real effort to loving closeness with Jesus, then our Easter joy is going to last much longer than one day.

During this past week, if the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday really hit home to us, then we’ll un-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

derstand the stunning shock the followers of Jesus experienced at the empty tomb. In all four Gospels, it is Mary Magdalene who is the first to whom Jesus appears, although tradition believes He appeared first to His mother, Mary rushes back to tell the apostles in the upper room, and met with resistance.

They just weren’t ready to understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead. John and Peter went to the tomb. John believed, but Peter still had doubts.

The first reading on Easter is from a later sermon of St. Peter that forms the basis for the beliefs of the early

Christians. In the time that elapsed from Peter’s seeing the empty tomb and that sermon, Peter had much time to think and pray.

Like the others, his faith was transformed by the Pentecost experience of the Holy Spirit. No wonder this reading conveys a deep and enthusiastic faith that Jesus was really alive.

Not only Peter and the Apostles, but each one of us is called on to be transformed in our hearts through the rising of Jesus from the dead. We have the advantage of hearing the testimony through the centuries of “a cloud of witnesses”.

The second reading of Paul to the Corinthians urges this early Church to cast out the leaven of sin,

and become a “new batch of dough.”

It will take a lifetime for most people to grasp fully what effect Jesus’ resurrection from the dead means to us personally.

Each year, we have the chance to come closer to the truth. One day is not enough. In a sense, the season after Easter is even more important than Lent. These are the days when the apostles grew in faith, conviction, and courage to tell the whole world what had happened. They couldn’t do it without the Holy Spirit, and neither can we.

For us, the sacrament of Confirmation has already brought us the Spirit of Jesus. We must call on His gifts of wisdom and understanding to guide us in our

APRIL 1

Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord READINGS

The Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18

Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14

Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 23:4-4

Ezekiel 36:16-17a 18:28; Romans 6:3-11

Mark 16:1-7

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4

or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8;

John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7

Easter reflections. If we do, we’ll know what to do with Easter, and our joy will be full.

LENTEN REFLECTION

Considering the origin of the crucifix

By Dr. Elmer Abear
Contributing writer

Some decades ago most men and women were wearing necklaces with our Lord Jesus Christ hanging on a crucifix. This was to protect them from “Satan who prowls 24 hours a day” (Peter 5:8) to ruin their bodies and souls.

Today, we see most of them are wearing ornaments of all sorts, golden pigs, flying U.F.O. etc. which according to St. Thomas E. Kempis, “It is vanity to be concerned of ‘material things’ and little effort for a well spent (holy) life” (Imitation of Christ Book 1 Chapter 1).

In another words, they made themselves available 24 hour a day for Satan to sow darkness as they were quick to violence and death. You want proof? Tune in

your TV listen to the six o’clock news. The bad news is mostly due to bad people and less news from law abiding citizens.

Therefore, just as St. Francis of Assisi who spoke no word just wearing his brown habit was enough sermon about a silent message of peace and love to all mankind, so too is wearing a crucifix.

Where did the origin of the crucifix take place? The origin dates back to the time of Moses. Remember when Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying a tablet where the 10 commandments were written by God? He was so upset upon seeing his followers dancing crazy and worshipping an ornament of golden calf, a false God, that he threw the tablet and was broken into pieces on impact (Ex 32:10).

Moses did not know what to do with this rebellion.

God told Moses “to mount a bronze snake to a pole which forms the crucifix” (Numbers 29:9). Therefore, the origin of the crucifix came from God the Father, Himself. God the Father gave Moses the instruction what to do.

After this, God sent a plague of “fiery serpents” against those rebels. Many people died bitten by these poisonous serpents; few who survived, contrite and regretful, asked on their knees before Moses what he could do to save them before they would die with the poison.

Moses remembered God’s instruction: and he said, “Anyone who look at this bronze snake (Christ’s symbol) mounted on a crucifix will be healed of their bodies and souls.” (Numbers 21:8-9).

They followed Moses thereafter and sinned no

more on their way to the promised land (Israel). Moses was not permitted by God to enter the Holy Land. His faithful followers settled in Israel, about 700 years before the good Muslims came.

In their houses they made crucifixes to remind them of their deliverance from evil. They passed this on from generation to generation about the sacredness of this crucifix until Jesus came. Today, sad to say the poisonous serpents are still with us in human forms.

For example, when I was, a GP-Ob-gyn practitioner, a mother came to my clinic. She brought along with her a 13 year old daughter who was three-four weeks pregnant. She wanted me to abort her baby.

Since she was in deep pain and embarrassment I did not ask who caused her pregnancy. In a small com-

munity where everybody knew each other I suspected it might have been, “a home-made baby.” With all due respect I kindly told her that I was not practicing abortion. Later, I heard she got her baby aborted by what I called, Dr. Poisonous Serpent in the city.

Just as God sent a plaque of poisonous snakes during Moses time it is no different during our time: the plaque is maintained by poisonous doctors who are with us ready to kill the unborn whether there is money or not.

It is a common knowledge that every second that passes by two-three unborn babies are dead. Our moral record is dismal. These poisonous doctors in our midst would continue to triumph if good men like you do nothing to save the unborn babies. For the “March for Life” thank you.

AT THE MOVIES

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Dennis Quaid brings his formidable talent to bear in the faith-driven drama "I Can Only Imagine" (Lionsgate).

His portrayal of Arthur Millard, the abusive father whose conversion to evangelical Christianity inspired his son, Bart (John Michael Finley), to write the eponymous 2001 song - an unprecedented chart topper that became popular even with nonbelievers - represents the film's principal asset.

A washed-up high school football star whose gridiron career went nowhere, the elder Millard never loses an opportunity to throw cold water on Bart's childhood dreams and nascent creativity.

And his mistreatment of the lad involves wielding a belt as well as cruel words, though this is implied and discussed rather than seen.

Yet, as Quaid succeeds in conveying, Arthur also is the victim of his own painful frustrations and sense of failure. His eventual repentance, moreover, is shown to be appropriately hard-won.



CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE AND ROADSIDE

John Michael Finley, as Bart Millard, and Nicole DuPort, as Amy Grant, star in a scene from the movie "I Can Only Imagine."

Directors and brothers Jon and Andrew Erwin's movie is essentially a biography of Bart, the front man for the group MercyMe.

Besides his turbulent relationship with his dad, the script, which Jon Erwin cowrote with Brent McCorkle, also traces amiable Bart's on-again, off-again romance with Shannon (Madeline Car-

roll), his childhood sweetheart.

And it chronicles his struggle to achieve musical success under the guidance of his group's dedicated manager, Scott Brickell (Trace Adkins).

As its advertising tagline "The song you know. The story you don't," suggests the prime audience for "I Can Only Imagine" will be religious pop fans who, like

Bart, would be star-struck on meeting genre icons Amy Grant (Nicole DuPort) and Michael W. Smith (Jake B. Miller). Indeed, the lead-up to the scene of the title song's premiere performance seems calculated to tantalize those especially devoted to it.

Still, with an inspiring real-life story to tell, and a screenplay free of anything at all offensive, the picture offers uplifting entertainment that parents and teens can share without worry.

The film contains mature themes, including marital discord and the physical abuse of a child.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

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

Amen.

April

The Holy Eucharist

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2018					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	2 REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	3 REV. ROBERT O. LAMITTE	4 REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	5 REV. CLYDE LEWIS	6 REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	7 REV. JOHN L. LOOBY	
8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. DOUGLAS J. LUCIA	10 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	11 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	12 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	13 MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	14 REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	
15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS	18 REV. BERNARD D. MENARD	19 REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU	20 REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN V.G.	21 REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH	
22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY V.F.	24 REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY	25 REV. KEVIN J. O'BRIEN	26 REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY	27 REV. JEROME PASTORES	28 REV. TERENCE PATTERSON	
29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 REV. EDUARDO C. PESIGAN III						

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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: www.myvocation.net

ADIRONDACK

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

Saranac Lake – The Secular Carmelite community in Saranac Lake invites you to a holy hour devotion.

Date: April 8

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church
Features: Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reconciliation

CLINTON

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

Altona – A parish breakfast is set

Date: April 8

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

TEA FOR TWO

Peru – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Monica is hosting its Annual Tea Party

Date: April 22

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center
Cost: \$10
Features: proceeds will support the Elmore SPCA. This year's theme is "Fabulous 50's, featuring 50's music and contests for dance, hula hoop, costumes
Contact: For more information, Jane Woods at: janie124766@yahoo.com.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS

Plattsburgh – Annual Good Friday Prayer Service sponsored by Champlain Valley Right to Life is planned.

Date: March 30

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: In Front of Planned Parenthood
Features: Prayer for human life.
Contact: Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz at 518-562-1175

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: Apr. 8 & 22; May 6.

Time: 3 p.m.

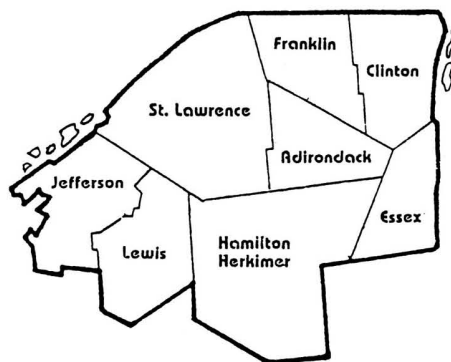
Place: St. Peter's
Features: discussion, prayer, dinner.
Contact: Fr. Howard Venette pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com/315-369-3554

FRANKLIN

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 8



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.

Schedule: The 11 a.m. Mass at Notre Dame Church (St. André's Parish) will open the celebration. Following the Mass from noon until 3 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1 p.m. and continue up until 2:50 p.m. At 3 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung and there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Contact: Fr. Joseph Giroux, at the St. André's Parish Office, (518) 483-1300.

JEFFERSON

VOCATIONS RETREAT

Watertown – The Watertown Vocations Committee will be hosting a free Vocations retreat for 5-8 graders.

Date: April 7

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

Place: St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall
Features: Opportunity for children to learn about the different vocations of married life, priesthood, religious life, and the single life. Program to feature ice breakers, activities and a Q&A panel with a priest, sister, married couple, and single person. Each participant will leave with a goody bag.

Contact: RSVPs by March 30 to Kathi at watertownvocations@catholicwatertown.org or 315-783-2230.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Schedule: Beginning Good Friday

March 30 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin. Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 8 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be blessed.

Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus will have a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: April 7

Time: 4 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 8

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: Reconciliation will be available from 2 p.m. to 3 upstairs. Downstairs the DVD, "In the Name of Miracles," will be shown from 2 p.m. to 3. At 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration program will feature the Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Holy Cards, Pictures and Petitions, the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Homily and Benediction. Rev. Jay Seymour will be the Celebrant. A cover dish reception will follow in the church hall.

Contact: 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

Massena – Event for Massena Catholics to enhance parish renewal is set.

Date: April 7

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon, then lunch

Place: Trinity Catholic School

SPRING RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Morristown – Spring Retreat for Adults to be held.

Date: May 4-6

Place: Cedarhaven

Cost: \$125 (Suggested offering)

Speaker: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

Features: Living the 'Bookend Beatitudes': an invitation to explore the first and eight beatitudes and ways to put them into practice through prayer, sharing and other spiritual practices.

Contact: 315-212-6592 or srbeth@gmail.com

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: March 31, April 14 and 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: 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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 workshops are designed for people who wish to explore beginning the annulment process. The tribu-

nal staff will have the forms available to begin the process and will be on-hand to answer any individual questions.

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

PARISH VOCATION MEETINGS

Regional parish vocation ministry meetings have been scheduled for those currently involved and those who wish to get started.

Schedule: April 21 in Watertown; May 5 in Norfolk

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30

Contact: Contact Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or slippincott@rcdony.org for more information.

OPERATION ANDREW

The Spring round of Operation Andrew to be held.

Schedule: April 5 at St. Mary's Cathedral and April 12 at St. Bernard's Church

Features: 5 p.m. with Holy Hours and Vespers followed by dinner and conversation with Bishop LaValley and area priests. Parents are most welcome.

Contact: Your pastor or the Vocations office to register.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Massena – Registration is open for an all-day Life and Family Conference and workshop entitled Marriage: God Calls, We Respond. The Department of Family Life in conjunction with the Offices of Vocations and Evangelization, is sponsoring the program.

Date: April 14

Place: Trinity Catholic School

Speakers: Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak of Ohio, directors of the Pastoral Solutions Institute.

Contact: www.rcdony.org/marriage or the Family Life Office at 315-393-2920

OPERATION MIRIAM LUNCH

Watertown – A program for women of middle school age and older, to learn about consecrated life is set

Date: April 15

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

Features: Prayer to know one's vocation with benediction; Lunch With Bishop LaValley, followed by sharing of vocation stories and information about consecrated life. Parents are welcome.

Contact: Register by contacting Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620 by April 12



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

Holy Week and Missionary Childhood

This school year, the Missionary Childhood Association in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, which is overseen and managed by the Pontifical Mission Societies, made some changes and took on some help with oversight in our Catholic Schools. Missionary Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, a Massena native has been working hard in our school system as a liaison between this office and the program in our schools.

The MCA program this year changed up the program a bit. Set forth some obtainable goals. Everyone is working hard to spread the meaning of MCA- which is children helping children.

In honor of Holy Week and the Spring Education, let us take a moment to reflect on the children. Below is an excerpt from the MCA Lenten Prayer Service for Missionary Disciples:

Today we gather in prayer to thank God for the gift of Jesus and for His great love. Jesus wants all children to hear when He speaks to our hearts about believing in Him, loving one another and sharing our blessings. And yet, there are children today who have never heard the "Good News" of Jesus. What do you think Jesus call you to do for them?

Let us turn our hearts and our minds to Him in prayer to mind children in the Missions who suffer from poverty, neglect, violence or hunger and ask God's special blessing upon them. May we always respond with joy to Your Good News, Lord, live by Your example, and love others as You love us. Amen.

In closing, Lord Jesus, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross so that everyone could be saved. Send us Your spirit so that we may reach out arms in love to bring the Good News of You and Your salvation to children everywhere.

The complete text of this prayer service is available at https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/lent-easter/pdf/Lenten_Prayer_Service_for_Children.pdf
God Bless.

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

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – Lillian S. (Gurwitz) Williams, 96; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2018 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

Brushton – Betty J. Mitchell-Russell, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 17, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Cadyville – Gladys (Miner) Collins, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2018 at St. James Church.

Cadyville – Lorri Ann Favro, 61; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. James Church.

Canton – Mary E. (Desmond) Akley, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Robert Thomas Dupree, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery, Churubusco.

Croghan – Burton E. Kloster, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Vincent DePaul, Belfort.

Massena – Betty J. (Sutton) Beaulieu, 88; Funeral Services March 19, 2018 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Michael Ciampa, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial, Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Lianne (Nadon) Marion, 103; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville – Michael P. Allen, 70; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at All Saints Church.

Newcomb – Judy (Garrand) Blanchette, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2018 at St. Therese Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery.

North Bangor – Frederick J. Passino, 74; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Notre Dame Church, Malone.

Plattsburgh – Mae E. (Gowett) Campbell, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Hermon.

Port Henry – James Kimball; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry – Bernice M. Mayer, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Redford – Rita M. (Liberty) Roberts, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2018 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Mary E. (Harland) Kissel, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

West Chazy – Elizabeth D. (Cobb) Fountain, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish Cemetery.

Marian S. Beddoe

WATERTOWN – Marian S. Beddoe, 91, formerly of Lowville and Massena, passed away Wednesday evening, March 14, 2018 at her home under the loving care of her family and Jefferson County Hospice.

A funeral Mass was said March 21, 2018 at Holy Family Church, Watertown. Spring burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery, Mohawk Hill. Contributions may be made to Holy Family Church, 129 Winthrop

St, Watertown, NY 13601 or St. Peter's Church, 5457 Shady Ave, Lowville, NY 13367. Arrangements are with Isenecker Funeral Home, Inc.,

She is survived by four children; Mark H. (Nancy) Beddoe of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Martha A. Beddoe and Theresa A. Beddoe, both of Watertown, and Jeanne C. Beddoe (Eric Lobenstine) of Rochester; five grandchildren; 1 great granddaughter; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She is predeceased by her loving husband, Hayden, who passed away January 1, 2000; two brothers, Joseph and David Sins; three sisters, Florence Jackson, Helen Hurlbut, and Sister Jeanne Baptiste.

Mrs. Beddoe was born on March 24, 1926 in West Leyden, NY, a daughter of the late Joseph and Ida Stabb Sins. She attended country school in West Leyden and graduated from West Leyden Central School. She graduated from Nurses Training at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester and attended Syracuse University for public health certification. She moved to Massena to work as a public health nurse, where she met her husband. On November 4, 1950 she married Hayden H. Beddoe at Sacred Heart Church, Massena, with Rev. Joseph Dowd officiating. The couple resided in Massena until 1996, then moving to Brookside Senior Living Community. She moved to live with her daughters Martha and Theresa in Watertown in 2010.

While living in Lowville, she was very active with St. Peter's Church, was a Eucharistic Minister, and led the Rosary at Lewis County Residential Health Care Facility. When she was younger was also a member of the choir at St. Mary's Church, Massena. Marian enjoyed sewing and needle work. She was a student of the natural history of New York and avidly read everything she could on World War II.



Marian Beddoe

A special part of her life with her family, were summers spent at a camp in the Adirondacks. She continued to visit the property into her 90's.

Most important to her, was her faith in Jesus Christ and her relationship to the Catholic Church. Ministry to others to offer them the love of Christ brought her great joy.

Condolences may be shared at www.iseneckerfuneralhome.com.

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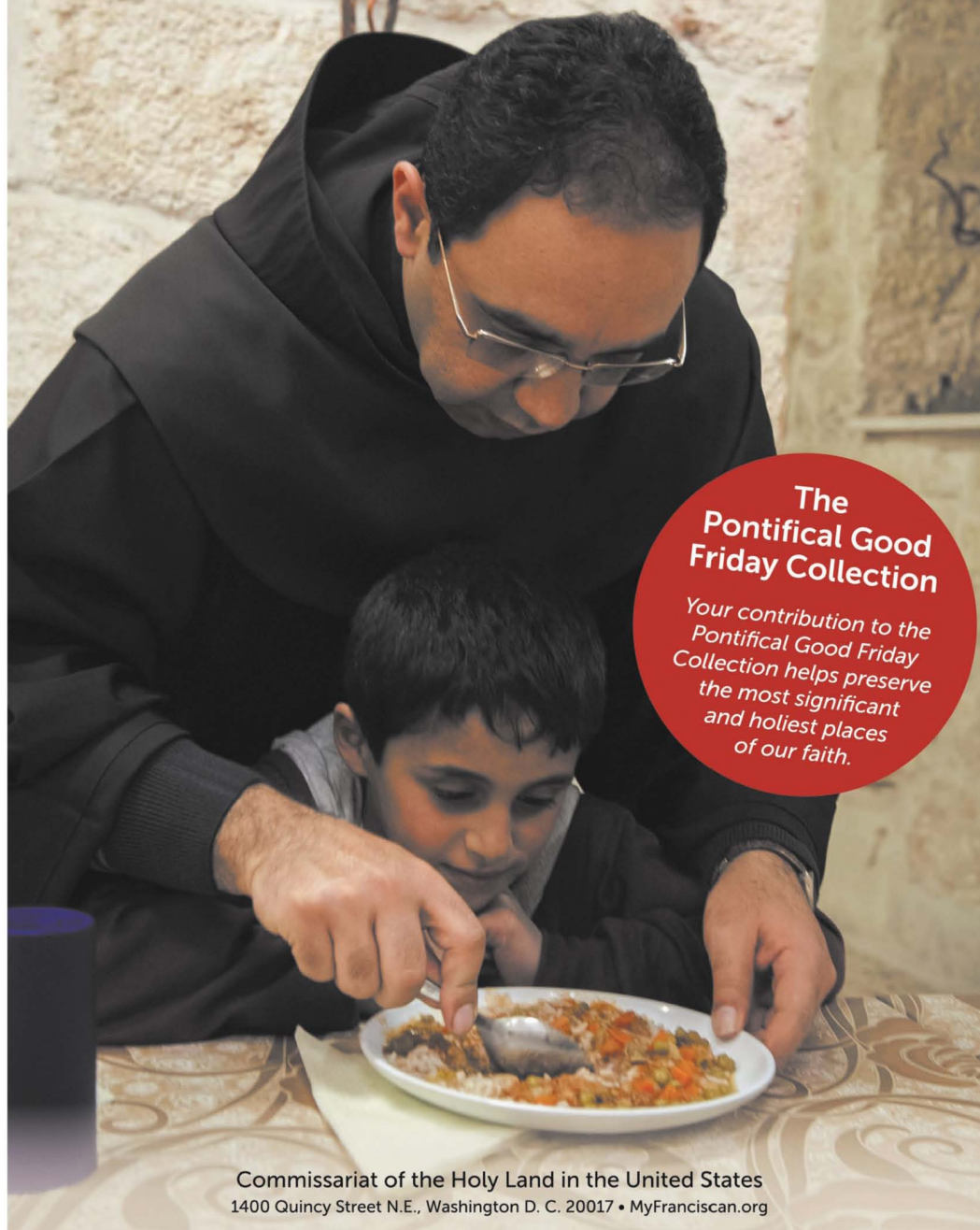
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