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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 40

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 7, 2018

God gives abundantly

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—God asks so little of people and yet, he gives so much in return, Pope Francis said. "He asks for our goodwill in daily life, he asks us for an open heart, he asks us to be willing to be better," the pope said at his

weekly general audience at the Vatican Feb. 28.

Because of ice and unusual freezing temperatures in Rome, Pope Francis held the audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall. But the Vatican also opened St. Peter's Basilica to

accommodate the overflow. Giant screens were set up in the basilica so the people could follow the audience, and later the pope went to the basilica to greet and bless those inside.

In his main talk, the pope

continued his series on the Mass, focusing on the Liturgy of the Eucharist, which begins with the preparation of the gifts of bread and wine that are then consecrated and distributed to the faithful at Communion.

MARRIAGE IS A MINISTRY

Preparing for special day



In an interview with the *North Country Catholic*, Dr. Greg Popcak discussed the beauty and power of Catholic marriage. Dr. Popcak and his wife, Lisa, will be the keynote speakers at "God Calls, We Respond," a family life conference to be held April 14 in Massena. They will speak about marriage from long personal and professional experience. Married 27 years and the parents of three children, the couple has authored 20 books, co-founded the Pastoral Solutions Institute, and been widely featured on radio, TV, and in newspapers and magazines. Sought-after speakers on marriage and family life, the Popcaks regularly address audiences across the country and around the world. The first installment of the two part interview appears on page 7; the second will focus on the Pastoral Solutions Institute and explore some of the relationship issues that couples face.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

New program to aid victims of sex abuse

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has established a voluntary Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (the "IRCP") in an effort to assist victims of clergy sex abuse in their healing process.

Introducing the IRCP, Bishop Terry R. LaValley explained, "The IRCP further expresses our contrition to the victims who have reported clergy sexual abuse to the Diocese and is intended to assist in their desire to find healing and peace."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Rights and responsibilities

Lenten series on Catholic social teaching, "Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace," continues

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

ON THE WAY TO BECOMING CATHOLIC

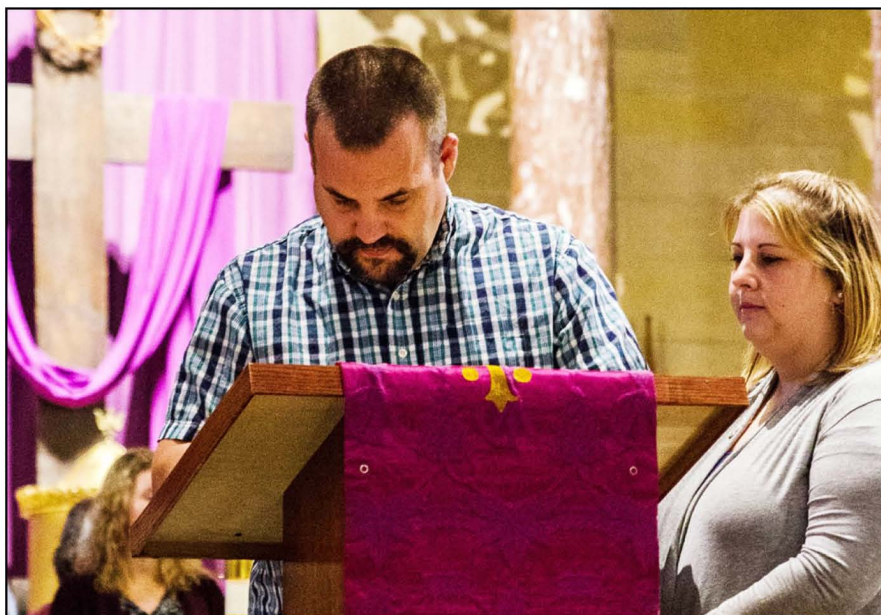


PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Scott Sauter of Lowville signs the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates held Feb. 25 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. His wife and sponsor Jennifer Sauter looks on. Sauter and other catechumens from across the diocese will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil at their parishes. Bishop LaValley's homily for the ceremony is printed on page four, with more photos on page five.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW: Don't miss a single issue of the *NCC*... page 13

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The chance to help Jesus in disguise

One of the attributes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg about which we can take great pride is our concern for people who don't live anywhere near us.

For 40 years, we provided spiritual and material support to St. Martin de Porras parish in Molendo, Peru, through the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate.

During the past year, we have been active in a "solidarity of faith" through our twinning initiative with the Diocese of Latakia, Syria.

The North Country Mission of Hope has just completed yet another service trip to Nicaragua.

While we see plenty of poverty in our North Country communities, we Catholics know that efforts to help the poor must extend beyond our local efforts.



Mary Lou
Kilian

This coming weekend we have another opportunity to assist the poorest of the poor in all parts of the world. The annual Catholic Relief Services collection, to be held in all parishes of our diocese, will give us the chance to "help Jesus in disguise."

The archbishop in charge of national collections, Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, explains it eloquently: Christ

is standing at the door of our hearts, knocking, seeking relief from pain and suffering around the world. He comes to us bearing the disguise of vulnerable immigrants and refugees, the poor and marginalized, the sick and lonely.

"The Catholic Relief Services Collection is an opportunity to respond and comfort Christ as we see him in our brothers and sisters," the archbishop continued. "his collection represents our community of faith at work in the world, saving souls and improving lives."

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts.

Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

Held in conjunction with the Peter's Pence collection (which provides the pope with the funds to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster and disease) the CRS collection can be seen as a gift to us all as we look at the poverty and pain in our world and wonder how we can possibly make a difference.

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

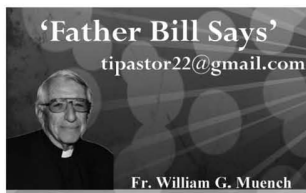
The Stations: perfect prayer of gratitude

These past few weeks, the spirit of gratitude has been at the top of my thoughts.

As the days of Lent pass by so very quickly, the importance of gratitude has come to mind. Lent always leads to Holy Week, even in the first weeks of the season. Already Lent reminds me of the importance of walking with Jesus in his sufferings – and to stand at his cross – as he dies for us. This certainly causes me to be intensely grateful.

Personally, thoughts of Jesus' terrible sufferings actually saddens me a great deal. I find it very difficult to accept Jesus' sufferings and his crucifixion. I wish he didn't have to suffer. I know that it is important to our faith that Jesus suffered and died for us. I just find it so difficult to have happened.

So, each Lent, I pray to help me learn gratitude that Jesus was crucified. His crucifixion did lead to the miracle of the resurrection. Our salvation de-



manded that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

Obviously, I should be grateful that Jesus suffered for me and my salvation. I still feel so sad that his sufferings were so intense. However, I do pray in thanks to the Lord: "Thank you, Jesus – you suffered so much for me."

Among my Lenten prayers I continue to pray that the Lord helps me to recognize that the Lord has loved me so much. Jesus loves us all as demonstrated by his suffering and crucifixion. I want to learn to accept, I want to learn to love, this suffering Jesus.

In this regard, the best way

to lead me to the proper spirit in accepting the suffering of Jesus is through the Stations of the Cross – a prayer of gratitude to the sufferings of Jesus.

The Stations are a journey with Jesus from Pilate to Calvary. In some places, like among Latinos, instead of walking around the Stations in Church, the people walk in procession around the parish streets, stopping before fourteen homes for the prayers and remembrance of each station.

Basically, the Stations of the Cross are primarily a personal prayer. Doing the Stations means walking alone around the Church, visiting each station. One possibility would be to read the prayers in one of the little books – or – simply, quietly, to stand before each station looking at the image and remembering the incident in Christ's Passion.

This prayer, this visiting of the Stations of the Cross provides moments of gratitude as

we remember these sufferings of Jesus and his crucifixion. The Stations become a time of realizing how much Jesus accepted for us. I must admit that I still feel very upset that Jesus suffered so much, that my sins cost such suffering for Jesus. My Lenten suffering should cost me some suffering also. However, praying the Stations of the Cross remind and lead me – even just once a year – of all that Jesus went through in his Passion.

One more thing. Each time we complete the Stations of the Cross, we should continue our prayer in remembrance of the Resurrection of Jesus. We believe with complete trust that the crucifixion of Jesus leads to his resurrection; the death of Jesus leads to new life in the Lord. For as we recognize that we must be ready to suffer with Jesus and will die with the Lord, all of this leads us to new life. We will find resurrection with Our Lord.

Diocese establishes Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program

Program assists victims of clergy sex abuse

OGDENSBURG – The Diocese of Ogdensburg has established a voluntary Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (the “IRCP”) in an effort to assist victims of clergy sex abuse in their healing process.

Introducing the IRCP, Bishop Terry R. LaValley explained, “The IRCP further expresses our contrition to the victims who have reported clergy sexual abuse to the Diocese and is intended to assist in their desire to find healing and peace. We can never make them whole or give them back what has been taken from them, but we hope that this will help bring healing to the deep wounds suffered by these innocent victims.”

The Diocese has long

standing programs that offer professional counseling and other assistance to victims of abuse. The IRCP moves beyond this pastoral outreach and offers compensation in response to what these victims have suffered.

Bishop LaValley explains, “I have spent time with and listened to many victims of clerical abuse. They often tell me they are asking the Church to assist them in finding peace and healing for the deep wounds of abuse. This is an opportunity for victims to find that healing.”

“We cannot give them back what has been taken from them,” the bishop said. “Victims have told me they want some tangible sign of the Church’s desire for healing and reconciliation. It is my

prayer that this program will give us the opportunity to truly hear their story and offer compensation in way that brings a sense of healing to them.”

Mr. Kenneth Feinberg and Ms. Camille Biros will serve as the independent administrators of this program. Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros have vast experience in administering voluntary compensation programs. They were the independent administrators of the World Trade Center compensation program, as well as similar IRCP programs that have been undertaken by other dioceses in New York State.

Bishop LaValley commented, “Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros were selected to serve as independent admin-

istrators because of their skills, competence and reputation for treating claimants with fairness, respect and dignity.”

Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros have full discretion determining compensation for victim-survivors, and the Diocese will abide by their decisions. “As we begin this assignment, we are pleased to work with Bishop LaValley and the Diocese of Ogdensburg,” said Mr. Feinberg.

The independent administrators will evaluate the claims of those who have previously reported incidents of clergy sex abuse to the Diocese and determine what compensation will be awarded.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will take a long-term

loan to cover all costs of compensating victim-survivors. The Diocese will not use money contributed by parishioners to support parishes, schools or charitable works to fund the IRCP, nor will it use funds from the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal, any capital campaign donations or gifts to a specific ministry or apostolate.

Individuals who wish to learn more about the Independent Reconciliation Program of the Diocese of Ogdensburg can visit www.OgdensburgDioceseIRCP.com. Inquiries about eligibility for the IRCP should be directed via email at claimant_services@OgdensburgDioceseIRCP.com or by calling the IRCP’s toll-free line at 833 718-2719.

FOLLOW ME

IRCP is ‘a sign of our need for God’s mercy’

Today (March 1) I announced the establishment of an Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (“IRCP”) for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The IRCP is designed to offer reparation, promote reconciliation, and further the healing of individuals who have been sexually abused by members of our clergy.

The clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church is a sad chapter in our history. It has dramatically impacted the faith of so many. As a diocese we have taken important steps to address this problem by reporting all allegations of abuse to the proper District Attorney, removing from ministry all clergy with credible allegations of abuse, and preventing future acts of abuse through our prudent safe environment programs and policies.

As your Bishop, I again apologize for the pain and suffering caused by some priests of our diocese. We have consistently provided survivors of abuse with counseling, spiritual support and other support to help them find ways to heal and move forward. We have continuously looked for ways to reach out to victims.

The Year of Mercy, with its focus on healing and reconciliation, stimulated renewed discussion among the bishops of New York State about how to reach out to these victims. These discus-

sions led to the establishment of IRCPs in the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Diocese of Rockville Center, and the Diocese of Syracuse. Noting the good will and

healing fostered by these IRCP, I decided to establish this IRCP for our diocese. It is simply the right thing to do.

The IRCP will be administered by Mr. Kenneth Feinberg and Ms. Camille Biros, both of whom have vast experience in administering voluntary compensation programs. They administered the World Trade Center compensation program as well as the similar IRCPs established by other dioceses in New York State. Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros were selected for this role because of their skills, competence and reputation for treating claimants with fairness, respect and dignity.

The independent administrators will work with those who have reported credible instances of clergy abuse and determine what compensation will be paid to them. These individuals will be invited by letter to participate in this voluntary program. Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros have complete discretion in determining who is eligible for compensation and the amount of that compensation.

There are 38 individuals who will be invited to participate in this program. These claims repre-

sent 21 priests who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse. These claims date back to the 1940s. Most of the accused priests are dead, and all of them are no longer in ministry.

The diocese will bear the cost of this program and will borrow the funds needed to compensate survivors. Repayment of that loan will be made from the sale of diocesan assets over the next several years. Please be assured that we will not use money collected from parishioners to support parishes, schools or charitable works to fund the IRCP. Additionally, monies donated to the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal, any capital campaign, or gifts to any specific ministry or apostolate will not be used for the IRCP.

My decision to establish this IRCP comes after much prayer and reflection. I have consulted with my brother bishops, the College of Consultors, diocesan staff, and the Diocesan Finance Council, all of whom are supportive of the program. This IRCP is a sign of our need for God’s mercy, reconciliation with survivors, and our desire to reach out with compassion to those who suffer as a result of abuse.

Please join me in praying that this effort will bring peace and healing to survivors, and forgiveness and reconciliation to all affected. May we continue our efforts to provide the safest environment possible for our children and young people, and to reach out to our hurting brothers and sisters.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Listening to the voice of God

Bishop LaValley's homily at the 2018 Rite of Election, Feb. 25 at St. Mary's Cathedral

I was recently reading a commentary that reminded me of a familiar TV reality series, *The Voice*. While there are various stages of the competition, a unique selling point is the "blind audition" in the opening round where the judges have their backs to the contestants.

God's voice is creative... God's voice is transformative

If the judges are impressed by the quality of a contestant's singing voice, they press a button and turn around in their swivel chairs to see who it is they have voted for.

Once committed, the judge becomes the contestant's coach, collaborating with the singer to win the competition and, of course, win a lucrative deal with a music company.

What counts is not the contestant's beauty or their ability to dance or look good, but simply the quality of their singing voice. Of course, the judge's ability to really listen is important.

The *Voice* figures prominently in today's readings. In the first reading, the voice of God seems to be asking if not the impossible, then the inhuman. Isaac -



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop LaValley congratulates candidate Crystal Clark who will enter into full membership in the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown. She was accompanied by her sponsor Richard Doell.

Abraham and Sarah's only son - was the child God promised so that Abraham could become the founding father of a 'great nation.'

Not only did God seem to be asking him to do something unimaginable, but He also seemed to be going back on that sacred promise. With relief, we discover that in fact the point of the story is the very opposite to what it appears to be on the surface. Whereas perhaps human sacrifice was commonplace in the ancient Near East, what is revealed is that God does not want human sacrifice.

By careful listening, Abraham's understanding of God develops and grows, and his relationship of trust and faith in God deepens.

The voice of God takes center stage at the Transfiguration in our Gospel, affirming a truth that up to this point in Mark's Gospel

God had revealed only to Jesus Himself at His baptism: His identity as God's own beloved Son - a truth that literally transfigures Jesus.

Finally, His disciples have come to the point where they are ready to hear this truth. But their listening is only partial. As Jesus goes down the mountain, He starts to help His disciples to understand the meaning of His Sonship: that He will be faithful and obedient to His Father, even to the point of having to give up His life.

Jesus trusts God's faithfulness and ability to raise Him from the dead. We know it is only after the resurrection that the disciples begin to really hear and appreciate what Jesus has been telling them.

As Christians, we believe that the Transfiguration is not merely a past event but an ongoing reality. God's

voice is creative - God spoke and creation came into being.

God's voice is transformative: Jesus literally glowed as God affirmed Him as the Son.

God's voice continues to be at work in our world today, and in our lives. But, like Abraham and the disciples, we need to learn how to listen and perceive at more than just a superficial level.

That takes time and practice and commitment. I pray that's been part of your Lenten discipline: setting time aside every day in prayer with Jesus.

So much in our world today works against anything that takes time. We want, we demand things instantly - from God or anyone else - it's all about instant gratification.

Persevere in your prayer, even when it seems unpro-

ductive. Don't lose patience.

When we listen in prayer - when we are able to step outside our own expectations and preconceptions and focus simply on God's Voice, sort of like those judges on the TV show, we find that God's voice continues to be creative and transformative. By making time, each and every day, to quietly open ourselves to the presence of God, we make room for God to affirm our dignity as God's beloved daughters and sons.

And as that reality gradually seeps into our minds and hearts, we increasingly learn how to live out of that sacred space - to live as daughters and sons of God, not out of a sense of legal obedience to a command, but because that is who we know we really are at the core of our being.

Being children of the loving Father is something that shines out from our lives - because we have learned to listen to the Voice. Others experience the light, the joy of the Gospel through us.

With the help of your pastors and the parish RCIA team and staff, continue to make these forty days of Lent a privileged time of reflection and prayer with the God who has loved you into existence and Whose voice continues to call us, every day, to follow Him.

On the day of our baptism, God smiled and calls us His "beloved." I'm sure this day, the Lord is smiling as He sees your joy-filled faces here this afternoon. He is well-pleased!

As I thank you for coming to our St. Mary's Cathedral to be counted among the elect, I want to thank your pastors and RCIA teams for their continuing prayers and support.

Know of my continued prayers for each one of you as you continue your journey of faith. May God be praised... forever may God be praised!

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THE RITE OF ELECTION

And Call To Continuing Conversion of Candidates

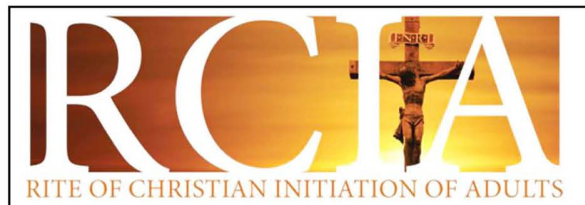


PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE

Father Bryan Stitt, director of the Department of Worship, and Cathy Russell, Watertown regional director of Christian Formation, give directions to the parish RCIA directors who introduced the catechumens and candidates at Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates held Feb. 25 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The catechumens will receive all three of the Easter sacraments - baptism, the Eucharist and confirmation - at their parishes at the Easter Vigil while the candidates have already been baptized.



Bishop LaValley congratulates David Jobson, a catechumen from St. James Parish in Carthage.



Francisca Medina of St. Mary's, Canton, signs the Book of the Elect. She is a junior at SUNY Canton.



Bishop LaValley greets Luke Henry who will receive the Easter sacraments at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. His sponsor Mary Burns is at right.



Jessie Miller of St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams signs the Book of the Elect as her sponsor Erin O'Rourke looks on.

Mercy Care to offer parish nursing course

LAKE PLACID - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing / Parish Nursing on April 6, April 7, April 14, April 21, and April 28. The course is offered to registered nurses of all faiths. Mercy Care provides the training at no cost to participants but pre-registration is required.

The parish nurse offers assistance in obtaining community services, helps with understanding diagnoses, medications and diagnostic tests, provides blood pressure screening, health education programs and much more.

The parish nurse does not do hands-on nursing or duplicate what is available through the public health

nurse, but does bring his or her nursing experience and faith to the service of others.

Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings, Ed.D., R.N. is qualified as a Parish Nurse Educator and will lead the training course. The course entitled "Foundations of Faith Community Nursing" requires 38 contact hours.

If you are a registered nurse with a desire to help people live a healthy, faith-filled life, you may wish to serve your own faith community or others in the Tri-Lakes area as a volunteer parish nurse.

To register for the course or request more information, please contact Sister Catherine Cummings at 523-5582 or ccummings@adkmercy.org.

Mercy Care has trained more than 50 parish nurses

throughout the North County, 11 of whom are serving in the Tri-Lakes area. Mercy Care for the Adirondacks facilitates networking with other nurses in the program and provides the support and equipment to its Faith Community Nurse Volunteers.

The program offers the nurse an opportunity to choose the number of hours she/he is able to give to providing care that is holistic and wellness-focused in the community.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information is available from Jill Lawrence, 315-393-2920, ext 1440

Upcoming sessions:

March 10 - 10 a.m., St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills

March 14 - 6 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena

March 23 - 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Massena

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

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Bishop's Schedule

March 7 - 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

1:30 p.m., Guidance in Giving Meeting at the Bishop Brzana Building in Ogdensburg

March 8 - 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 9 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 10 - 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

5 p.m., Bishop's Burse Mass at St. James Church in Carthage followed by Dinner

March 11 - 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 12 - 7:15 p.m., Novena & Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 13 - 12:30 p.m., Mass at Altona Correctional Facility

March 14 - 11:00 a.m., Priest Personnel Meeting at the Bishop's Residence 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 7 - Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

March 8 - Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914;

March 11 - Msgr. Edmund Charles M.J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 - Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 - Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

Environmental Stewardship

Lent...a time "to hear the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth"

We hear in the Scriptures during Lent that the kind of fasting that God asks of us is to break the unjust fetters and let the oppressed go free, share your bread with the hungry... Isaiah 58:6.

Pope Francis sees this call to fast from injustices intricately connected with those affected by poverty and with the earth upon which we all depend for life.

One courageous woman, Sister Dorothy Stang, SND, saw this integral connection and gave her life to respond to these 'cries'.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, she entered the convent at age 17. Her first assignment was to Coroata in Brazil where she was sent to educate local farmers who had no formal education. The main thrust at that time came from large-scale ranchers who ruthlessly drove farmers from their lands. Very often the powerful ranchers paid the police to look the other way.

Sister became a champion of farmers, indigenous groups, and the forest itself. With a bounty of \$50,000 on her head placed there by ranchers, she was shot and killed on her way home from a particularly disagreeable meeting with them.

Sister Dorothy's life is a testimony to the Beatitude "Blessed are those who are persecuted." While you and I may not have to give up our lives physically to respond to these 'cries', we may find ourselves asking: how can I respond to the needs of the poor and of the earth?

Some suggestions for prayer and action this week:

#1. Support the Rice Bowl Project sponsored by the Catholic Relief Services, Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, or other missionary group, i.e. Maryknoll Missionaries;

#2. Examine your daily routine to see if there is one more practice to 'reduce, reuse or recycle' that will protect the future of our beautiful earth. Do it.

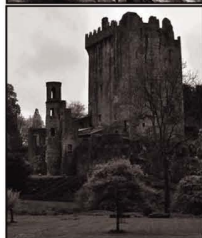
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'Marriage is a ministry'

Keynote speaker for April 14 family life conference shares message about Catholic marriage

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

When Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak keynote the April 14 Family Life conference in Massena, they will speak about marriage from long personal and professional experience. Married 27 years and the parents of three children, the couple has authored 20 books, co-founded the Pastoral Solutions Institute, and been widely featured on radio, TV, and in newspapers and magazines. Sought-after speakers on marriage and family life, the Popcaks regularly address audiences across the country and around the world.

In a recent NCC interview, Dr. Popcak discussed the beauty and power of Catholic marriage.

NCC: The title for the conference is "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond," in what sense is marriage a vocation?

DR. POPCAK: Marriage is, obviously, a sacrament - and a call from God, a vocation, to love and serve him, and one another, in a particular way. Here's the thing nobody gets: marriage is a ministry.

We tend to think of ministry as the "churchy" stuff we do in the church building, like being a lector or Eucharistic minister. But ministry is any activity we do that conveys God's love to another person.

Marriage is a primary ministry. It's my job to discover the way God wants me to love my spouse and kids.

From that, God also wants to use my marriage to change the world.

NCC: Could you expand on that concept?

DR. POPCAK: There are two



ways God wants to use marriage to change the world.

First, he wants to show the world that the free, total, faithful love that everybody aches for is actually real. I can see this in Bob and Mary Smith over there. I grew up with them and I know they're not perfect - but if they can have this kind of love, then maybe I can have it too.

Second, the world needs loving, responsible, kind, godly people - so God gives married couples the ability to give the world what it needs by having children and raising them to be loving, responsible, kind, godly people. Through this, God allows our love to change the world for generations to come.

So, marriage is a very important ministry. When we start to think about it that way and live it that way, it changes everything.

NCC: What makes the Catholic understanding of marriage unique?

DR. POPCAK: Unlike all other versions of marriage, Catholic marriage doesn't let you define the terms of your relationship; you do not write your own vows. This is not because the Church wants to control you, but because the Catholic vision of marriage is that it is a discipleship relationship.

As disciples, we say to the Church: 'Teach me to love this person. Teach me to take the feelings I have for this person and apply them in a way that glorifies God and helps us to become everything we were created to be.' That is a very different model of marriage than what most people have in mind when they say, 'I do.'

There's a lot more going on in Catholic marriage than other marriage types, and

we need to do a better job articulating that to people. We tend to assume that everyone means the same thing by 'marriage,' but today that is less true than ever.

NCC: How can the Church effectively communicate God's plan for marriage?

DR. POPCAK: I think that the Church really needs to take seriously the Second Vatican Council's emphasis on the universal call to holiness. In looking at pastoral theology over 2000 years, it is shocking to see just how little of it concerns lay spirituality.

In fact, St. Pope John Paul II literally did write two-thirds of everything the Church has taught on marriage. That is not by accident, as he wrote in the wake of Vatican II with its stress on the universal call to holiness.

I would suggest that St.

John Paul II's Theology of the Body and his other writings on marriage and family are an effort to "operationalize" the universal call to holiness. What does the universal call to holiness mean for a lay person?

What does it mean to have a spirituality that incorporates sexuality?

NCC: What does it mean to have 'a spirituality that incorporates sexuality'?

DR. POPCAK: Lay people, like those vowed to celibacy, must make an embodied response to discipleship. Jesus gave us his body at the Incarnation, and now through the Eucharist; our bodies are part of our discipleship. I have to give God lordship over my whole self, which includes my body.

Yet even now a lot of well-meaning pastors, themselves celibate, are quick to excuse married people from the demands this involves. As a Church, we are too quick to pat lay people on the head: 'It's just too hard for them.' We are trying to be merciful, but this is demeaning, and we are infantilizing the laity.

NCC: What message will you bring to the conference?

DR. POPCAK: We would like couples to know: you do not have to settle. God wants great things for your marriage. He wants to fill that ache in your heart for love that lasts. He wants you to have an intimate and passionate marriage, and he wants to use your marriage to change the world!



MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

Rights and responsibilities

By John Miner
Director, Respect Life Ministry

Fourth in a series

In human society one man's natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other men; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other.

-Pope St. John XXIII

Encyclical: *Pacem in Terris*, Peace on Earth

As citizens and residents of the United States, we often regard our rights as those which are enumerated in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution, such as: freedom of religion, speech, and of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble, freedom to petition the government, the right to keep and bear arms, the right to due process and a fair trial, etc. And the Ninth Amendment even reminds us that the people retain rights that are not explicitly stated in the Constitution.

But the Church is not limited to that which is recognized by governments. We do hope that governments reflect Christian values, and we should strive to hold our governments accountable to that end, but we have the individual responsibility to recognize and respect rights, even if our government fails to do so.

The statement above from Pope John illustrates how the Church recognizes responsibilities and rights - as a twofold dynamic that must remain in balance. Our responsibilities in response to the rights of others is based on the concept of *solidarity*, which will be explained later in this series, "Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace." *Subsidiarity* is employed to work in conjunction with solidarity.

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

As Pope Benedict XVI explained in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), when people are unable to accomplish something on their own, subsidiarity describes the assistance given to them that is "designed to achieve their emancipation, because it fosters freedom and participation through assumption of responsibility" (no. 57).

With this description, Habitat for Humanity comes to mind. The organization builds homes for people who would otherwise be unable to afford them.

In addition to repaying the affordable mortgage, the homebuyer invests hundreds of hours of labor alongside volunteers and other Habitat

homeowners. This is not a "handout" but an investment in the community and in the individual, and it is done on a very local level.

That is another characteristic of subsidiarity - keeping the authority and decision-making at the lowest level to achieve a goal. It avoids what Pope Benedict called, "paternalist social assistance that is demeaning to those in need." (no. 58)

Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his apostolic exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*, "The inviolability of the person which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the *inviolability of human life*. Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture - is false and illusory if the *right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination." (no. 38)

So, the right to life is first. This does not absolve us of our duties to the other rights he mentioned. When the right to life is respected, the demand for these other rights is, in his words, "justly made."

The "duty" to which Pope John refers, is to our neighbor, and respecting that right means directly responding to it when we have the ability. How could we be aware of a hungry or homeless member of our community and not respond as Jesus commanded us? The rights that our faith recognizes all stem from our human dignity: the right to life, the right to bodily integrity, the right to nourishment, the right to medical care. All require, to one degree or another, the cooperation of others. Christ's teaching about love of neighbor is the very foundation of the Works of Mercy, both corporal and spiritual, that are taught by the Church.

One last thought: St. Teresa of Calcutta recognized the rights of all those for whom she cared. She based it on the reflection of Jesus in their being. When we consider this in our responsibilities towards our neighbors, it is much easier to act in charity and for the "duty" to come with much less effort.

North Country Catholic has gone



Green



Here is what one subscriber has to say:

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Adult Children of Alcoholics

Weekly meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
Upstairs Room

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

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



Support And Pray
For Vocations

Collection Weekend March 10 & 11, 2018

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

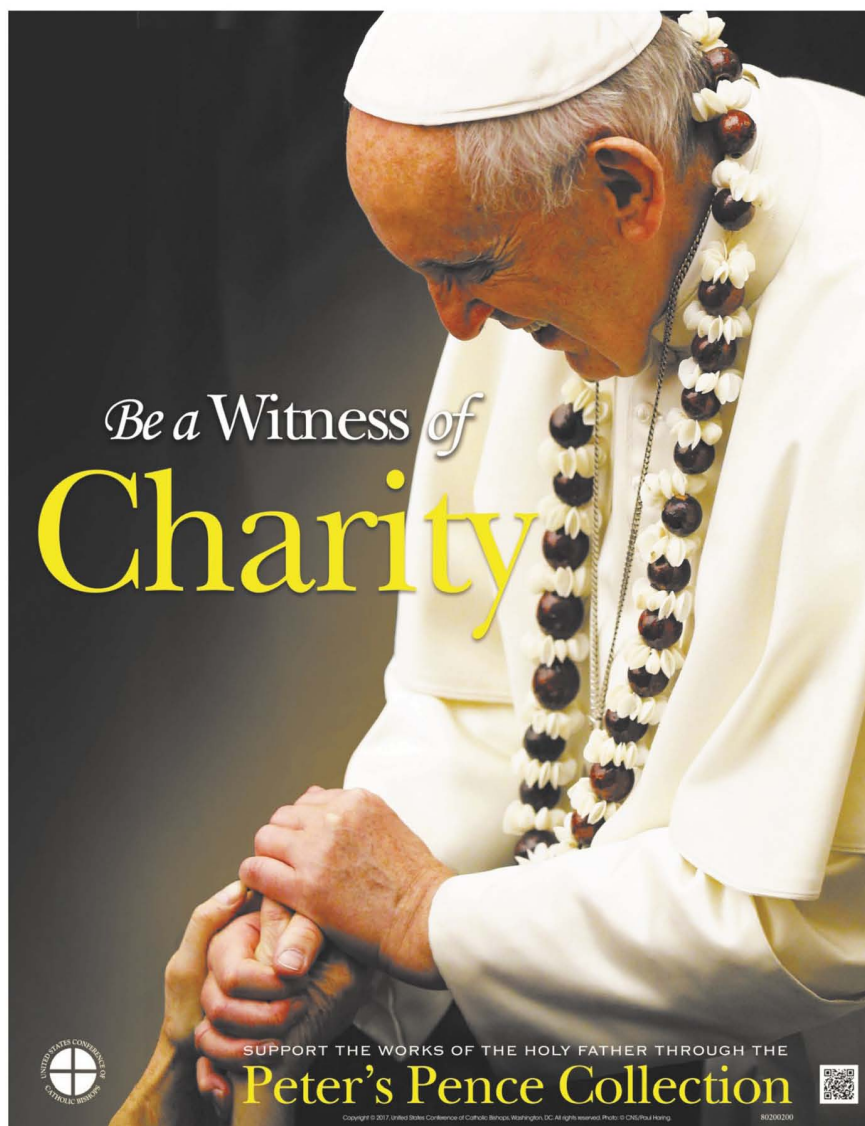
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www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

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Be a Witness of
Charity

SUPPORT THE WORKS OF THE HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE
Peter's Pence Collection

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

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

The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters.

The purpose of the Peter's Pence Collection is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

Collection Weekend: March 10 & 11

Rites held for Sr. Catherine, SCSL

PONT-ROUGE, QUE. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Catherine Leclerc, 95, a Sister of Charity of Saint Louis, who served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 24 years, was held Feb. 28 at the Church of Pont-Rouge.

She died Feb. 22 at her community's Louise Elizabeth House.

Sister Catherine, formerly known as Sister St. Lawrence, spent 76 years in religious life. She served as teacher

and principal in Redford, Keeseville, and Notre Dame (OLVA) in Plattsburgh. Her years of service in the diocese were from 1944 to 1948, 1950 to 1965 and 1966 to 1971.

The daughter of late Eugene Leclerc and of late Rose-Anna Sanschagrin, she was born in Pont-Rouge, Quebec.

In addition to her religious community, she is survived by many cousins and friends.



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Bishop of Ogdensburg***

for the annual Renewal of Priestly
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and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for
use in all the churches of the Diocese
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ
on

Thursday, March 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Lawmakers get calls on DACA

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As Congress reconvened after a 10-day recess, members of both chambers received calls from Catholics around the country Feb. 26 urging them to find a legislative solution to save the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. In announcing the "National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers," officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked all Catholics to call their members of Congress and press them to protect Dreamers from deportation, provide them a path to citizenship and avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process. The communications manager for the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services said Feb. 27 that more than 45,000 calls were made to members of Congress. Church leaders were among those making calls. Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, who called Illinois senators and a representative, spoke with Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, left a voice message for Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth and spoke with an aide for Republican Rep. Rodney Davis, according to the Chicago Catholic archdiocesan newspaper. Congress must protect "our young immigrant neighbors who want nothing more than to continue to contribute to the nation they call home," the cardinal said in a statement in advance of the call-in day.

Redemptorists leaving Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupre monastery

SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BEAUPRE, Quebec (CNS) -- The Redemptorists are leaving their Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupre monastery, where they have been living since the 19th century. The monastery is adjacent to one of Canada's biggest shrines, both named after the mother of Mary. In a letter just sent to pilgrimage organizers and donors, the rector of the sanctuary, Redemptorist Father Bernard Gauthier, said most members of the community will now live in various residences, mostly around Quebec City. He said the decision was made after "several months of studies and reflections on the current state of the buildings, the ability of the Redemptorists to maintain a quality pastoral service, the financial resources available for the life of the sanctuary and for the life of confreres. This means that the number of Redemptorists present in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre will be very small," said Father Gauthier. "We continue to be the guardians of the shrine but we will work, in the coming years, to have a team of Redemptorists, laypeople and other religious." This will be done by collaborating with the diocesan authorities, he wrote.

Pope appeals for end to fighting, evil of war in Syria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Calling the war in Syria "inhumane," Pope Francis called for an end to the fighting, immediate access to humanitarian aid for those in need and the evacuation of the injured and infirm. "My thoughts often turn to that beloved and martyred Syria where the war has intensified, especially in eastern Ghouta," he said Feb. 25 after praying the Angelus with people gathered in St. Peter Square. "This month of February has been one of the most violent in seven years of conflict: hundreds, thousands of civilian victims -- children, woman, the elderly. Hospitals have been hit and people can't get anything to eat," he said. "All of this is inhumane," he said. "Evil cannot be fought with evil. And war is an evil." The pope then launched a "heartfelt appeal that the violence immediately end, that access to humanitarian aid -- food and medicine -- be given and that the injured and ill be evacuated" from an area under rebel control.

Broader representation of women in church is a process, cardinal says

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - The fuller participation of women in decision-making in the Catholic Church is a continuing process that still needs time, Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell said.

Speaking during a question-and-answer session in Rome March 1 after the presentation of the book, "A Pope Francis Lexicon," Cardinal Farrell said that a greater role for women in the church "is going to take more than just issuing a decree."

"It's a question of changing a culture, and I believe that will take time, but I think that Pope Francis -- more than anybody -- has tried and continues to try and continues to bring about that change each and every day," he said.

The book features a collection of essays edited by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service Rome bureau chief, and Joshua McElwee, Vatican correspondent for National Catholic Reporter.

Responding to a question regarding an essay written by Tina Beattie, a theologian,

in which she noted the exclusion of women "from many offices of Catholic teaching," Cardinal Farrell said the pope would not totally agree that "he has not tried and is not bringing women into positions of authority in the church."

Some dicasteries once led by cardinals are now led by bishops and priests and, thus, pave the way for more participation by laypeople, especially women, in church decisions, said Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, who also spoke at the conference.

"Every day, more and more, the presence of the laity is taking place," the cardinal said. "It's a process of changing the culture, but I can assure (you) it's taking place."

Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, a member of Pope Francis' international Council of Cardinals, also was a contributor to the book, writing an essay on reform.

Cardinal Farrell also was asked about reports that he prevented a conference on women in the church, Voices of Faith, from meeting in the Vatican March 8, although

the conference had been held for the past four years in the Casina Pio IV, a villa located in the Vatican gardens.

Organizers of the conference said they had to change locations after the cardinal rejected the participation of several speakers, including former Irish President Mary McAleese, an advocate of gay marriage and women's ordination.

Events held within the Vatican, Cardinal Farrell explained, are "presumed to be sponsored by the pope" and people assume that "the pope is in agreement with everything that is said."

After being told "what the event was about, it was not appropriate for me to continue to sponsor such an event," he said.

However, Cardinal Farrell said that while he could not sponsor the event, the church is "always open to listening and we are always open to dialogue."

"It would appear sometimes that we are not, but this is one case when I would say the circumstances don't correspond to what some people would like to make out that we don't want to listen," the cardinal said.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Time to take a 'breather' and rejoice

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is still called "Laetare (rejoice) Sunday" because the opening words of today's Mass are from Isaiah: "Rejoice, Jerusalem... you who mourned for her."

We are at the mid-point of Lent, so for centuries Christians on this day have "taken a breather" and let up a little on their strict (!) penances.

We also rejoice in the new insights into God's mercy and great love for us which we find in all three readings.



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

Second Chronicles (first reading), gives the history of Israel from Solomon, the last king of the united kingdom, to King Cyrus of Persia. Princes, priests and people had "added infidelity to infidelity" by mistreating the prophets and ridiculing God's message. Enraged, God had sent them into exile in Babylon for seventy years.

But in his great mercy, he uses a pagan, King Cyrus, who had conquered the Babylonians, to release the

enslaved Israelites, sending them back to Jerusalem, loaded with gold and materials for rebuilding the Temple, the center and soul of their worship.

What striking similarities there are in our own day.

All we have to do is read surveys and follow the news to know how many in our country wish to make laws that would overturn God's laws on life, marriage, and family.

We need to pray that God will forgive us for this flaunting of His laws. If we do not pray and do penance, our religious freedom may be more and more confined to the church

MARCH 11

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

2nd Chronicles 36:14-16

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

buildings.

A reason for hope, however, is found in today's Gospel. There, we find one of the most consoling texts in all Scripture: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." What fol-

lows is Jesus' plea that we shun the darkness. That means that we must preach the Gospel "from the rooftops". "For whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

That means living in a society under laws of religious freedom.

Along with religious freedom, Christians are meant to have courage and some boldness in taking advantage of it. We need to make our voices heard along with deep conviction about the truth of our Catholic teaching. Indeed, REJOICE this Sunday.

A VOICE OF FAITH

Finding strength in a life with sad moments

By **Father John Catoir**
Contributing writer

When I was little, I was

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sad because my parents wouldn't buy me a pony. (We lived in an apartment.) When I was a teen, I was sad because I had pimples. As an adult, I became sad when I started losing my hair. You might say, sadness is part of the human condition.

However, there are more serious kinds of sadness. The ones that have to do with our spirituality. I recently received this letter from a reader:

"Father, why is it that lately, when I pray, I feel like it's very rote and flat. Although my prayers come from the heart, and I have a strong faith, it's not the same as it once was. It makes me feel very sad. I never have serious doubts, but I feel I can never measure up."

I understand this kind of sadness very well. I've had my share of it over the years. It's a nostalgia over the loss of something or someone dear to you. Feeling down or unhappy be-

cause of grief or disappointment is very human.

When I was in the seminary, I prayed so hard that my mother would live to see me ordained. She suffered for years from many ailments. I trusted God, and prayed that she'd make it, but alas, she died a year before my ordination.

The normal grief period was compounded by my doubts about God's love. I believed I was called to be a priest, but new doubts flooded my mind.

What if my vocation was a creation of my imagination? If God really loved me, why didn't He answer my prayers? What if I fail as a priest?

It was my dark night of the soul. I lived through it by sheer will power. The pious feelings that brought me from the Army to the seminary had evaporated. Nevertheless, I persevered.

Despite that painful year, I recovered, and was ordained On May 28th, 1960.

It was a joyful day, but the grief was still lingering. My Dad and I had a good cry, and then life went on. I never looked back, and I never doubted my vocation again.

What if I had given in to those fears and dropped out. As a priest over the years, I've touched many lives through my work in the parish, through the written word (writing is a vocation within a vocation), and through my nationally syndicated TV Show, Christopher Close-up. I'm happy now that I didn't allow my sadness to deter me from enjoying my life as a priest.

To all of you who are suffering from one nagging sadness or another, if it has caused you to believe that God has withdrawn His consolation from you because you are no longer as pleasing to Him as you once were, let me tell you emphatically: THAT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE!

Feelings are not facts.

Only faith can give you the facts about your relationship with God. God is unchanging love. He loves you on good days and bad, during good seasons and sad. Carry on with courage!

Know that the merits of your actions increase when you're not doing it for emotional gratification. But for the love of God.

When your sadness passes away, you'll see that it was a gift from God to help you bear rich and abundant good fruit for all eternity.

May the Lord be your strength and your joy as you journey through life, with all its sad moments.

—
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

RED SPARROW

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Not one sparrow, so we are assured on the highest authority, falls to the ground without God's knowledge.

In the case of the potentially engaging espionage thriller "Red Sparrow" (Fox), however, such awareness may represent the downside of omniscience.

Twisty and sophisticated, though not without holes in its logic, the film might have offered relatively flavorful entertainment. But gruesome violence and gratuitous sexual content ruin its appeal.

Disabled in an onstage accident, Russian ballet star Dominika (Jennifer Lawrence) finds her future endangered once she is no longer of value to the Bolshoi. Not only her salary, but her rent and the medical care provided to her ailing mother, the audience learns, were all included in her lucrative - and now doomed - deal with the famous company.

Dominika's sudden vulnerability opens her to recruitment by her Uncle Vanya (Matthias Schoenaerts), a highly-placed and ruthless intelligence official who wants her to train as a seductress of foreign agents. Through his influence, she's enrolled in a school - run by jackbooted sourpuss "Matron" (Charlotte Rampling) - perversely dedicated to the purpose.

Dominika's eventual target is veteran CIA operative Nate (Joel Edgerton) who serves as the contact for an unusually valuable Kremlin mole. But her ultimate loyalty, throughout the zigzagging plot, remains intriguingly uncertain.

Director Francis Lawrence's adaptation of Jason Matthews' 2013 best-



CNS PHOTO/FOX
Jennifer Lawrence stars in a scene from the movie "Red Sparrow"

seller, the first volume in a trilogy, leaves nothing to viewers' imagination.

Over-the-top Matron relentlessly drills her proteges in amorality. Later, Nate undergoes an unbearable interrogation, the length and intensity of which are wholly artistically unjustified.

Its cruelty and cynicism, alas, will keep this "Sparrow" from finding a nest with any viewer of sensibility.

The film contains excessive graphic violence, including horrific torture, strong sexual content, themes of incest and vengeance, at least one use of profanity as well as numerous rough and a few crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



Refreshment for the mind, body and soul

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

~Bishop Terry R. LaValley



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ADIRONDACK

RUMMAGE SALE

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

Date: March 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 2

Place: St. Agnes School

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

Contact: call 518-523-3771

LENTEN FISH FRY

Bloomingdale - K of C Council 7803 Bloomingdale/Gabriels will hold their annual Lenten Fish Fry.

Date: March 9 and 23

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Paul's Oratory

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$6

CLINTON

PARISH BREAKFAST

Altona - All-you-can-eat breakfast is set

Date: March 11

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

Place: Holy Angels Church Hall

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

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 the sacredness of human life.

Contact: Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz at 518-562-1175

OPEN HOUSE

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

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

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

FISH FRY

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

Date: March 16

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

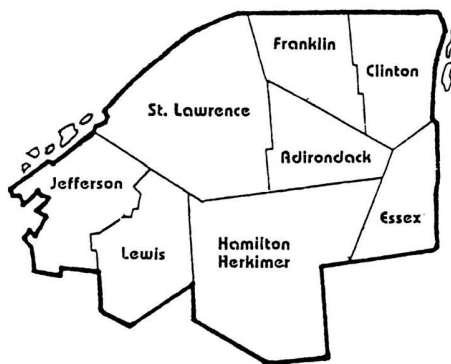
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

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

GUYS AND DOLLS

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

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



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.

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

BECOME A HOST PARENT

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

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

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

LAKESIDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

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

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's

Features: discussion, prayer, dinner.

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

ALBUMS NEEDED

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

Contact: Susan Pellerin at spellerin@thesetonschools.org.

LENTEN ADORATION

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

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

Place: Chapel of St. Andre Bessette.

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

ESSEX

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

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

Date: March 11

Time: 2 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall

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

FRANKLIN

LENTEN MISSION WITH BISHOP

Bishop LaValley will be leading a Lenten Mission entitled: "Jesus through the eyes and hearts of Joseph, Peter and Mary" in

Brushton and North Bangor

Time: 7 p.m.

Schedule: March 19 & 20 at St. Mary's Church, Brushton; March 21 at St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor.

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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: March 22

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

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

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

JEFFERSON

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

PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

Evans Mills - A presentation to be held by Fr. Chris Looby on a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Fatima & Lourdes.

Date: March 27

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Trip to be held April 28 - May 7, 2019. Cost of the trip is \$3,399

Contact: Mary McIntosh at 315-558-6372.

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight meets the first Wednesday of the month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

Features: pro-life videos, books and educational materials for borrowing

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Monday-Friday

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

Place: Holy Family Church

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER GROUP

Watertown - Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall, St. Anthony's

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Watertown - The St. Joseph Cupertino fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will have their monthly meeting.

Date: last Sunday of the month

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Holy Family Parish

WEEKLY ADORATION

Sackets Harbor - St. Andrew's has scheduled exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Anthony's Church

LEWIS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Dates: March 15 and 22

Time: 4 p.m. to 5.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: One hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction.

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.

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

Greetings from Fr. Dan Chapin

By Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSSJ
Diocesan Mission director

I recently received this email from Father Dan Chapin, former pastor of St. Stephen's Parish, Croghan, and currently serving in Latin America associated with Maryknolls Fathers and Brothers, to share with all of you.

"I appreciate your daily prayer for me; I remember often all of you in the diocese; thank God for the *North Country Catholic* which keeps me up to date on so much of the life of the church in the North Country; it's hard to keep up with the many changes, especially the retirements and the many people I have known and loved who have been called home and who see the Lord face to face.

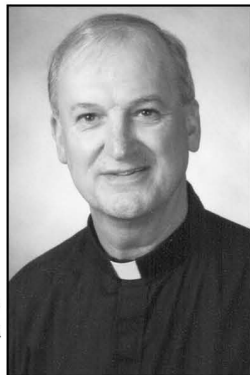
Being a diocesan priest associated with Maryknoll (there are only three of us in the whole world, and the other two are in Cambodia), you probably won't find me in the Maryknoll Magazine, at least not at this time.

It's hard to believe that I'm already in my second year in Cochabamba with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers; I signed my five-year contract with Maryknoll on July 29, 2016; we are part of the complex here known as the "Maryknoll Mission Center in Latin America".

Before I share my activities of the local church, know that I will be traveling to Peru on January 30; I will be spending the month of February in Arequipa and Mollendo; this is my vacation, as I had none last year; but of course, I will be helping out at San Marin de Porres (Padre Andres knows I'm coming), spending time with friends and bringing myself up to date on happenings in Peru; I am planning on presiding at a special Mass at San Martin to remember Frs. Maroun and Mundy, expressing gratitude to God for their lives as missionary priests; I have the funeral booklets of both and they will be displayed (such beautiful photos!) at the Mass. I will certainly express your greetings from the mission of office. My last day here is Monday, Jan. 29th, as I will be leaving early on the 30th; I'm spending a couple of days in Cuzco and then heading to Arequipa for a week and then Mollendo for 2 1/2 weeks (three weekends)..."

(To be continued in the March 14 issue of *NCC*)

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



OBITUARIES

Brushton – Theresa A. (Groulx) Russell, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 26, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Champlain – Catherine Rose (Dumas) Mayo, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Leonard R. Tavernier, 94; Funeral Services March 1, 2018 at the Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery.

Chazy – Benjamin Gregware, 42; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church.

Malone – J. Brian McKee, 78; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in Spring at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Terry E. Favreau, 47; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 26, 2018 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena – Robert R. Thompson, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2018 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Sylvia (D'Arienzo) Whitton, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Ogdensburg – Frances "Pauline" L. (Duquette) Amo, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2018 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Randy R. Santor, 52; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – James E. Hoyt Sr., 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2018 at St. Bernard's Church

Saranac Lake – Nan L. (Rose) Knight, 73; Funeral Services March 1, 2018 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – John "Jack" Williams Sr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary A. (VanBurne) Jones, 88; Funeral Services March 17, 2018 at Samaritan Summit Village.

Watertown – Mary Agnes (Johnson) Mesires, 71; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2018 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial Brookside Cemetery

JOB OPENING

Wadhams Hall Business Manager

Wadhams Hall Retreat Center in Ogdensburg, NY is seeking a person to serve as Business Manager.

The Business Manager is responsible for the total operation of the Retreat Center.

The responsibilities include the fiscal operation, building maintenance, kitchen, housing, and buildings and grounds upkeep.

A complete job description can be sent to interested persons by writing to msgraucoin@mac.com.

Interested candidates should send their letter of interest along with a Curriculum Vitae to:

Rev. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin
850 Arsenal St., Watertown, NY, 13601

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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Canton - St. Mary's Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 2018-19 school year, Nursery through 6th grade.

Features: St. Mary's offers a faith-based, academically rigorous education, along with a family-oriented environment. Small classes and latch-key services are additional benefits.

Contact: To register, please call the school at 315-386-3572 or email at smsoffice@twcny.rr.com.

LENTE DAY OF REFLECTION

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

Date: March 10

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

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

MIDLANDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Time: 9 a.m.

Schedule: Mar 10 & 31, April 14 and April 28

Features: brunch, discussion, and

prayer with Fathers Douglas Lucia and Bryan Stitt.

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

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

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

Date: Feb. 16 to March 30

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

Place: St. James School

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

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

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 tribunal 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.

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

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

ICE PALACE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Father Alex Guimpol, parochial vicar at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, was honored as "Rookie of the Year" for his work helping to build the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival's Ice Palace. Father Alex was presented an "Ice Palace Worker Rookie of the Year" vest by Carnival Committee President Jeff Branch after a recent Sunday Mass. Branch said that "This is Father Alex's first winter here and he is used to the warm weather of the Philippines. It was an inspiration to see him all bundled up making the slush that we use as mortar and moving ice blocks around."

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

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

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat.

YOUTH RALLY

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

Date: April 28

Place: St. Mary's

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

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

Contact: Youth leaders can register their groups at www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - A Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat is set

Date: June 1-3

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Father Mark Reilly will serve as the retreat chaplain. Confidential registration forms at the Respect Life webpage: www.rcdony.org/prolife

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

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

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/camp.

PARISH VOCATION MEETINGS

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

Schedule: March 17 in Peru; 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.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

Plattsburgh - Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) is returning to Plattsburgh

Date: June 24 to 29

Place: Seton Catholic Central
Schedule: Daily Mass, Penance and prayer, work in the community.

Cost: \$375 which includes meals, lodging, transportation to the work sites, t-shirts and snacks.

Features: Open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2018) and college students. Catholic Heart Workcamp's mission is to inspire young people to live as disciples of Christ through serving others and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant. During the week, campers will volunteer at various sites throughout the Plattsburgh area during the day and participate in fun, faith-building programs in the evening.

Contact: For information about the Plattsburgh camp or to register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786. Additional information about CHWC can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com.

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