

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Reflection on 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* | PAGE 10

Challenges as the Syrian war drags on | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 2

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 11, 2018

'Leave Mass praising God'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The final words at Mass - "Go in peace" - are an invitation to Christians to proclaim God's blessings through their lives, not an opportunity to go outside and speak ill of others, Pope Francis said.

Through the Eucharist,

Jesus "enters in our hearts and in our flesh so that we may express in our lives the sacrament we received in faith," the pope said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square April 4.

"But if we leave the church gossiping, saying, 'Look at

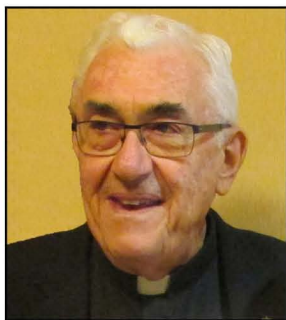
this one, look at that one,' with a loose tongue, the Mass has not entered into my heart. Why? Because I am not able to live the Christian witness," he said.

"Every time I leave Mass, I must leave better than when I entered, with more life,

with greater strength, with a greater desire to give Christian witness."

An estimated 20,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square dressed in bright ponchos and holding umbrellas to shield themselves from the cold rain.

Funeral held for Fr. Mark McDonald, MSC



A Watertown native, Father McDonald served as superior general of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart worldwide from 2005 to 2017.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Life and family conference

'Marriage: God Calls We Respond'

to be held Saturday at Trinity Catholic and Sacred Heart Church in Massena

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

PRIESTLY COMMITMENT



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Fathers Donald A. Robinson, Douglas G. Comstock, Donald J. Manfred and Kevin D. McEwan renew their commitment to priestly ministry during the 2018 Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. For the past several years, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been working to insure that parishes of the North Country remain vibrant despite a declining number of priests. An update on recent changes in parish configurations and the Living Stones Planning Committee appears on pages 4-6.

YOUNG FAITH: Diocesan teenagers on retreat, plan for youth rally... p. 8-9

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Kicks off this spring



Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that a diocesan-wide Capital Campaign "It's Our Church, It's Our Future" kicks off this spring. "I believe this is truly an urgent, historic effort to strengthen our local parish families in the Diocese of Ogdensburg," he said. The "It's Our Church, It's Our Future" Capital Campaign will have a goal of \$16 million, which will include \$1.3 million for the 2018 Bishop's Fund Appeal. Of the funds raised, 75% will remain at the parish for its local needs such as programs and capital improvements. The remaining 25% benefits the entire diocese supporting retired priests, seminarians, Camp Guggenheim and St. Mary's Cathedral.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY
President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/
General Manager

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

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

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

Subscription:

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

Matters for publication

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

POSTMASTER:

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

A time for mourning, then for joy

This week, a main focus of the NCC is the work of the Living Stones Planning Committee with an update on some of the parish mergers, closings and re-configurations of the recent past or near future.

It all sounds very logical and cut and dry.

Outsiders may not approvingly to read "St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church have requested and received permission to merge into one parish," or in, Malone, "St. André Bessette Parish requested and received permission to change the status of St. John Bosco Church to an oratory and to close Joseph's

Church."

After all, we can't expect one or two priests to cover the ministry previously carried out by six or seven.

Mary Lou
Kilian

And we all know that changes happening in our own parishes are replicated in every corner of the diocese.

But, we also can't deny that this is a heartbreaking turn of events for people whose children were baptized and parents were buried in beloved parish churches of the North Country.

Father Joseph W. Giroux, pastor in Malone, knew how difficult his words would be when he talked to his parishioners

on March 11: "I come today to tell you that Bishop LaValley has approved the plan we proposed to him. Most significantly, that means that St. John Bosco Church will become an oratory - remaining a place of prayer, but where Sunday Mass is no longer celebrated - and St. Joseph's Church will close permanently."

Father Giroux acknowledged that "this is not easy news to have to share. This is a very sad loss - not only for those of you who are attached to these two particular church buildings, but for all the Catholics of Malone - your priests included. We were not ordained in hopes of spending our priesthood re-aligning parishes and closing churches."

It's likely that all of us will spend a little time in mourning at one time or another over the next few years but, in the end, we will remember that we are church built on the concept of "from death to new life."

Father Giroux is helping his parishioners make their way towards hopefulness and joy.

"It can be awfully tempting at a time like this to focus only on what's being lost," he said. "That, of course, would be to miss the bigger picture. The whole point of having a plan is to set our sights on the future. Committing ourselves to working toward a brighter tomorrow, as did those who built our churches years ago - that is the very best way to honor the rich legacy of our past."

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

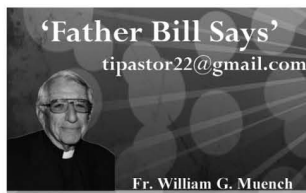
Recognizing the presence of Jesus

My favorite Easter story in the Gospel is the Emmaus story (Luke 24). I am sure that you know this story. Two of Jesus' disciples - I think that they were a married couple - were walking home from Jerusalem to Emmaus following the crucifixion of Jesus.

As they walked along, the resurrected Jesus came along but the two disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus. They were upset because of the crucifixion of Jesus. They had hoped that Jesus would be the long-awaited redeemer but he had died. Jesus - who they do not recognize - explains to them, "was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

We are then told that Jesus began to interpret for them all in the Scriptures. Can you imagine! This couple from Emmaus had a Scripture class from Jesus, himself. I would have loved to have been there.

Today, I believe that Jesus often enters our lives and walks with us just like he did for that couple from Emmaus.



Fr. William G. Muench

Jesus comes to guide us, to support us, to show us the way. At first, we may not recognize that it is Jesus, however, when we see where we are being led and how we are being helped, we realize that it was certainly the Lord.

Often, it is completely a surprise, but, when our faith is strong and we are a praying people, we will experience the presence of the Lord.

Then, in the Gospel story, when they come to Emmaus, this couple invites Jesus - who they still do not recognize - to come in and stay with them.

The story goes on to tell us: "And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized

him, but he vanished from their sight."

We immediately recognized that this is the Blessed Eucharist. As Jesus shares the Holy Eucharist with them, they recognize who he is - the Lord Jesus. And, they realize that he has resurrected.

For us, today, as we join together for Mass we also recognize the presence of Jesus, the resurrected Lord.

Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper so that we would remember his great love for us as demonstrated by his life, death and resurrection. We are a loved people. Each time we share in the Eucharist we again realize just how much we are loved.

Since the earliest days, this sacrament is called the Holy Eucharist. The very word Eucharist means "thank you" making the Mass a celebration of gratitude. It calls us to be a grateful people. I remind you often of the words of Brother David "If you want to be happy, be grateful."

The Blessed Eucharist leads us to live a life filled with grati-

tude. When we understand this, we are truly transformed, we are better individuals, more alive in the love of the Lord. It makes us better people and we make our world better when we act in gratitude.

This story ends as Jesus leaves the two people of Emmaus. They say to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us!"

Each time we participate at Mass and hear the Scriptures and receive the Holy Eucharist our hearts should be burning within us. I pray that this is your experience.

I have often preached this at Mass: we should never leave Mass as the same person we were when we came in. We must be different after we have spent this time with Jesus.

I often tell the story of the fellow who came up to me after Mass to tell me that nothing had happened to him, he wasn't changed, he wasn't different. I immediately sent him back for another hour in Church - he missed something.

Diocese to kick off Capital Campaign

After prayerful reflection on the Diocesan Pastoral Vision and in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg (2022), Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that a diocesan-wide Capital Campaign "It's Our Church, It's Our Future" kicks off this spring.

"We have learned a great deal about the strengths and the challenges that we must address as we move forward in continuing the pastoral mission of the Church here in our North Country," said Bishop LaValley. "This campaign, which calls for sacrifice on everyone's part, will support the rich legacy of faith that characterizes the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I believe this is truly an urgent, historic effort to strengthen our local parish families in the Diocese of Ogdensburg," he said.

The "It's Our Church, It's Our Future" Capital Campaign will have a goal of \$16 million, which will include \$1.3 million for the 2018 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

Of the funds raised, 75% will remain at the parish for its local needs such as programs and capital improvements. The remaining 25% benefits the entire diocese supporting retired priests, seminarians, Camp Guggenheim and St. Mary's Cathedral.

Bishop LaValley consulted with several groups, including the Council of Priests, Action Planning Committee, Diocesan Finance Council, Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee, on how the Diocese can strengthen our parishes and enhance existing programs, ministries and services.

The consulting firm, Guidance In Giving (GIG) conducted a feasibility study with



over 100 personal interviews of Priests and parishioners and a mailing survey to 5,000 parishioners representing the entire Diocese.

In all cases, these discussions and survey results led to a consensus on the need for this diocesan-wide Capital Campaign at this time.

Guidance In Giving, Inc. (GIG) is working with the diocese on this endeavor and has begun the groundwork with some parishes participating in the initial Block 1 Phase. "It's Our Church, It's Our Future" will run in three blocks beginning with Block 1 running April to June.

Parishes in Block 2 participate from June to September and campaigns in Parishes in Block 3 take place from September to November.

Family conference Saturday

MASSENA – The doors will open Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Trinity Catholic School for registration of participants of the Life and Family Conference "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley, who will lead morning prayer for the program, said, "In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis called for a "renewed awareness of the importance of marriage and the family" (AL,2). We are

truly privileged to welcome Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak as the keynote speakers for the conference. This faith-filled, gifted couple will help us achieve greater clarity and deeper insights into Church teaching on Marriage and Family Life.

"The Church's vision of married life and love is meant to be the foundation for the many works of evangelization, catechesis, pastoral care and education and formation in our parishes,"

Bishop LaValley said. "The recent Popes have emphasized that pastoral ministry in service of marriage and family life should be an urgent concern for the Church.

"I'm confident that our time together at this Conference will be a tangible sign of our desire to accompany married couples and families in our journey of faith, responding to His call with joy and enduring love," the bishop said.

Rites held for Fr. Mark McDonald, MSC, on Monday

WATERTOWN – A Mass of Christian Burial for Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Mark McDonald, 75, was held April 9 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

He died April 2 at the Sacred Heart Villa in Center Valley, Pennsylvania. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

A Watertown native, Father McDonald served as superior general of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart worldwide from 2005 to 2017, based in Rome, Italy.

Father McDonald was born July 22, 1942 in Watertown, the son of Donald and Anna Murrock McDonald. He was a graduate of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Heart Academy.

He attended St. Bonaventure University for two years and began his studies to become a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in 1961. He completed his philosophy studies in Quebec and graduated from Laval University in Quebec City in 1964.

He completed his theological studies in Rome, Italy and graduated from the Angelicum Pontifical University in Rome in 1968.

He was ordained a priest of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on June 29, 1968 in Watertown by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan.

After ordination, Father McDonald taught at the Sacred Heart Preparatory Seminary and Immaculate Heart Central High School (IHC), both in Watertown. In 1972, he became vice principal at IHC.

In 1976, Father McDonald became director of the MSC Retreat and Renewal Center in Shelby, Ohio. In 1983, he became formation director

for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Bogota, Colombia and in 1985 became sectional superior of the MSCs in Colombia.



Fr. Mark McDonald, MSC

In 1991, Father McDonald was elected provincial of the MSCs in the United States headquartered in Aurora, Illinois.

In 1997, he became pastor of Our

Lady of the Sacred Heart parish in Watertown. In 1999, he became director of Cor Novum (the MSC retreat and renewal center in Issoudun, France), a position he held until his election as superior general in 2017.

Father McDonald became semi-retired in 2018 and was residing at the Sacred Heart Villa in Center Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father McDonald is survived by his sister Mary (Ted) Mascott of Naples, Florida and sister Sally (John) Sheinman of Rothersthorpe, Northamptonshire, England and his nephew Zane (Michelle) Riester, grandnephew Ian Riester and grandniece Ella Riester, all of Wayne, New Jersey.

He is also survived by his uncle William Murrock and his aunt Betty Murrock of Watertown and his aunts Gertrude McDonald and Shirley McDonald of Lowville and McDonald and Murrock cousins.

Father McDonald was predeceased by his parents and his grandparents Jennie and Charles Murrock and Elizabeth and Henry McDonald.

Memorial contributions in honor of Father McDonald may be made to the Sacred Heart Foundation, 668 Thompson Street, Watertown, New York 13601.

Living Stones

Diocesan plan established to insure vibrancy of parishes in face of declining number of priests

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley established "Building Parishes with Living Stones" as a diocesan priority at the Chrism Mass in 2014.

In response to this priority, the Living Stones Planning Committee was formed in September 2014 under the leadership of Father James W. Seymour.

Father Christopher C. Carrara was appointed to succeed Father Seymour as head of the planning committee in November 2017.

The planning committee, consulting with pastors and parishioners, developed an overall plan to enable the diocese to meet the needs of parishioners in the face of a decreasing number of priests to serve as pastors.

Bishop LaValley approved the Living Stones Planning Committee Report and Plan ("Report and Plan") Aug. 20, 2016.

The Report and Plan established the procedures for the various pastoral care areas to develop a pastoral plan that would increase the vibrancy of parishes and serve the needs of all parishioners. Parishes have worked to develop a pastoral plan, and most have been submitted to the Planning Committee for review.

Once the Planning Committee confirms that the proper procedure has been followed, required consultations have been made, and adequate consideration has been given to the needs of all, it recommends the pastoral plan to Bishop LaValley for his approval.

As of this date, Bishop LaValley has approved 17 pastoral plans. The pastoral plans, unless a request is made to the contrary, are not effective immediately.

Rather, they will go into effect as the needs of the diocese make it necessary to implement the plans.

While the plans are not usually immediately effective, many parishes have requested that they be allowed to move forward with some aspects of the plan now.

- St. Mary's Cathedral, for example, submitted its plan along with Notre Dame Church (Ogdensburg), St. Raphael's Church (Heuvelton) and Ss. Philip and James Church (Lisbon).

The plan will be implemented when needed, but the parishes have received permission to immediately share a vocation committee and youth ministry and to use a common curriculum with their religious education programs.

Additionally, St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church have requested and received permission to merge into one parish, with both churches remaining open as worship sites. This merger will ease the implementation of the pastoral plan when it is fully implemented.

- St. Joseph's Church (Moers), St. Ann's Church (Moers Forks), Holy Angels Church (Altona) and St. Louis Church (Sciota) received approval of their pastoral plan.

As part of this plan, permission was granted to merge St. Joseph's Church into St. Ann's Church, with St. Joseph's Church being closed, and St. Louis was merged into Holy Angel's Church with St. Louis Church and St. Alexis Oratory (Jericcho) being closed.

- The plan of St. André Bessette in Malone was approved by Bishop LaValley and is effective as of March



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley, shown at this year's Chrism Mass, established "Building Parishes With Living Stones" as a diocesan priority. An update on the work of the Living Stones Planning Committee is published on this page and pages 5-6.

12, 2018.

As part of the plan, St. André Bessette Parish requested and received permission to change the status of St. John Bosco Church to an oratory and to close Joseph's Church. The plan proposes that St. John Bosco oratory will undergo modifications that will provide a chapel, thrift store and other spaces for community outreach programs.

- The plan for St. Andrew's (Norwood), Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond (Norfolk), St. Patrick's

(Brasher Falls) and St. Lawrence (North Lawrence) was approved.

As a preliminary step, St. Lawrence Church has requested and received permission to merge with St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls. Both churches will remain open as worship sites for the merged parishes.

Other parishes receiving approval of their pastoral plans include:

(1) The Church of the Holy Family, St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's (Watertown);

(2) St. John the Baptist, St. Peter's, and Our Lady of Victory (Plattsburgh);

(3) The Catholic Community of Alexandria (Alexandria Bay), St. Mary's (Clayton) and St. John's (LaFargeville);

(4) St. Elizabeth's (Elizabethtown), St. Philip Neri (Westport), and The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph (Willsboro);

(5) St. Mary's and St. Paul's (Indian Lake);

(6) St. Bartholomew's (Old Forge) and St. Anthony's (Inlet);

(7) St. Alphonsus and Holy Name (Tupper Lake), St. Henry's (Long Lake) and St. Therese (Newcomb);

(8) The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew (Au Sable Forks), Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville and St. Margaret's Church (Wilmington);

(9) St. Peter's (Lowville), St. Mary's (Glenfield), and St. Thomas (Greig);

(10) St. Peter's (Massena);

(11) Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie; and

(12) St. Ann's (St. Regis Falls), Holy Cross (Hopkinton), St. Mary's (Brushton) and St. Augustine's (North Bangor).

LSPC members

Current members of the diocesan Living Stones Planning Committee are:

Father Christopher C. Carrara, chair, Morristown
 Father James W. Seymour, Lowville
 Deacon James W. Chaufty, Port Leyden
 Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, Chaumont
 Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Copenhagen
 Father Joseph A. Morgan, Ogdensburg
 Father Kevin J. O'Brien, Ogdensburg
 Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, Plattsburgh
 Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer, Constable
 Father Scott Belina, Malone
 Kelly Donnelly, Plattsburgh
 Catherine Romano, Ogdensburg
 Dr. William Amoriell, Colton
 Patrick Jank, Watertown
 Frank Palumbo, Canton
 Shelly Rosteck, Glenfield
 Maria Stitt, Crown Point

"I am pleased with the progress that is being made on our planning process," said Father Carrara, current Vicar for Pastoral Personnel and head of the Living Stones Planning Committee. "The process has produced greater cooperation between parishes and has increased our awareness of what it takes to have more vibrant parishes.

"It is great tribute to my predecessor, Father Jay Seymour, that the work of this committee is coming to fruition and the process has run so smoothly," he said.

Group assists in implementing a plan to lead diocese into a hopeful future

Living Stones committee takes on the challenge

By Mary Lou Kilian
Editor

OGDENSBURG – In his new role as episcopal vicar for pastoral personnel, Father Christopher C. Carrara leads a committee with a daunting mission.

He and other members of the Living Stones Planning Committee are charged with implementing a diocesan plan which seeks to:

- enable parishes to become more vibrant, hope-filled and joy-filled communities of disciples;
- encourage greater participation among the laity in leadership roles; and
- assess parish demographics in relation to the economic, human and spiritual resources available in each parish and those of neighboring parishes.

Father Carrara is the newest member of the committee which was formed in 2014 as a representative group of priests, deacons, religious and laity from each of the deaneries of the diocese.

Under the leadership of Father James W. Seymour, Father's Carrara's predecessor as committee chair, the Living Stones Plan was submitted to Bishop Terry R. LaValley in 2016 and approved.

Parish groupings

Included in the plan is a list of parish groupings and assignment of pastors.

Each of these parish configurations - which include parishes, worship sites, missions and oratories in each of the deaneries - has been required to submit a pastoral plan. The priest(s), in consultation with finance councils, parish councils, trustees and parishioners of all parishes in the groupings, have been called on to devise the local plan.

Following the guidelines of the Living Stones Plan, parishes report on Mass schedules, staff, ministries



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WARD

Father Christopher C. Carrara, left, is shown with four other members of the diocesan Living Stones Planning Committee which he chairs. Pictured are Michele Rosteck, pastoral associate of St. Peter's in Lowville, Kelly Donnelly, diocesan director of youth ministry, Plattsburgh; St. Joseph Sister Mary Ellen Brett, pastoral associate, St. Mary's in Copenhagen; and Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

to various groups including youth, homebound, prisoners and the bereaved as well as sacramental preparation, liturgical ministries and more.

"First and foremost, the purpose of the plan is not just to respond to the shortage of priests," Father Carrara said in an interview with the *North Country Catholic*.

"The pastoral plans are to continue to bring about vibrant parishes," he said. "The parish representatives are asked to look at all their ministries and evaluate what they were doing well, what they need to do more of, what they wanted to do differently."

"An example of that would be if Parish A did not have a ministry to the unchurched, they could recommend that they establish one," he said. "If they already had one, they were asked to evaluate if it was sufficient."

Once the parish plans are complete, they are submitted to the Living Stones Planning committee.

Father Carrara explained that each plan is reviewed by

a sub-committee to make sure all the necessary elements are included. Then the full committee reviews the document.

Members might raise questions, recommend areas to look at and send it back to the parishes OR send it on to the bishop for his review with the recommendation that it be approved.

While the subcommittees and committee meticulously review each plan, Bishop LaValley thoroughly reviews them as well, Father Carrara said, asking for clarification on any questionable aspects.

"Seventeen have gone through the whole process, been reviewed and approved by the bishop," Father Carrara said. "Eight are awaiting more documentation and a handful are still being worked on at the parish level, delayed perhaps because of a change in pastors."

Dedicated committee

Father Carrara has high praise for the Living Stones Planning committee, a group of people who meet regularly

either in person or by skype.

Among the members, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, has been part of the diocesan planning process since 1987 when Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana asked him to join Msgr. Robert G. Giroux and Msgr. David W. Steinebrickner in the new initiative.

"Frankly I have never gotten away from it since then," Msgr. Duprey said. "Various

efforts, including a larger committee and Sister Jennifer (Votraw, a Sister of St. Joseph) as a director of planning developed. Lots of work has been done in parishes and at the diocesan level.

"Bishop LaValley's restructuring of the committee has given it new representation and new direction," he said "The direction now is not simply addressing the shrinking number of priests, but really does look to create vibrant parishes in our time. That is what I expect to be the ongoing interest of the committee.

"Besides offering institutional memory, I am pleased to serve on this committee because it looks to the future with hope," he said. "Vibrancy of faith is what we are always looking at. The number of clergy and religious is important. But honestly the vibrancy and numbers of all parishioners is vital.

"That living faith expresses itself in parishes with life giving liturgies, ongoing formation of minds and hearts and service to our neighbors, near and far," Msgr. Duprey said. "It is a work that is often challenging (who likes change?) and filled with seeds planted but growth not yet seen. But even after 30 years plus, it seems like the right thing to do."

Voices for vibrancy

Three lay members of the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) shared their thoughts about the work of the group with the *North Country Catholic*.

Michele Rosteck, pastoral associate of St. Peter's Church in Lowville, has been a member of the committee since it was established in 2014.

Her participation "gives me an opportunity to bet-

ter understand how decisions regarding changes in parishes are made," she said. "None are made lightly. A lot of thought and prayer goes into the committee's recommendations to Bishop LaValley.

"As the needs of the diocese changes, we as a committee need to listen and be mindful of the concerns and questions that

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Voices

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

people affected will have," she said.

"Through-self discovery of their strengths and weaknesses and much discussion, it is my prayer that parishes will come to understand changes need to happen for the Church of Ogdensburg," Mrs. Rosteck said.

"The committee is working diligently to come up with and support a plan which meets the pastoral needs of the diocese," she said.

Youthful perspective

Kelly Donnelly of Plattsburgh, diocesan director of youth ministry, is another member of the Living Stone Planning Committee.

"When I agreed to be a member, I hoped to be a part in this important time of our diocese's growth and change," she said. "Looking at it from a youth ministry perspective, our young people are vital to both the present and future of the Church.

"As we look at what it means to be a vibrant parish, youth ministry is a necessary component, and it's exciting to see what parishes are doing to really welcome youth into the life of the Church," she said.

"While a lot of times the initial focus that people have is on the shrinking number of priests, I think the very title of the committee helps show that it is about a lot more than declining numbers of priests," Ms. Donahue said.

"By looking at what it means to build a parish of living stones and have a truly active, vibrant parish, the Church is able to grow and focus on ministry," she said.

"We're called to play an active role based on our Baptism, and that is something that we need to remind our-

selves of," she said. "While it can be disheartening to look at declining numbers of priests, hope and love for the Church can help us to focus on how we can build up vibrant parishes with active laity, which will naturally foster all vocations."

Providing continuity

Dr. William Amoriell of St. Patrick's Parish in Colton has been working on the diocesan planning process even before the planning committee was formed.

"Before the actual creation of the Living Stones Planning Committee, I was appointed as chairperson of 'Smart Goal Committee V' that was charged with developing a mission statement for the LSPC and recommending a membership that would include broad representation," he said.

"The Smart Goal Committee V completed its work and submitted its report to Bishop LaValley on July 28, 2014," he said. "In September 2014, I was appointed by Bishop LaValley to the newly created LSPC that held its first meeting in November 2014. I believe I was asked to serve on the LSPC to provide some continuity between the Smart Goal Committee V, which developed the mission statement for the LSPC, and the newly created Living Stones Planning Committee.

Dr. Amoriell sees great value in the committee's work beyond the challenge of a priest shortage.

"Addressing the shrinking number of priests only relates to one of the major charges included in the mission statement for the LSPC - 'strengthen parish identity, including but not limited to realignment and restructuring,'" he said.

"While some realignment and restructuring has become necessary and can be painful, this, in my opinion, is the least significant of the charges set for the LSPC," Dr. Amoriell said. "The other two

purposes - increasing participation among the laity in leadership roles in all parishes and developing a plan that enables parishes, over time, to become more vibrant are absolutely crucial to the future health of all parish communities within the diocese and directly relate to providing parish communities that meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners within the boundaries of a parish grouping."

As the committee continues its work, "future discussions, in my opinion, need to involve the development of a follow-up process that enables the LSPC to work effectively with parishes in the development and execution of plans that lead to more vibrant parishes," he said.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Bishop LaValley and the Diocese of Ogdensburg on the LSPC," Dr. Amoriell said.

"These are challenging times we live in that, totally separate from any parish restructuring that is occurring, offer real opportunities to harness the energies and talents of the 'living stones' who reside in all of our parishes," he said, "and to develop parishes that truly reflect vibrant and faith-filled communities; communities that can best be realized with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the collaborative efforts of pastors working with lay leaders in every parish community within the Diocese 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

Bishop's Schedule

April 11 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 12 – 5p.m., Operation Andrew Holy Hour and Dinner at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

April 14 – Life and Family Conference at Trinity Catholic School in Massena
4:30 p.m., Mass at Church of the Sacred Heart in Massena

April 15 – 8:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
11 a.m., Operation Miriam luncheon at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

April 16-17 – Pontifical College Josephinum Board Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

Rest in Peace

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

April 11 – Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947

April 13 – Rev. Emil Kranczewicz, O.F.M.Conv., 1974

April 14 – Msgr. Richard F. Pierce, 1935; Rev. Alfred Valiquette, O.S.A., 1949

April 15 – Msgr. Peter O. LaRose, 1918; Rev. Alfred J. Chevalier, 1996

April 16 – Deacon Vernon J. Chamberlain, 1993

April 17 – Rev. Peter J. Devlin, 1915; Rev. Vernon L. Doe, 1975; Rev. C. Albert Richardson, 1988; Msgr. Joseph G. Bailey, 2000

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:

April 26 – 5 p.m., Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake

Environmental Stewardship

The gift of water

During the Easter Vigil the precious gift of water was blessed to become the symbol of new life in Christ. This water is used to cleanse away sinfulness at baptisms and in the penitential prayer of the Mass. It is used in our holy water fountains in Church and in our homes to ask God's blessing upon us.

Since water is so precious and essential for life itself, it calls for our reverence and care.

Here are three simple, practical suggestions for taking care of it.

First, conserve water, which means changing our Water Culture, that takes it for granted and freely wastes it, to a New Water Culture that considers it priceless.

When washing your car, use a bucket of soapy water and rinse with a hose nozzle that shuts off while you scrub.

Secondly, capture water by harvesting rain so as to achieve water independence even in dry times. When you are shopping, look for rain barrels and collect those spring rains for the gardens.

Thirdly, protect water as there is less than 3% on the planet that is fresh.

An African proverb says "Filthy water cannot be washed." How could the stark reality of this statement affect my life?

Consider when shopping next time, How will my choices regarding products I purchase for cleaning my kitchen, my bathroom, my home pollute with or protect from harmful toxins this precious limited gift of water?"

Although I may find that the 'green products' are often more costly, my purchase of these products that safeguard this precious commodity is a concrete way of being a faith-filled steward of God's creation.

Each time we bless ourselves with holy water, let it be an opportunity to give thanks for this precious gift and be a reminder of our responsibility to conserve, capture and protect it.

It is a concrete way of ensuring a better life for all of my sisters and brothers and all of God's creatures.

Follow Pope Francis on
Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

 #Pontifex

SPRINGTIME IN THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

FACES OF FAITH



St. Bartholomew's Altar & Rosary Society members are shown with Easter baskets prepared for homebound and nursing facility parishioners and community members from Inlet and Old Forge. From left are Bev Meeker, Alessia Olney, Deb Dote, Bernie Green, Ann Hasby, Mary Lou Reich, Phoebe Greene, Jane Venette and Louisette Lecours.



St. Anthony's Parish in Watertown held a celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph with a Mass March 18 followed by a St. Joseph's Table dinner in Msgr. Sechi Hall. The annual gathering featured a traditional altar and a meatless meal of food brought in by parishioners. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor, blessed the food before the meal.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley greets the Sisters of St. Joseph after the Mass during the St. Joseph's Day celebration at the SSJ motherhouse in Watertown.



Knights of Columbus Council 340 in Potsdam recently presented seminarian Lukas Gruber with \$500 as part of the K of C Support Vocations Fund. The money was raised by the council through a Pennies from Heaven fundraiser over the past year and a half at both St Mary's in Potsdam and St Patrick's in Colton. Pictured are Father Douglas J. Lucia, diocesan director of vocations and seminarians, Lukas Gruber, Colin Myers, council Grand Knight; William Enslow, council financial secretary, and Jim Corbett, council chancellor.



The Catholic Community of Burke & Chateaugay Confirmation class and youth group hosted an Easter Egg hunt after Palm Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's March 25. Above, Hayden Childs, Charlie Vanbuskirk and Luke Dalton take a minute from their search to pose for a picture.

YOUNG FAITH

Diocesan teenagers gather for Lenten retreats

By Kelly Donnelly
Director, youth ministry

Lent gives us opportunities to grow in our relationship with God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A Lenten youth retreat was recently offered so that teens could more fully enter into Lent.

Twenty-eight youth attended the retreat in Lowville March 10, and on March 11, over 50 youth attended the retreat in Saranac Lake. The theme of

the retreat was "To the Light" which was based on the Gospel for Sunday Mass.

After taking part in an opening prayer, teens took part in several workshops that focused on the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, as well as the overall theme for the workshop.

For prayer, teens completed a communication exercise that led into a discussion of how prayer is both listening and speaking with God. They had an opportunity to put this into

practice through praying Lectio Divina.

In the fasting workshop, the youth listed their favorite items and talked about which ones they could give up. They then participated in an activity showing that while some of the things we fast from aren't inherently bad, these distractions can make it more difficult to focus on God.

In the almsgiving workshop, participants brainstormed ways they can give to the poor, as well as what they can learn from the poor, and talked about the importance of recognizing the dignity of each person in giving to them and avoiding biased thinking about those we give to.

The day included a prayer experience of silently walking through Mary's Way of the Cross reflections. In Lowville, the day concluded with Mass, and in Saranac Lake, the retreat began with Mass. There were some

break times throughout the day for teens to try a variety of games and get to know one another.

The entire retreat was largely planned by members of Diocesan Youth Council. DYC members helped decide what workshop activi-

ties should be done, helped with set up of the day, gave a personal reflection, and led small group discussions.

The retreat days were powerful opportunities for teens to come together in prayer and fellowship during this Lenten season.



Saranac Lake participants are shown during a workshop on prayer held during the March 11 Lenten retreat sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry. One partner described what to draw, while the other partner (who couldn't see the subject) drew. The participants had a discussion about how a conversation between both partners was necessary to succeed, and then discussed how that relates to the need for people to both speak and listen to God in prayer.

APRIL 28
CANTON
GRADES
6-12

10:00 - 6:00

YOUTH RALLY



REMAIN IN ME

Registration
closes on
April 20
\$30
(Includes lunch)

Chaperones can
register their
groups at
[www.rcdony.org/
youthrally/rally](http://www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally)

Camp sign-ups

Registration for the 2018 season of Camp Guggenheim is open.

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

"Come for an unforgettable week of friendship, faith, and fun," said Kelly Donnelly, camp director.

Registration may be made at www.rcdony.org/camp.

YOUNG AND FAITHFUL

Young diocesan Catholics learn, pray and celebrate the springtime liturgical seasons



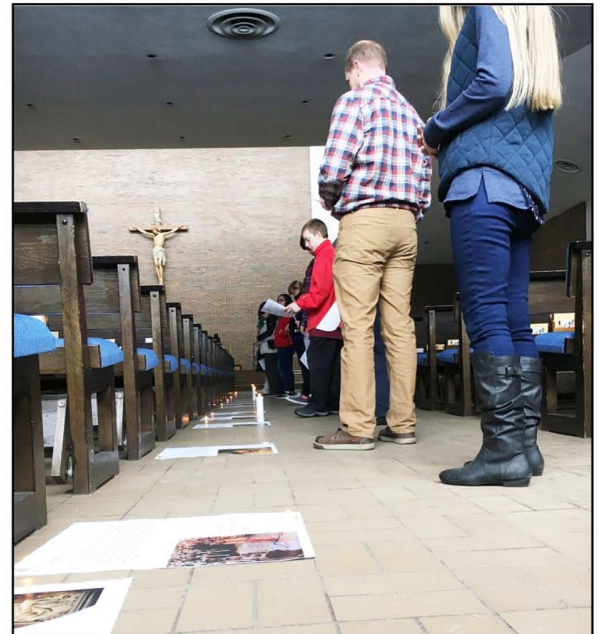
The religious education classes at St. Cyril's Parish in Alexandria Bay recently had a lesson on what it was like for Jesus and the way of life in the ancient land of Israel over 2000 years ago. First and second graders wore robes and served the food that they would have eaten when Jesus was on earth. They tasted dates, grapes, olives and leavened bread and drank grape juice. Above, Father Douglas Comstock, pastor, stands with the servers.



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE
Bishop LaValley offers some tips to the young people who served at the diocesan Chrism Mass held March 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral.



Leagon Carlin, a diocesan seminarian, carried the incense at the Easter Vigil at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh.



Teenagers who took part in the diocesan Lenten retreats in Lowville and Saranac Lake prayed Mary's Way of the Cross as a walking meditation during the day.



Linda Chamberlain's sixth grade art students at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown competed to create the school's Easter card mailing for 2018. The winner for this year's Easter card was YuXin Pan

Archbishop Chaput addresses symposium marking 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*

'Catholic tradition guides teaching on contraception'

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The Catholic Church's teaching on marriage, abortion, human sexuality and contraception is rooted in the same respect for human dignity that guides its work for social justice and care for poor people, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput told a Catholic University of America audience.

It is imperative that the church make known why it upholds its teaching, as reiterated in Blessed Paul VI's 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life"), so that Catholics and the world understand God's plan for humanity, the archbishop said during the April 4 opening session of a symposium marking the 50th anniversary of the papal teaching.

The encyclical is notably known for upholding church renouncement of contraception. It followed by eight years the 1960 U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the first birth control pill.

Blessed Paul convened a commission to examine whether the historic Christian rejection of contraceptives would apply to the new technology. Most commission members advised the pope that it would not, but Blessed Paul eventually disagreed, saying in the encyclical that the new technology was prohibited birth control.

Blessed Paul's decision has been widely criticized, Archbishop Chaput acknowledged, with some Catholic clergy, theologians and laypeople refusing to accept it. "That resistance continues in our own day," said the archbishop, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

"'Humanae Vitae' revealed deep wounds in the church about our understanding of the human person, the nature of sexuality and marriage as God created it," he explained. "We still seek the cure for those wounds. But thanks to the witness of St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict, Pope Francis and many other faithful shepherds, the

church has continued to preach the truth of Jesus Christ about who we are and what God desires for us.

"People willing to open their eyes and their hearts to the truth will see the hope that Catholic teaching represents and the power that comes when that truth makes us free," he said.

The archbishop challenged widespread denunciation of the teaching on contraception by those who say church leaders spend too much time on "pelvic issues," thus obscuring, they argue, the Gospel message of caring for poor people.

"As a bishop for 30 years in the dioceses where I served, that's three of them, the church has put far more money, time and personnel into the care and education of the underprivileged than into programs related to sex," he said.

"And it's not that the critics don't know this. Many don't want to know it because facts interfere with their story line of a sexually repressed, body-denying institution locked in the past."

Church teaching on contraception can be traced to the early days of Christianity,

particularly in ancient Rome, where Christians emphasized upholding human dignity, he said.

Citing the work of Kyle Harper, provost at the University of Oklahoma and an expert in Roman history, the archbishop said the Romans "presumed that sex was just sex, one instinctual need among others" and that prostitutes and slaves were "safety valves" to satisfy such needs. But it was the early Christians who "welcomed all new life as something holy and a blessing," teaching that each person was created in the image and likeness of God, he explained.

Christians also preached that God gave all people free will to act in accordance with God's commands or against them, he said, continuing to cite Harper.

"Christianity embedded that notion of free will in human culture for the first time. Christian sexual morality was a key part of this understanding of free will. The body was a 'consecrated space' in which we could choose or reject God," he said.

As a result, Christians

began demanding "care for vulnerable bodies," speaking out against slavery and supporting the needs of poor people, and that concern included opposition to contraception, he said.

The moral conflicts society faces, such as broken families, social unraveling and "gender confusion" stems "from our disordered attitudes toward creation and our appetite to master, reshape and even deform nature to our wills. We want the freedom to decide what reality is. And we insist on the power to make it so," he said.

Such thinking is manifest in efforts to master the limitations of the human body and "attack the heart of our humanity," he added.

"Half a century after 'Humanae Vitae' the church in the United States is at a very difficult but also very promising moment," the archbishop said. "Difficult because the language of Catholic moral wisdom is alien to many young people, who often leave the church without every really encountering her. Promising because the most awake of those same young people want something better and more enduring than the emptiness and noise they now have.

"Our mission now, as always, is not to surrender to the world as it is, but to feed an ennobling deepest yearnings of the world and thereby to lead it to Jesus Christ and his true freedom and joy."

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



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

To sign up to receive the *NCC* in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste 304, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901



- NEW Bibles, Crosses, Missals, Rosaries, Medals, Cards
 - NEW Baptism Apparel and Accessories, Statues, Candles
 - NEW Wedding, Sacramental Gifts, Music, DVDs, Recovery
 - NEW Willow Tree Products, Seasonal & More!
- Gifts of the Spirit! Shipping Available!*

Hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(518) 561-5083 www.peacefuldovebooksandgifts.com
Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

For a New or Used Car

Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



CHEVROLET

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Christ is victorious over all that divides people, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Easter is a feast that calls Christians to gather together, make a commitment to dialogue and to work for the common good, Pope Francis said. In Italy and in other countries, Easter Monday is a day for relaxed family gatherings and picnics because "after having celebrated Easter, one feels a need to gather again with loved ones and friends to celebrate," the pope said April 2, before reciting the "Regina Coeli" prayer at noon with visitors in St. Peter's Square. In a short talk before the prayer, Pope Francis said Easter promotes fraternity because "with his death and resurrection, Christ has defeated the sin that separates human beings from God, from themselves and from their brothers and sisters. We know that sin always separates, always creates enmity." Pope Francis said it is important today to rediscover the value of fraternity and community that the first Christians lived, "rediscovering how to give space to Jesus who never separates, but always unites."

Euthanasia push robs 'friends and family of joy'

SYDNEY (CNS) -- In March, as Anna Corry lay dying, she sent out a request to speak publicly about her opposition to euthanasia. The 50-year-old former nursing educator had endured an aggressive type of breast cancer since her diagnosis in January 2016. This January, she and her husband, Martin, a paramedic, and their sons Michael, 17, Dominic, 14, and Andrew, 11, received the news that although chemotherapy had shrunk the 10-cm tumor near her heart, the cancer had spread through her body. She died Holy Thursday, March 29, but not before the parishioner of St. Bernadette's in suburban Castle Hill shared her thoughts on euthanasia and assisted suicide with The Catholic Weekly, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Corry told the paper she believes opting to shorten her own life would have robbed herself, her family and friends of "an incredible amount of joy" during her final weeks. Some say churches should stay out of the debate around dying and the law, and that the terminally ill themselves should have more say; Corry said she discovered, through her own experience, arguments against legalizing euthanasia that are quite apart from her Catholic faith. "(People who use euthanasia) are potentially robbing friends and family of beautiful acts of kindness and service which bring them much joy," she said.

Quebec bishops ponder possibility of married priests

QUEBEC CITY -- The Catholic bishops of Quebec have discussed the possibility of ordaining married men to priesthood. During a conference dedicated to the future of the Catholic Church in Quebec, Auxiliary Bishop Marc Pelchat of Quebec said consolidating parishes was not a solution to the lack of priests. "During a closed hearing at a recent plenary session of bishops, there was talk of the ordination of married men of a certain age, whose ecclesial commitment is tested. This is an important reflection that we have right now," he said in mid-March. Nearly 80 people attended the conference, organized by the lay group Le Parvis de Quebec, at the Canadian Montmartre, or Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart. "The situation of churches continues to change. In the last decade, there has been a significant decline in the demand for sacraments, including even the funeral rite. The church has become like a vestige of the past, destined to be marginalized. The faithful still present believe that there's still Good News to share, but it will have to be done differently. We will have to be persevering," said Bishop Pelchat.

As Syrian war grinds on, humanitarian aid is slow to ramp up

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - As the spasms of the multisided civil war grow more faint in Syria, there is talk about how to help the people remaining in the battered Middle East nation.

It will not be easy. Syrian President Bashar Assad, who inherited his father's regime in 2000, proved to be an even more cruel tyrant. While keeping restive U.S.-allied Kurds at bay in the country's northeast, he has employed a scorched-earth policy and chemical weapons to crush a homegrown rebellion -- and simultaneously repelling Islamic State fighters who had taken over huge swaths of Syria during the war's height but are now reduced to clinging to small pockets of territory scattered at the edges of the country.

Getting humanitarian aid to desperate populations during the conflict has largely been contingent on the warring sides to agree to a temporary cease fire, according to Stephen Colecchi, the outgoing director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace. "Sometimes the cease-fires last, sometimes they end almost immediately after the aid reaches them," he said.

Syria also has been for generations the object of a proxy war between the United States and Russia dating back to when there was still a Soviet Union. The United States, particularly under former President Barack Obama, said the Assad regime had to go, while Russia and the U.S.S.R. have looked more kindly on the Assads.

The war, now in its seventh year, spawned a huge refugee

crisis, as Syrians of all stripes fled the country, giving both European and U.S. governments pause over the extent of their generosity. Syria has been part of every "travel ban" executive order signed by Trump, including the first one signed a week into his presidency. Trump also severely cut the number of refugee admissions into the United States.

This war of attrition has left the Syrian government seemingly in charge. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "has repeatedly called for intensive diplomatic efforts to end conflicts in a range of countries, including Syria and (neighboring) Iraq," said a USCCB Office of International Justice and Peace backgrounder from February on international assistance and diplomacy.

Trump has zigzagged on Syria. The week before Easter, he told an Ohio audience he would remove troops from Syria soon. On April 3, he said the 2,000 or so U.S. soldiers would stay in the country to fight ISIS after getting assurances from military advisers it would take months, not years, to finish the job. Between the two, Trump told the State Department to halt \$200 million in recovery assistance for Syria while the administration reconsidered its Syria policy.

The USCCB's Office of International Justice and Peace cited Syria in a February background paper on international assistance and diplomacy, saying that international aid assists, among others, "refugees and nations devastated by conflicts such as in Syria, Yemen and Iraq."

Colecchi said a threatened budget cut of 33 percent for the U.S. Agency for International Development pro-

posed by since-ousted Secretary of State Rex Tillerson - about \$10 billion over the next five years - was restored. "In fact, in a couple areas, we got a little bit of an increase," he added. This was before the \$200 million freeze.

"Such cuts would devastate the U.S. ability to save lives and influence governments overseas," the USCCB February backgrounder said.

The USCCB backgrounder noted the change in federal budget priorities: "In 1950, the State Department budget was about half as large as the Defense Department. Today it amounts to 10 percent of the defense budget."

The budget issue is one of war vs. peace. Even Defense Secretary James Mattis acknowledged as much in a quote referenced in USCCB backgrounder: "If you don't fully fund the State Department, then I need to buy more ammunition."

Trump has tried to convince Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to contribute more to Syrian relief, but those efforts have fallen on deaf ears as the two Middle East nations have stepped up their own war-making against Yemen in another proxy battle, this time between the Saudis and Iran.

"Has the United States done enough? No," Colecchi said. Other countries and nonstate groups involved in the grinding conflict have to "put aside their rivalries" to work on a peace agreement that "respects the Syrian people," he added.

Colecchi estimated that 50 percent of Syria's Christians have fled the country. A similar percentage of Syrians overall have either left Syria or have moved to safer spots within the country.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The Church was just beginning

Our readings today show the deep confusion and fear that Jesus' Resurrection from the dead created for the disciples of Christ.

They had to make a radical adjustment in how they looked at Christ. He was no longer "just a man". His divinity now played the dominant role, and they didn't feel as comfortable in His presence.

For His part, Jesus had to get across to them that the Old Testament prophecies were now totally fulfilled in Him. It was necessary that He suffer and die such a very painful death.

If they were to continue being His followers, they would also have to suffer much before their work for Him would be completed.

It wasn't until the Spirit descended on them at Pentecost that they would have the courage and the conviction they needed to preach without fear, even to the death.

The Church was just beginning.

In the new movie just released called Paul, Apostle of Christ, the scene is placed just a few years later in Rome. The fear of the pagan emperor, Nero, tested the faith and the courage of the Christian community. Most were facing certain martyrdom from his fiendish tortures. Only their love for Christ and for one another made their perseverance possible.

The many weeks of the Easter season are opportunities for us to focus on the gigantic commission Jesus has given us through the Apostles to bring the whole world to belief in Christ.

Our prayers and contributions are so needed for our missionaries in every country, as well as for all Christians struggling to witness to the Gospel of Christ here and abroad.

It all began with the cry, "Christ is risen, Alleluia!"



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**



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

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

**NORTH COUNTRY
CATHOLIC**



Subscribe or renew to the *North Country Catholic* today

- Place your envelope in your parish collection
- Online at our website: www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Call our office at 315-608-7556

APRIL 15

Third Sunday of Easter

READINGS
Acts 3:13-15
1 Jn 2:1-5a
Lk 24:35-48



MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

AT THE MOVIES

THE MIRACLE SEASON

By Sister Hosea Rupprecht
Catholic News Service

Make sure you have your tissues handy when you go to see "The Miracle Season" (Mirror).

As he did with 2011's "Soul Surfer," director Sean McNamara once again brings a tragic, but ultimately inspiring, fact-based sports story to the big screen in a film parents and older children can enjoy together.

Caroline "Line" Found (Danika Yarosh), setter and captain of the Iowa City West High School girls' volleyball team, was the ensemble's pulse. Having led her teammates to the state championship the previous year, 2011 found Line, now a senior, hyping their prospects for a repeat win.

After they triumph in their first game, her dad, Ernie (William Hurt), hosts a party in the family barn to celebrate. But tragedy strikes when Line dies in a moped accident on the way to visit her terminally ill mom, Ellyn (Jillian Fargey), in the hospital following the

get-together.

Even though she's on screen for such a short time, the audience gets a glimpse into the kind of person Line was. A friend to everyone, her cheerful outlook on life was clearly contagious.

The devastation caused by Line's death only increases when Ellyn dies the following week. Grief throws the players into near-paralysis.

The team's coach, Kathy Bresnahan (Helen Hunt), looks to Line's best friend, Kelly (Erin Moriarty), to step into her pal's shoes and provide the lacking leadership. Nobody, including Kelly, wants to fill Line's position. She only agrees to take it over when encouraged by Ernie to do so.

A physician, Ernie is, of course, undergoing his own terrible journey of bereavement. But he tries to be strong for Line's friends, especially Kelly. In one particularly poignant scene, Ernie tells her, "I may be the surgeon, but you're the healer out there."

Ernie even displays sufficient grace in his loss to

confide to a friend, with regard to Line, that he "can't blame God for wanting her back. She's a keeper." Oscar-winner Hurt gives the movie's most authentic performance.

With Kelly taking up the fallen mantle, the team slowly gets its act back together. They decide to "win for Line." They post a banner with those words on it in the locker room, and touch it on their way to the court. But the pressure to succeed soon takes its toll. It's only after Ernie delivers his most powerful bit of advice that everyone can move forward.

Unfortunately, screenwriters David Aaron Cohen and Elissa Matusueda delay this positive twist too long to keep the audience engaged, instead dwelling on the preceding tragedy with no redemption yet in sight.

Many viewers will know from the news that the story ends well. But the audience would have been better served by a script that focused on living like Line rather than winning for her.

Unlike "Soul Surfer," which kept the buoyant faith



CNS PHOTO/CATE CAMERON, LD ENTERTAINMENT

Nesta Cooper stars in a scene from the movie "The Miracle Season."

shared its protagonist, Bethany Hamilton, and her family center stage, here the characters' religious beliefs are largely sidelined. In the end, nonetheless, this salute to Line's legacy offers uplifting entertainment suitable for a broad audience.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.



A win-win for Catholic universities

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- This year's NCAA basketball tournament was one for the books for Catholic universities. You might even say the ball was in their court.

That's because for the first time, Catholic university teams won both the men's and women's national championship games.

The women's team, the Fighting Irish from the University of Notre Dame, beat Mississippi State University on Easter 61-58, thanks to Arike Ogunbowale's dramatic, three-point shot with less than one second left on the clock.

The next night, the Wildcats, the men's team from Villanova University, beat the University of Michigan 79-62, winning their second national title in three years.

And it wasn't just the final matchups where Catholic colleges dominated.

For the men's teams, half of the No. 1 seeds in the 2018 tournament were Catholic teams, as were eight of the 64 teams in the bracket.

And of course, the media darling during much of March Madness was 98-year-old Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the retired Sister of

Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chaplain of the Ramblers, the men's basketball team from Loyola University Chicago

The woman religious, whose image was on socks and bobblehead dolls, personally encouraged players and cheered on the team at the sidelines up to its final 69-57 loss to Michigan in the March 31 semifinals.

The victories for the Notre Dame women and Villanova men is not a first for either squad, but it is a first for two Catholic university teams to win both championships in the same year, according to

Paula Moore, vice president of external affairs for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities based in Washington.

Augustinian Father Rob Hagan, who is chaplain of the Villanova men's team, was a student at the university when the Wildcats won the 1985 championship. He called it "one of the great memories of my life."

Being the chaplain for the team from Villanova University is "one of the great joys of my priesthood," he told Catholic News Service a few days before the championship game.

The Diocese of Ogdenburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
is on
FACEBOOK



- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

Like

CLINTON

SPRING SALE

Peru — St. Vincent's Thrift Store will be having its Annual Spring Sale of gently used clothing and footwear.

Schedule: April 12-14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; April 12, 6 p.m. to 8

Cost: A large bag of clothing and footwear will be \$8

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru — Peru Knights of Columbus to have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 21

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Menu: regular and gluten-free spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert

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

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plattsburgh — "Human Trafficking in Your Backyard?" Elizabeth Horsman, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of New York, will speak on this topic.

Date: April 18

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. John XXIII Newman Center

Features: Presentation will include: What does modern day slavery look like? Where is it happening? What are ways to eradicate it in our own area and in the places we travel? Event is sponsored by St. John XXIII Newman Club and Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee. Event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

SETON GALA RAFFLE

Plattsburgh — Seton Gala raffle tickets are available. The Saturday Night Fever Gala is set for April 14

Cost: \$100

Features: Only 125 tickets to be sold. Prize: seven nights lodging at a choice of destinations between Napa Valley, Andrews, Scotland, Eagle Beach, Aruba, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Playa Naranja, Costa Rica or Killarney County, Ireland.

Contact: Call 518-561-4031, Option 7 to purchase a ticket. Further information is available from Susan Pellerin at spellerin@thesetonschools.org

TEA FOR TWO

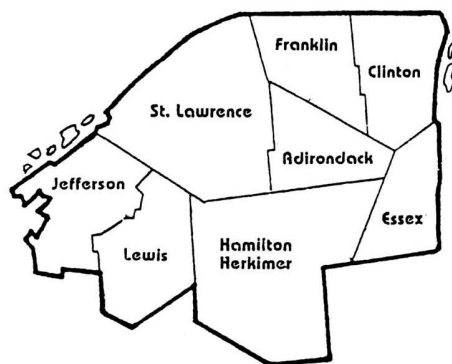
Peru — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Monica is hosting its Annual Tea Party

Date: April 22

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: \$10



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.

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. 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: April 22 and May 6.

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's

Features: discussion, prayer, dinner.

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: April 22

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

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

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, guidance

Contact: Cara Chapman, chapman@thesetonschools.org or 518-561-4031 ext. 2004 with questions or for

an application

FOR LAY MINISTERS

Au Sable Forks — All Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to an event.

Date: May 12

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Holy Name Church and School

Cost: \$10

Speaker: Fr. Paul Kelly

Topic: The Holy Spirit Empowers Us!

Contact: Online pre-registration is encouraged.

www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-layministers/clm-event-registration.html

or by mail to: PO Box 106 Canajoharie, NY 13317

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.

FRANKLIN

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls — First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

JEFFERSON

HAM DINNER

Evans Mills — Ham dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Catholics.

Date: April 28

Time: 4 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Church

Contact: For more information, call 315-629-4678

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: April 26

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

BREAKFAST PLANNED

Black River — All you can eat Egg and Pancake breakfast to be held.

Date: April 14

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Paul's Church

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children 6-12, \$4; Children under 5, Free; Family Max, \$25

ROSARY CRUSADE

Carthage — The 16th Annual Family Rosary Crusade to be held.

Date: May 18

Place: St. James Minor Church

Schedule: begins with Mass at 5:15

p.m. followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 6 p.m. and at the top of the next seven hours, three complete Rosaries will be prayed in honor of Our Ladies Seven Sorrows. Each hour also has specific intentions.

Features: Artist and event coordinator, Bob Renaud, also paints a painting each year to set a theme. For those attending St. James for at least three hours (in honor of Our Lord's passion and suffering), a print of the painting will be distributed. This year's painting is entitled; "With the Queen of Hearts, There's Hope".

Contact: For more information check St. James parish website: catholicsof-carthagecopenhagen.org Or the artist's personal website: bobrenaudent.com

TO SHRINES IN MONTREAL

Clayton — Parishioners from the parishes of St. Mary's, and St. John's, LaFargeville are sponsoring a day trip to Montreal to visit St. Joseph's Oratory and Notre Dame Basilica.

Date: May 15

Cost: \$125 covers coach transportation from St. Mary's, admission and tour costs, lunch, and dinner in Old Montreal.

Schedule: Bus leaves at 7 a.m. from St. Mary's. Trip includes a guided tour at

each church, visiting the Oratory's museum and gift shops at both locations. Fr. Art LaBaff will say Mass for the group in the crypt church at St. Joseph's. Arrival back at St. Mary's is expected to be between 9.30 and 10 p.m.

Contact: St. Mary's Church at 315-686-3398.

ST. LAWRENCE

ACIES CEREMONY

Ogdensburg — Legion of Mary will celebrate the annual ACIES Ceremony.

Date: April 28

Time: after the 4 p.m. Mass.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: The Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help praesidium invites everyone who has a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary to come to this service. This is also an opportunity to find out more about the Legion of Mary and its mission in our diocese. Following Mass we will pray the legion prayers and make a consecration to our Blessed Mother in the sanctuary. Light snacks follow in Bishop Brzana Hall.

SPRING RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Morristown — Spring Retreat for Adults to be held.

Date: May 4-6

Place: Cedarhaven

Cost: \$125 (Suggested offering)

Speaker: Sr 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: 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

ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 11

Place: Parish Center

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org

MCA: Rising to the challenge

The sixth grade class of St. Mary's School in Canton, under the direction of teacher Mrs. Marianne Augenstein, has been busy raising money and keeping the missionary spirit alive in their classroom this school year.

In the picture shown below, the students are showing off their poster outlining their fundraising goals for the school year. The students in Mrs. Augenstein's class have not only met their goal, but they have beaten it. The students in Canton also sponsor a young female student in Haiti and have been raising additional funds for her as well. Their teacher is so proud of them as they have risen to the challenge to help others in need.

Missionary Childhood Association or MCA is a program being overseen by Sr. Cindy Sullivan, BVM, Massena native and real life Missionary. This year's program went in the direction of promoting of a goal driven campaign whereby each school was encouraged to raise a certain amount of funds based on how many students are enrolled in their school. The arrow in the poster shown in the picture below indicates that the goal being met and shows on their faces how proud they are to have done so.

Missionary Childhood Association helps children put their faith into action locally and touch the global Church as well. Missionary Childhood Association teaches the children to be proud of being Catholic and brings their faith to the public arena. Clearly the students in Canton are doing just that. They are preparing to make a faith filled difference in the world through their own actions, deeds and love.



Pictured, seated are Faith Christy and Johnny Friot; back, Brianna LaComb, Ben Hill, Jacob Rosales, Karley Breen, Ava Hoy and Lois Blewett

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

OBITUARIES

Copenhagen – Donald G. "Sonny" Lortie, 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 7, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan – Sally Jean Bush, 69; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2018 at St. Stephen's Church.

Croghan – Claude O' "Cloggs" Davoy, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2018 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg – William John Lagree, 77; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2018 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery, Churubusco.

Hammond – Joseph "Edgar" Amyot; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Fineview Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Terry E. McDonald, 55; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2018 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Keeseville – Roy H. Poland, 78; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Margaret (Hence) Nugent, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2018 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Ellen Gallup Lorenzini, 96; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2018 at

St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Massena – Shirley Ellen Podgurski, 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moers Forks – Viola M. (West) LaMere, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 9, 2018 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Mary Katherine "Kit" (Fitzgibbon) Kiah, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Shirley A. (Garno) Smith, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Robert J. "RJ" Vernsey, 69; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Francis E. Carter Jr., 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Garden.

Potsdam – Francis W. Bradish, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Redford – Tamicia Rose "Tammy" Liberty, 59; Mass of Christian Burial April 7,

2018 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Rouses Point – Gloria (Longtin) Aubrey, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Saranac Lake – James Crowley, 100; Mass of Christian Burial in the Spring at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery, Lake Placid.

St. Regis Falls – Barbara M. Tarbell, 55; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Watertown – Jane M. Graham, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Kenneth H. Hartz, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Kathleen DeSantis O'Brien, 86; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2018 at Holy Family Church.

West Chazy – Dolores A. Barnes, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial parish cemetery.

West Chazy – Robert C. Rabideau, 75; Memorial Services April 14, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church.

Order your 2018 Diocesan Directory!



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

Order online at www.northcountrycatholic.org for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

Make checks payable to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**\$15.00
each**

Around

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

TRIP TO YANKEE GAME

Canton - The Canton Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Yankee Baseball Trip to New York City.

Date: Aug. 10

Cost: \$230 per/person double occupancy. The price includes luxury coach transportation, ticket to the ballgame, one night's hotel stay at Meadowlands River Inn and breakfast on Saturday.

Contact: For more information or to register, email: cantonkofc@gmail.com or call 315-714-2016.

ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS

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

Schedule:

• 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.

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 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.

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

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: \$30 (Includes lunch and a t-shirt while supplies last)

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

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

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

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

YOUTH MINISTER CERTIFICATION

Register to spend a morning completing two courses in the Youth Minister Certification Program and sharing ideas with fellow youth ministers.

Schedule: May 12 in Watertown and May 19 in Plattsburgh

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Features: Course 5 (The Youth Minister as Model of Mission & Apologetics) and Course 6 (The Youth Minister as Model of Prayer and Worship)

Contact: Register by emailing vde-mers@rcdony.org

DOVS MEMBERS SOUGHT

D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the

FOR OPERATION MIRIAM



St. Joseph Sister Marie Cordata Kelly of Watertown is holding the Operation Miriam flyer to encourage young women to come and see if God is calling them to religious life. Operation Miriam is an opportunity for young women to learn more about what Consecrated Life is all about. Operation Miriam will be held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown April 15, beginning at 11a.m. Register by contacting Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620 by April 12.

Diocese of Ogdensburg. The group is seeking new members. DOVS meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage.

Contact: Call Connie at 315-265-2762 or Cathy Russell, diocesan vocation coordinator at the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

Plattsburgh - Catholic Heart Workcamp 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 (enter-

ing 9th grade in Fall 2018) and college students. 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: Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786. Additional information: www.heartworkcamp.com.

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



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Welcome Spring!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250
 New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parish _____