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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 3

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 18, 2018

Baptism opens the door

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Parents who prefer not to baptize their children in the hopes that they will "understand and ask for baptism" as adults lack faith that the Holy Spirit will act in their child's life, Pope Francis said.

While some believe that

there is no need to "baptize a child that does not understand" the meaning of the sacrament, the pope said doing so would deny the chance for "Christian virtues to grow within that child and blossom. Always give this opportunity to all children:

to have within themselves the Holy Spirit that will guide them in life. Do not forget to baptize your children," the pope said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square April 11.

Arriving in the square under cloudy skies, Pope

Francis picked up several children who rode around in his popemobile.

After dropping them off, the pope made his way toward the stage when he was greeted by some unlikely guests at the audience: three llamas.

New deacons look back on six months

Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained 16 men as permanent deacons Oct. 7, 2017. Six months later, they were invited to share their experiences.

Among the comments: "The last six months since our ordination have been a great journey for me bringing me even closer to Jesus." "Six months wow! What a faith filled and welcoming community we have here in Malone. I will say that these weeks have flown by way too fast. God has truly blessed me, in ways that are hard to describe.

FULL STORY, PAGES 5 & 7

Priesthood preparations

Seminarian looks ahead to theology studies; young man hopes to begin seminary studies

FULL STORIES, PAGES 8-9

WE ARE CALLED



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop Terry R. LaValley distributes the Eucharist to Julie Cliff of Ogdensburg at the 2018 Chrism Mass held March 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral. This Week's Vocation Issue features numerous photos from the Chrism Mass since it includes a significant vocational event. All the priests of the diocese renewed their commitment to the priesthood during the liturgy. Other features on vocations appear on pages 3-10.

A CALL TO HOLINESS

Exhortation from the pope

Gaudete et Exsultate

Apostolic Exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world



LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA

CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

This is the cover of the English edition of Pope Francis' exhortation, "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), on the "call to holiness in today's world." In the exhortation, released April 9, the pope said, "God calls all Christians to be saints - not plastic statues of saints, but real people who make time for prayer and who show loving care for others in the simplest gestures." Pope Francis focused mainly on how the call to holiness is a personal call, something God asks of each Christian and which requires a personal response given one's state in life, talents and circumstances.

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

HUMANAE VITAE: 50th anniversary, is it time for a real conversation? p. 12

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Called to be holy? Sounds familiar!

Hey, did anybody see Pope Francis at our "INSPIRE: Called to Love" event held last year in Lake Placid?

The pope could have been taking notes that day in preparation for the apostolic exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad") he offered last week.

As you remember the purpose of INSPIRE was to "lead participants to rediscover the call that each Christian was given at his or her baptism: the call to holiness. The day was designed to help participants discover (or rediscover) their vocations as married, single, ordained or religious.

A year and a half later, we're hearing the same message from the Holy Father.

His exhortation focused on how the call to holiness is a personal call, something God asks of each Christian and which requires a personal response given one's state in life, talents and circumstances.



Mary Lou
Kilian

"We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer," he wrote. But "that is not the case."

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves," he said.

Pope Francis wrote about "the saints next door" and said he likes "to contemplate the holiness present in the pa-

tience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile."

I was especially satisfied that he included mothers and grandmothers among *saints* who form a "great cloud of witnesses who lead each Christian to take steps towards holiness."

Pope Francis' words are particularly timely for the *North Country Catholic* as we publish our annual Vocation Issue "We Are Called."

Along with articles from the diocesan vocation coordinator, new deacons, one of our seminarians and a young man preparing to begin studies for the priesthood, we are featuring a reflection on the meaning

of "vocation" for each of us.

St. Joseph Sister Bernadette Collins, who recently began serving as episcopal delegate for religious, reminded us that "each of us receives this call or vocation to love – without exception.

"This call to a personal relationship with Jesus is like any other relationship. It is a process, an ongoing, life-long process. It needs to be nurtured and renewed daily," she said. "How do I know the way that God is calling me to grow in my relationship with Him, the way He is asking me to serve Him?"

Sister Bernadette shares her wisdom on that question and then echoes the words of Pope Francis. "Go forward with courage on the path to holiness," he said.

Thank goodness for that cloud of witnesses to lead us!

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

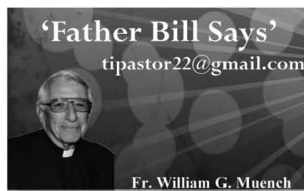
Along came Lucy... an Easter moment

On the Sunday after Easter, I was waiting at the front door of the Church on Sunday morning. I was vested and waiting to begin Mass. Along came a young girl, named Lucy, who had a picture for me that she had colored herself. I remember that the picture was a garden scene. It was truly nicely done for such a youngster.

It turned out to be a special Easter moment for me. I believe it was God's Easter surprise for me. It truly sparked up that Mass and that day. It brought alive the resurrection for me – a message of new life.

Now a little about the Gospel story that Sunday. This Gospel was about the appearance of Jesus to the apostles when Thomas was not present. Jesus enters with peace and love and says "Peace be with you."

Somewhere I heard this idea. This person suggested that Jesus should have scolded the apostles when he appeared to them. They had deserted him



when he was arrested. They did not walk with him when he walked to Calvary – they did not stand at the foot of the cross. They didn't want anyone to know that they were part of Jesus' group.

Yet, Jesus never mentioned any of that. He blesses them with the Holy Spirit to forgive sins. Jesus sends them forth on his mission – a mission of forgiveness.

Today, there is a question for us. How would I or you have reacted in that situation? Would I have supported Jesus? Would I have stood at the cross? And now, do I live a life that demonstrates to others that I am a follower of Jesus?

Then there is the Thomas' story. I believe that Thomas was not with the other apostles when Jesus appeared to them because he was upset. He was severely disturbed at the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. This wasn't supposed to happen.

Thomas lost all his faith and separated himself from the other apostles. He was also upset with the fact that he had deserted Jesus, probably denying he was part of Christ's group.

Before I criticize Thomas, I must admit that there have been times – too many times – when I simply separated myself from God because I was unhappy about things that were happening to me. And, there have been times I separated myself from the Lord because of my sins, my embarrassment that I had acted so poorly.

When Thomas returns to the apostles, he is still upset. And when they tell him that they have seen the Lord, Thomas

can't accept this, he is so disturbed. He states that he will not believe unless he touches Christ's wounds on his hands and feet and side. Of course, when Jesus appeared, Thomas believes, saying, "My Lord and My God."

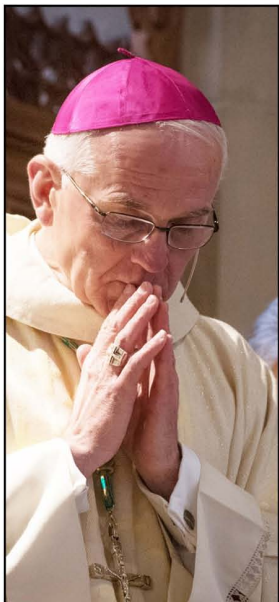
Like Thomas, we will discover the Lord's presence in our lives when we have the opportunity to touch the wounds of Jesus. The Lord has many ingenious ways of placing these opportunities in our lives. So many times, we will realize that we are certain of the presence in our lives. There are times in which we can truly touch the wounds of the Lord. For me, I even simple surprising things like a child giving me a picture.

Jesus, finally, ends by telling Thomas and us how much stronger our faith should be Jesus says, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

WE ARE CALLED

North Country Catholic's annual Vocation Issue

The 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations



"Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now . . ."

**Message of His Holiness
Pope Francis for the 2018
World Day of Vocations**

By Cathy Russell
Diocesan Vocation Coordinator

Sunday, April 22nd is the 55th anniversary of the annual World Day of Prayer For Vocations. How will you celebrate it?

On this day, the Church asks us to pause, to pray and to consider what a gift to the Church priests and

consecrated religious are. Especially on this day, we are reminded of the responsibility we have to pray fervently for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our own diocese.

To assist parishes in this endeavor, the Vocation Office has provided a packet of suggestions to focus attention on this theme.

One of our diocesan priorities, set forth by Bishop LaValley, is to create a culture of vocation in every parish. Our diocese has a plan entitled, "We Are Called."

The plan encourages each parish or group of linked parishes to have a parish vocation ministry. The purpose of this ministry is twofold: to promote the baptismal call of every per-

son to holiness and to promote through prayer and awareness vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. The plan is full of all kinds of ideas and activities and is available on the diocesan webpage.

The diocesan vocation office supports parish vocation ministries and offers regional training sessions for those involved in this wonderful ministry. Check to see when there is a training near you!

The diocesan vocation office also organizes Operation Andrew dinners twice a year throughout the diocese. At the dinners, we pray to know the vocation to which we are called, we enjoy a meal and Bishop LaValley shares his vocation story along with a couple of priests. The dinners are

open to men middle school age and up and their parents. Do you know someone you think should attend? Invite him! This year we are also sponsoring an Operation Miriam lunch for young women to find out about consecrated life.

More information on these events or to register for an event can be found on the diocesan vocation page, by emailing crussell@rcdony.org or by contacting your pastor.

How will you celebrate the 55th World Day of Prayer For Vocations? Step up and let's all get to work!

"We are not victims of chance or swept up in a series of unconnected events; on the contrary, our life and our presence in this world are the fruit of a divine vocation!" Pope Francis.



PHOTOS BY TOM SEMERARO

These scenes from the 2018 Chrism Mass show Bishop LaValley at prayer, St. Joseph Sister Suanne Johnson of Ticonderoga reading from the scriptures and priests of diocese joining the bishop for the consecration.

WE ARE CALLED

God has a hope, a dream for each of us

By Sister Bernadette Collins, SSJ
Episcopal Delegate for Religious

Since Vatican II a better understanding of the sacrament of Baptism has helped us to understand that God "has a hope, a dream, a vocation for each one of us..."

Before we can begin to respond to God's call, however, one thing must be present in our hearts. That one thing is conversion to Jesus Christ which is a turning away from self.

This turning away from self is not to put ourselves down but to open us up to

the fullness of life in Christ.

This conversion is the call to holiness, a call to goodness, beauty, and truth which is love.

Each of us receives this call or vocation to love – without exception. This call to a personal relationship with Jesus is like any other

relationship. It is a process, an ongoing, life-long process. It needs to be nurtured and renewed daily.

How do I know the way that God is calling me to grow in my relationship with Him, the way He is asking me to serve Him?

First, God must have some significance in one's life. God needs to be more than just head knowledge, or we won't be able to recognize God's call. We won't be aware of that gentle whisper and consequently we won't be able to respond to His invitation because we will not have fostered a significant relationship with the Lord.

Growing in our faith must be preeminently as important as our intellectual and emotional growth and our physical well-being. In other words, God, Jesus, the Spirit must have first place in our daily lives until the day we die.

Another sign of a vocation is the awareness of an urgent or important need. God invites each of us to respond to a particular need.

The third sign or way of knowing that God is calling us to a course of action is when we recognize that we cannot meet a goal or need on our own. None of us has the insights and wisdom needed to meet all the challenges before us. We need community; we need each other. We need God's presence in our lives. It's all about relationships!

A fourth sign of a vocation is that it always involves a leaving. There must be a conversion, a turning away from self to the other, a leaving behind of my own agenda or preferences to respond to the needs of others. Ultimately it is a turning to God and acknowledging my need.

The last sign that a course of action is God's desire for us is that it must be incorporated into the mission of

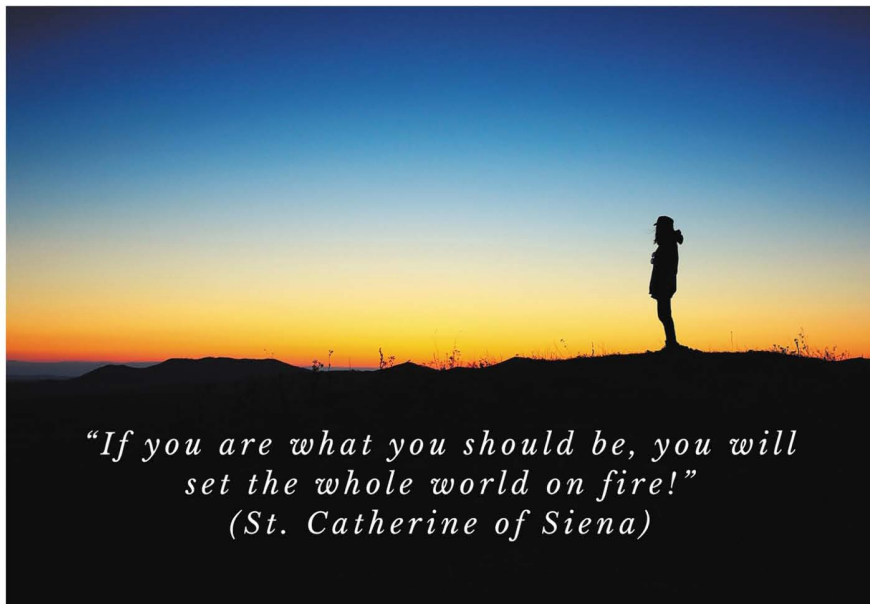


PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor in Canton and director of the diocesan Department of Worship; and Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, make a joyful walk into St. Mary's Cathedral for the March 22 Chrism Mass.

the Church. There needs to be some manifest evidence that the course of action is being done out of love and in conformity with the Church's mission.

In the words of Pope Francis: *Dear Friends, in the First Letter of St. Peter we hear this exhortation: As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ(4.10-11). Here is the call to holiness! Accept it with joy, and let us support one another, because we do not travel the path to holiness by ourselves, no, each on their own, but together, that one body which is the Church, loved and made holy by the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us go forward with courage on this path toward holiness*



*"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire!"
(St. Catherine of Siena)*

May we
pray to
know our
call and to
answer it!

Office of Vocations Diocese of Ogdensburg

For more information please
contact Fr. Doug Lucia or
Catherine Russell at
315-393-2920

myvocation.net



WE ARE CALLED

Deacons: In the person of Christ the Servant

The 16 men ordained permanent deacons this past October celebrated their sixth month of ordination April 7. Here, seven of the new deacons reflect on the joys and challenges of their new ministry.

Deacon Brent Charland St. Andre's Parish, Malone

Six months wow! What a faith filled and welcoming community we have here in Malone. I will say that these weeks have flown by way too fast. God has truly blessed me, in ways that are hard to describe.

This ministry of service to others as a deacon brings me great joy. As I proclaim the Gospel, I just love the feeling of trust God has put in me, and each time I receive the blessing from Father Joe Giroux before I proclaim the word, I am reminded of that trust.

I had the privilege and honor of chanting the Gospel at the Easter vigil this year, talk about stepping out of your comfort zone! I cannot take any credit for that, or for anything that I have done so far, the words I speak and the things I do are the work of the Holy Spirit.

The only negative thing so far is that I have not completed my thank you's for all the cards, gifts and well wishes from my ordination! I truly appreciate everything!

My ministry so far has enabled me to do Baptisms, funeral services and communion services. I recently was able to bless an unborn child in its mother's womb. My first wedding is coming soon. It just all brings an enormous amount of joy to my heart. I am hearing great things from around the diocese about my Classmates; I pray every day that they continue to do not just good things but great things.

The most awkward part of being ordained so far is trying to convince people I am not a priest, although flattering its awkward when standing with the priest, lol. I ask you to please continue to pray for me, pray for vocations also!

Deacon James D. Crowley St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

"The deacon is called to minister in persona Christi Servi – in the person of Christ the Servant." Slowly and surely this continues to sink into my hard head and my hard heart.

Despite all the formation and watching, I think it was a month after ordination before I recalled a homily. When I finally remembered it is about diakonia – service, I could let go of my nerves and serve. I truly enjoy the opportunities and the encouragement from so many people.

New experiences include baptizing, serving Mass for our Bishop and Priests, Benediction and recently singing the Exsultet at the Cathedral (maybe I didn't let go of all my nerves).

Ordination and diaconal duties distracted my wife Rita and me from the stress of becoming empty-nesters. I need to thank Rita, our girls,



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Deacon Brent Charland of St. Andre's Parish in Malone is one of 16 deacons who observed six months as a permanent deacon April 7. He is among those who wrote about his experiences of the diaconate.

friends and family, coworkers, Bishop LaValley, the priests, deacons and sisters who have instructed, encouraged and guided me.

My most unexpected joy is taking communion to hospital patients. Walking the halls carrying a ciborium, I don't know if I will be in a room laughing with Sister, witnessing healing or crying with a son watching his mother die. I leave feeling I received more than I ever gave.

It is not about me, it is ministry in persona Christi Servi.

My duties as chancellor for the diocese provide a unique experience. Researching an issue for Bishop LaValley, helping solve a problem for a parish or answering a question for a pastor are regular opportunities to serve. That service takes many forms; guiding others, working on committees, time on the phone, brainstorming and paper pushing.

The bishop appoints his chancellor from anyone in his flock. I often choke up when I relive Bishop LaValley asking me to take this responsibility. Hoping to do better each day, I continue working to make my prayer, "Help me to minister in persona Christi Servi."

Deacon John Fehlner St. Brendan's, Keene

The highlight of my first six months as a deacon was the celebration of the Triduum. Journeying with Christ from the first Eucharist through His death and triumphant resurrection has always been a moving experience, but being able to participate in the rituals as a deacon was

uniquely powerful.

My role as an ordained minister continues to slowly transform my relationship with God and my ability to serve the body of Christ.

One of my favorite ministries is the one-hour exposition and benediction of the holy Eucharist that St. Agnes does every Tuesday night prior to an evening mass. I serve as the minister of the exposition and benediction while our pastor hears confessions. This weekly hour of adoration was instituted as an initiative to increase priestly vocations and has slowly grown in popularity with a steady line of confessors at the confessional.

My parish, St. Brendan's in Keene is linked with the larger St. Agnes parish in Lake Placid and we are building bridges together with our Catholic neighbors at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake. I look forward to finding new ways to share resources and work collaboratively to address the needs of our communities in the future.

Deacon Philip J. Regan St. Andrew's, Norwood

The last six months since our ordination has been a great journey for me bringing me even closer to Jesus. The weekend of ordination was certainly a whirlwind of activities of which I will never forget.

The only time that I had any doubt, I guess it was more apprehension, was when I began thinking about being assigned to my own parish. I kept thinking about the scripture reading of Matthew 13:54-58, the rejection of Jesus at Nazareth, his home village. How would the parishioners at St. Andrew's in Norwood, who have known me most of my life, accept me as their deacon. That anxiety was short lived as I was not only accepted with open arms in my own parish but also in our sister parish of Visitation-St. Raymond's in Norfolk and Raymondville.

Being a deacon has brought great joy and satisfaction into my life. I don't have the feeling that I am better than anyone else, but have the feeling that I am a better me.

We are fortunate to have a second deacon assigned to the same parishes so we get to split up the assignments. Over the weekend there are four Masses, two on Saturday and two Sunday.

Deacon John Levison and I split the Masses up, each doing one on Saturday and one on Sunday rotating each week.

Other assignments given me include baptism preparation, in charge of the minister's assigned home visits and hospital visits, and will share in officiating at funeral vigils.

Unexpected joys would be the smiles, handshakes and thank yous I receive after mass.

The only unforeseen challenge I have encountered so far was chanting the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil.

To the Deacon Inquires, stick to it, the journey is rewarding. May God Bless You,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Work of the Vocation Office

By Cathy Russell
Diocesan Vocation Coordinator

The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg creates and supports opportunities to promote creating a culture of vocation throughout the diocese. That means the central truth of our faith that God calls each person to a life of holiness and gives each person a mission.

In addition, the Vocation Office promotes the call to priesthood and consecrated life.

To these ends, the following activities are offered:

- Parish Vocation Ministries (set up, support, training and networking)
- Print and promotional vocational materials, annual seminarian poster
- Regional Operation Andrew Dinners - (These gatherings for young men and their

parents are a way to learn about the call to priesthood, to hear real vocation stories and to enjoy a good meal with the bishop and area priests.)

- Operation Miriam (Similar to the Andrew dinners, these are for young women so they can learn about consecrated life through listening to Sisters' vocation stories and sharing a meal.

- Discernment Groups (Monthly gathering for young men who come together to pray and discern whether God is calling them to priesthood.

- Individual vocational counseling and support

- Annual Catholic school visits
- Parish Workshops, retreats, catechetical program visits on vocation, discipleship, holiness
- Altar server gathering in the summer
- Support for seminarians

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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

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CORRECTION

St. Augustine's Church in Peru, was omitted from the list of parish groupings whose plans have been approved by Bishop Terry R. LaValley in the update on parish planning printed in the April 11 issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

St. Augustine's is part of the grouping which also includes The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew (Au Sable Forks), Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville, St. Margaret's Church (Wilmington)

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

April 19 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

April 20 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
6 p.m., Dinner with the Newman Club at St. Mary's Rectory in Potsdam

April 21 – 11 a.m., Confirmation at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks
4 p.m., Mass at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh

April 23 – 7:15 p.m., Novena & Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 25 – 11a.m. Meeting with the Diocesan Prison Chaplains at the Bishop's Residence

Rest in Peace

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

April 19 – Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Laramée, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961

April 20 – Rev. James Igo, 2007

April 21 – Msgr. Michael E. Fogarty, 1936

April 22 – Rev. Daniel M. Sullivan, 1933

April 23 – Rev. L. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921

April 24 – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., 1994

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

May 8 - 3 p.m., Immaculate Heart Central High School, Watertown

Environmental Stewardship

'Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth'

Ps. 100

During the Easter Season as we celebrate the Paschal mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, we experience the echoing of this mystery unfolding in the earth around us.

As we read in John's Gospel before Jesus' passion, Jesus connects this mystery of his human life with that of the natural world. "Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only as a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." (Jn. 12:24)

During this month we celebrate three special days that connect us with the earth. On May 15 the Church celebrates the feast day of St. Isadore, the patron of farmers. As a Nation, we celebrate two other days that also centered on the precious gifts of Creation, namely, Earth day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 27.

There appears to be two common threads that run through these celebrations. One is the invitation to celebrate and give thanks for the beauties of Creation that include both the natural world and the human family. Pope Francis states, "It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail... of God' Creation, in the last speck of our planet." (Laudato Si. (#9))

The second thread is the challenge to recognize our responsibility towards all Creation. Pope Francis, quoting Patriarch Bartholomew, says "we are called to acknowledge our contribution, smaller or great, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation... for human beings to contaminate the earth's water, its land, its air and its life... these are sins." (#16)

What seeds of new life might I plant that could bring healing both to the natural world and to the human family? Consider planting a tree, or planting seeds in a patio pot or in a personal or community garden, and observe the unfolding of the Paschal mystery before your very eyes

WE ARE CALLED

Deacons

Deacon Thomas J. Yousey
St. Peter's, Lowville

My ministry still calls for prayer and discernment. Preparation for ordination strengthened my call to serve as a Hospice chaplain and lead me to better understand what "call to service" means. I was asked to do a presentation for service providers on the topic, "service leadership" just after ordination. I discovered that preparing for that presentation was like preparing for a homily. When one lets the Holy Spirit be the guide, the presenter learns more than the participants.

I have not felt this excited and this challenged since my first year in the classroom in 1971. The excitement invited the Deacon to "keep trying" and to "do it again until you do it right." The challenge keeps the Deacon reading, studying and praying.

As far as challenges, there have been so many: how to provide quality liturgy? how to keep going when tired? how to find the time to meet all the requests? how to just trust in the Lord, let Him be the guide!

And there have been unexpected joys including my first wedding as the presider; what an honor. It was the first wedding, since my own, that tears came to my eyes

I have also been uplifted by daily unexpected responses to our God, our church, to those around as a result of prayer with individuals and small groups

Deacon Neil J. Fuller
St. Mary's, Clayton

Each time, as I vest for Mass, I kiss my stole and realize what an awesome gift I have received by being ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It is a most blessed feeling of having the opportunity to work with the Catholic faithful of our dio-



PHOTOS BY TOM SEMERARO

Deacon Thomas J. Yousey of Lowville reads the Gospel during the March 22 Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

cese as their servant. A servant to help them in any way I can, as a catechist, a liturgical minister or perhaps just someone to talk to in a time of need.

My diaconal formation has given me a great deal of confidence as how to address different situations as they arise. My pastor and my fellow brother deacons are very supportive and always willing to offer help and advice.

I am also very appreciative of the support I receive from my fellow parishioners here at St. Mary's in Clayton and St. John's in LaFargeville. I really enjoy working at the parish level. Father LaBaff is so encouraging and enables me to do

so much. My wife, Dee, is my greatest supporter. We often have the opportunity to work together in different ministries especially planning liturgies. She has even encouraged me to sing which was never one of my greater talents. So, at the Easter Liturgy on Sunday morning, I did sing and it went pretty well. God was definitely helping me out. The love, support and understanding from everyone is overwhelming.

I could never profess to be the most intelligent deacon or the most talented but I am so happy and I feel so blessed to be called to the

Diaconate. I thank God every day for His grace and for leading me

on this journey. I give thanks for all the blessings in my life and I encourage everyone to listen and to hear God's call.

Deacon David D. Demers
Notre Dame, Ogdensburg

As I look back on the last six months, I see mistakes, successes, and sheer joy. All of it has been a blessing. I have been touched by the people of my parishes who not only congratulate me on my ordination but thank me for my service.

I have the honor of sharing in the needs of the parishes with six other deacons who have certainly taken me under their wing and help guide me through the last few months.

There are many ministries I have been called upon to assist with I am a sixth grade religious education teacher, serve funerals, bring communion to the sick and home bound, serve on the vocation and youth ministry committees and serve at the Mass along side the wonderful priests of our parishes Father Joe Morgan, Father Justin Thomas, Father James Shurtleff and Father Richard Sturtz.

Thank Lord Jesus Christ for allowing me to hear your call to serve your church and its people.

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WE ARE CALLED

Heart speaks to heart

By Leagon Carlin
Diocesan seminarian

I will graduate from the Pontifical College Josephinum in May, a reality not much different from a multitude of other students my age.

Out of the projected two million matriculants receiving four-year undergraduate degrees in the United States this spring, many will be unsure of their path, scared of the unknown and uncertain future.

Yet, while I have not been graced with any measure of

complete certitude myself, I have no fear of what is to come.

What can be the reason for this hope?

As with all good questions, God is ultimately the answer. In a more particular sense, relationship with God is the answer: His Heart speaking to mine, and mine to His. From this constant conversation, I draw all of my strength, all of my joy, and all of my peace.

At this juncture in my path to the priesthood, I find the confidence to carry on within the lived experience of those qualities:

- Strength of resolve,

from an ongoing engagement of God's unfathomable mercy and ability to equip the radically imperfect men (such as myself) whom He calls;

- Joy, not simply a feeling but a state of being, dwelling in God's individual love for me and rejoicing in it;

- Peace, coming only from a total surrender to His plan for me, and His desire to take my unworthiness and use me as His instrument in whatever way He wishes.

As I move on in formation toward the priesthood of Jesus Christ, advancing into this second stage of major

seminary, I know that God has called me to take this leap. Therefore, regardless of any fear, doubt, confusion, or sinfulness that I may experience, I rest in the firm conviction that He holds me in His Heart. As long as I listen to the voice of His Heart in mine, I can be assured of doing His will.

With all of this being said, this is not a place I have been able to come to simply or comfortably. It has taken four years in minor seminary, learning how to give up, trying and failing to give all of myself to God, while always holding something back.

I have had to discover that any time I try to control my life, to find my own answers to the questions of vocation, I fail and cause more harm than good.

As G.K. Chesterton tells us, "The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man." All of our lives, we encounter riddles, and the more solutions we come up with, the more confounded the riddles become. It is not until we realize that we don't have the solutions, and learn to really love and embrace the riddles, that we can live our lives happily.

This isn't about blind obedience, or denying our gifts and talents. This is about uniting our total self, body and soul, heart and mind, freely to God.

As I stand now, I have not accomplished this complete journey of conversion, and likely won't fully accomplish it in this lifetime (thank God for the gift of Purgatory!). However, after four years of dedicated discernment, I have moved closer to the Triune God than I had ever known was possible.

The graces that He has bestowed on my life through prayer, especially through my reception of His Most



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Leagon Carlin is completing his first four years of study for the priesthood and preparing to move on to major seminary. Here, he writes about this time of transition in his life. Above, the Plattsburgh native enjoyed some hammock time during the 2017 gathering of seminarians held at Guggenheim.

Holy Body and Blood in the Eucharist daily and frequent confessions, has enabled me to come to this crossroads and choose to continue.

So, as I do my best to stay on the narrow way, as I continue to speak to His Heart, and He to mine, I very much count on your prayers.

Be assured that I am praying daily for the wonderful people of our diocese, as are my brothers at other stops along the seminary path.

Please pray for us a little each day, as well, that God may show us His will, and then give us the grace to do it! May the Blessed Mother wrap you in Her mantle, and bring you closer to Her Son!



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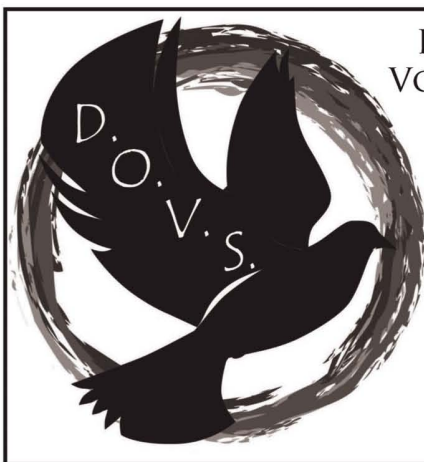
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*"It was not you who chose me, but I
who chose you"*

John 15:16

WE ARE CALLED

Taking first steps towards the seminary

By Tyler Fitzgerald
Seminary candidate

When asked to give my vocation story, I'm often conflicted about where to begin. After reading and hearing other vocation stories, I realized that everyone's is different. Mine isn't very exciting mainly due to the fact that I've always known I wanted to be a priest.

For as long as I can remember, I've been fascinated by the priesthood. After my parents and I moved back to New York, we attended Church of The Visitation. Msgr. Robillard, although retired, was still active in the parish and we instantly became fond of each other.

He was an excellent priest and a humble, compassionate man. I also remember he would show me his vestments, and I specifically being intrigued by his chasuble. This is what made my interest in priesthood click. Granted I had no idea what priests did besides "dress up" and talk to people but I still remember how fascinating I found it.

From this moment on, my mentality was along the lines of "being a priest would be neat." Thus the beginning of my vocation story.

We left Church of The Visitation and started going to St. John's in Madrid where I began First

Communion class.

After I made my First Communion, I began altar serving. I remember being quite scared the first few months, but after much practice I realized serving was something I enjoyed and looked forward to.

As I got older, I had an increasing interest in the Extraordinary Form Mass. The silence and reverence of this form instantly attracted me.

I've always known I wanted to be a priest

Ironically, Father Howard Venette, pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam at the time, asked me after Mass one Sunday if I had ever been to an Extraordinary Form Mass. I told him my interest in it and he invited me to one he was saying the following Sunday.

This was the Mass that would change how I saw my vocation. This was around the time I began realizing the priesthood was much more than putting on vestments and preaching.

After I began to consider priesthood on a much more serious level, I started serving more fre-



Tyler Fitzgerald

quently. I signed up to serve for every holy day and special Mass I could, and volunteered to serve funerals. Every aspect of serving at Mass attracts me. Being so involved with the liturgy has sparked a passion for it.

More and more aspects of priesthood began to appeal to me. Being able to offer the sacraments and bring others closer to Christ is what really started to draw me in.

With the idea of being a priest becoming more real, I started attending discernment groups meetings in Potsdam and, more recently, Canton.

(I highly recommend any other high school man discerning to attend these meetings. They're very informative and great to discuss any questions you may have.)

I had the opportunity to visit The Pontifical College Josephinum last December where I was able to learn more about seminary itself. I met other seminarians, faculty and got to know our seminarians a little better. By the time I left, I knew I was on the right path.

I kept discerning and praying for my vocation, but nothing exciting or major occurred. The biggest and most recent events have taken place this past year. In June, Father Douglas Lucia, diocesan vocation director, was assigned to Madrid which was a true blessing.

This past December, I

traveled with Father Lucia and another discernor to The Josephinum. This trip was different from the first one but yet very beneficial.

On this trip, I asked more questions about the academics and figured out smaller questions I had about seminary life.

I spent a great deal of time praying and contemplating God's plan. By then, I knew for certain this was going somewhere.

I submitted my Diocese of Ogdensburg application knowing I was making one of the best choices I've ever made.

Some advice I would give to any fellow discerners would be to not be afraid to take the leap. If you feel God is calling you to the priesthood, find others who feel the same, contact the Vocations Department or ask other priests for their story.

Also, don't get discouraged when things seem stagnant. If God is calling you, he will make it happen.

Please pray for me.



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WE ARE CALLED

'Holiness means being loving, not boring'

By **Cindy Wooden**
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - God calls all Christians to be saints -- not plastic statues of saints, but real people who make time for prayer and who show loving care for others in the simplest gestures, Pope Francis said in his new document on holiness.

"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy," the pope wrote in "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), his apostolic exhortation on "the call to holiness in today's world."

Pope Francis signed the exhortation March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, and the Vatican released it April 9.

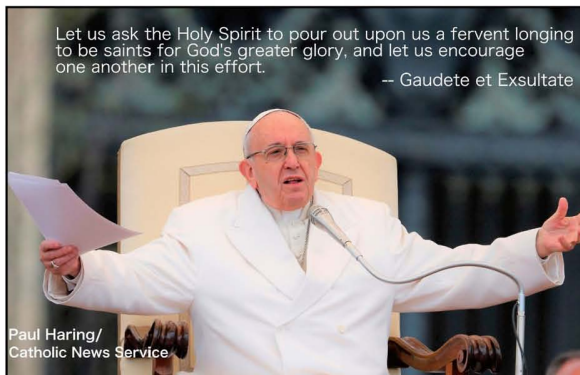
Much of the document was written in the second person,

speaking directly to the individual reading it.

Pope Francis writes "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad,") an apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness

"With this exhortation I would like to insist primarily on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us, the call that he also addresses, personally, to you," he wrote near the beginning.

Saying he was not writing a theological treatise on holiness, Pope Francis focused mainly on how the call to holiness is a personal call, something God asks of each Christian and which requires a personal response given one's state in life, talents and



Paul Haring/
Catholic News Service

CNS/CINDY WOODEN, PHOTO/PAUL HARING

This image contains a quote from Pope Francis' exhortation, "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), on the "call to holiness in today's world." The photo shows the pope during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 4.

circumstances.

"We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to

spend much time in prayer," he wrote. But "that is not the case."

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love

and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves," he said.

He wrote about "the saints next door" and said he likes "to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile."

Pope Francis also noted the challenges to holiness, writing at length and explicitly about the devil just two weeks after an uproar caused by an elderly Italian journalist who claimed the pope told him he did not believe in the existence of hell.

"We should not think of the devil as a myth, a representation, a symbol, a figure of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope apologizes for mistakes in judging Chilean abuse cases

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a letter to the bishops of Chile, Pope Francis apologized for underestimating the seriousness of the sexual abuse crisis in the country following a recent investigation into allegations concerning Bishop Juan Barros of Osorno. The pope said he made "serious mistakes in the assessment and perception of the situation, especially due to a lack of truthful and balanced information. I ask forgiveness of all those I have offended and I hope to be able to do it personally in the coming weeks," the pope said in the letter, which was released by the Vatican April 11. Several survivors apparently have been invited to the Vatican to meet the pope. Abuse victims alleged that Bishop Barros -- then a priest -- had witnessed their abuse by his mentor, Father Fernando Karadima. In 2011, Father Karadima was sentenced to a life of prayer and penance by the Vatican after he was found guilty of sexually abusing boys. Father Karadima denied the charges; he was not prosecuted civilly because the statute of limitations had run out. Protesters and victims said Bishop Barros is guilty of protecting Father Karadima and was physically present while some of the abuse was going on.

Pontifical Commission proposes synod on women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church in Latin America must recognize and appreciate the role of women and end the practice of using them solely as submissive laborers in the parish, said members of a pontifical commission. In addition, at the end of their plenary meeting March 6-9 at the Vatican, members of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America proposed that the church hold a Synod of Bishops "on the theme of the woman in the life and mission of the church. There still exist 'machos,' bossy clerics who try to use women as servants within their parish, almost like submissive clients of worship and manual labor for what is needed. All of this has to end," said the final document from the meeting. *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, reported April 11 that the theme of the four-day meeting, "The woman: pillar in building the church and society in Latin America," was chosen by Pope Francis. In addition to 17 cardinals and seven bishops who are members of the commission, the pope asked that some leading Latin American women also be invited; eight laywomen and six women religious participated in the four-day meeting and in drafting its pastoral recommendations, the newspaper said.

Vatican announces consistory to approve canonizations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will preside over a consistory to approve several canonizations, the Vatican announced. The May 19 consistory, which the Vatican announced April 11, will most likely confirm the canonization dates of Blessed Paul VI and Oscar Romero. The meeting of cardinals and promoters of the sainthood causes, also known as an "ordinary public consistory," formally ends the process of approving a new saint. While no date has been formally announced, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, has said that Blessed Paul's canonization will take place at the end of the Synod of Bishops on youth and discernment, scheduled for Oct. 3-28. At a meeting March 6 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to Blessed Paul, who was born Giovanni Battista Montini and was pope from 1963 to 1978.

Holiness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

speech or an idea," the pope wrote in his exhortation. "This mistake would lead us to let down our guard, to grow careless and end up more vulnerable" to the devil's temptations.

"The devil does not need to possess us. He poisons us with the venom of hatred, desolation, envy and vice," he wrote. "When we let down our guard, he takes advantage of it to destroy our lives, families and communities."

The path to holiness, he wrote, is almost always gradual, made up of small steps in prayer, in sacrifice and in service to others.

Being part of a parish community and receiving the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation, are essential supports for living a holy life, the pope wrote. And so is finding time for silent prayer. "I do not believe in holiness without prayer," he said, "even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotion."

"The holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures," he said, before citing the example of a woman who refuses to gossip with a neighbor, returns home and listens patiently to her child even though she is tired, prays the rosary and later meets a poor person and offers him a kind word.

The title of the document was taken from Matthew 5:12 when Jesus says "rejoice and be glad" to those who are persecuted or humiliated for his sake.

The line concludes the Beatitudes, in which, Pope Francis said, "Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy": living simply, putting God first, trusting him and not earthly wealth or power, being humble, mourning with and consoling others, being merciful and forgiving, working for justice and seeking peace with all.

The example of the saints officially recognized by the

church can be helpful, he said, but no one else's path can be duplicated exactly.

The path to holiness is almost always gradual, made up of small steps in prayer, in sacrifice and in service to others.

Each person, he said, needs "to embrace that unique plan that God willed for each of us from eternity."

The exhortation ends with a section on "discernment," a gift to be requested of the Holy Spirit and developed through prayer, reflection, reading Scripture and seeking counsel from a trusted spiritual guide.

"A sincere daily 'examination of conscience'" will help, he said, because holiness involves striving each day for "all that is great, better and more beautiful, while at the same time being concerned for the little things, for each day's responsibilities and commitments."

Pope Francis also included a list of cautions. For example, he said holiness involves finding balance in prayer time, time spent enjoying others' company and time dedicated to serving others in ways large or small. And, "needless to say, anything done out of anxiety, pride or the need to impress others will not lead to holiness."

Being holy is not easy, he said, but if the attempt makes a person judgmental, always frustrated and surly, something is not right.

"The saints are not odd and aloof, unbearable because of their vanity, negativity and bitterness," he said. "The apostles of Christ were not like that."

In fact, the pope said, "Christian joy is usually accompanied by a sense of humor."

The exhortation included many of Pope Francis' familiar refrains about attitudes that destroy the Christian community, like gossip, or

that proclaim themselves to be Christian, but are really forms of pride, like knowing all the rules and being quick to judge others for not following them.

Holiness "is not about swooning in mystic rapture," he wrote, but it is about recognizing and serving the Lord in the hungry, the stranger, the naked, the poor and the sick.

Holiness is holistic, he said, and while each person has a special mission, no one should claim that their particular call or path is the only worthy one.

"Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred," the pope wrote. "Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia...."

And, he said, one cannot claim that defending the life of a migrant is a "secondary issue" when compared to abortion or other bioethical questions.

"That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian," he said.

Pope Francis' exhortation also included warnings about a clear lack of holiness demonstrated by some Catholics on Twitter or other social media, especially when commenting anonymously.

"It is striking at times," he said, that "in claiming to uphold the other commandments, they completely ignore the eighth, which forbids bearing false witness or lying."

Saints, on the other hand, "do not waste energy complaining about the failings of others; they can hold their tongue before the faults of their brothers and sisters, and avoid the verbal violence that demeans and mistreats others."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus: a caring, comforting, gentle shepherd

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Of all the many titles by which we address Jesus Christ, that of "Good Shepherd" is the most appealing to millions of Christians and rightly so.

The image of Jesus as a caring, comforting, and gentle Shepherd can even be found on the catacombs of third-century Rome.

Even though He shares in the awesome power of the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus never forces us to remain in His sheepfold, never "browbeats" us into submission. His love is ever-

lasting and constant, and His voice is ever clear, leading us to light-some pastures that truly nourish and strengthen our souls.

Jesus has laid down His life for these sheep, as well as for those who have faithfully stood by their baptismal and confirmation commitments.

How tragic if more are lost. It will not be the fault of the Good Shepherd, but the fault of those with whom Jesus has shared His role of guardian of the flock. In the first reading, we

continue to hear from Peter's speeches from the Acts of the Apostles.

The Sanhedrin had imprisoned Peter because of his alarming success in converting the Jews to the Good News. Peter tells the leaders that "there is no salvation in anyone else."

In the second reading, John assures us that we are "children of God" and as yet we cannot grasp the full meaning of what we shall one day become. These words give us encouragement for the present and challenge for the future.

The Gospel invites each of us to imitate Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd in His caring for His sheep, especially those who are most in



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

APRIL 22

Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 4:8-12

1 John 3:1-2

John 12:11-18

in the image and likeness of God. If we really believe that, then we will care for the poor, the sick, and the immigrant.

"Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life...Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged...the vulnerable infirm and elderly, the victims of human trafficking, and every form of rejection."

May God bless us for our efforts to become shepherds after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

need. This reading also invites us to plan every day new ways in which we can become good shepherds.

Pope Francis has just published a new Apostolic Exhortation called (in English) Rejoice and Be Glad.

In it, he gives us good advice on how to be reach holiness in our modern world.

His vision goes all the back to Genesis where God tells us that all creation, all men and woman are made

50 years after Bl. Paul VI's encyclical is released

A conversation about 'Humanae Vitae' may finally be possible

By **Charlie Camoso**
Catholic News Service

Can one imagine a more difficult year for "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life") to be heard than 1968?

Blessed Paul VI's encyclical came out just as the sexual revolution was picking up steam, well on its way to becoming a dominant force in Western culture.

Contraception was part of a basic right to privacy and on a path from normalization to celebration. Playboy and other pornographic magazines and films were on the ascendant. Casual sexual encounters, along with no fault divorce, were becoming much more prevalent. Sex manuals and erotic novels were on the living room bookshelves of respectable people. Movies and music pushed the revolution at every turn.

This revolution, it should be said, made a lot of people quite a lot of money. But

it was portrayed in cultural circles of power (media, academia, government, etc.), not as the latest iteration of consumer culture, but as part of a broader social justice movement. A movement which pushed back against outdated and oppressive views of the past.

The replacement culture was liberating. The natural direction of social progress. Only backward-thinking, religious dogmatists rejected it. Smart and open-minded people embraced it.

Swimming against this powerful cultural tide, in the short run at least, "Humanae Vitae" never had a chance. Few of its critics actually read the text, and even fewer could allow themselves to be challenged by its arguments.

It fit neatly in the revolution's cultural narrative: an out-of-touch celibate hierarchy using power to enforce a superstitious and harmful view of sex onto people who, given their better edu-

cation and actual experience, simply knew better.

This consensus against "Humanae Vitae" would come to be strictly enforced. Though many Catholics have the "Charles Curran affair" at the center of their narrative in this regard, his case would prove to be the exception. (Catholic University of America's board of trustees denied the tenure of Father Curran, after the professor publicly disagreed with the encyclical's teaching.)

In recent decades the consensus against "Humanae Vitae" has been so strong that theologians and even Catholic priests can feel quite safe in their dissent. The occasional finger-wagging or bad book review from the institutional church serves to do little beyond increasing the prominence of the thinker and increasing their book sales.

But those who've been sympathetic to the document have been forced to

keep their mouths shut and their pens dry - at least if they want to remain respectable in cultural circles of power. The narrative that only backward-thinking dogmatists could take it seriously became the received wisdom.

But now, on the verge of the document's 50th anniversary, a new cultural moment has arrived. Blessed Paul warned that the separation of sex from procreation and committed relationships would have disastrous effects, and there is now strong evidence to show that he predicted better than he knew.

Consider these cultural trends:

- The #MeToo movement has demonstrated that our sexual culture is fundamentally broken and often violent. Far from liberating, "hookup culture" is a particular instance of what Pope Francis calls the "use and throwaway" culture. People are dehumanized and mutu-

ally used as mere objects of desire in a sexual marketplace -- a marketplace facilitated by smartphone applications.

- Pornography dominates the internet and the script for Western sexual encounters. But it has done so in ways which normalize hookups, violence against women, and even sex between family members. As a result, even liberal countries like the United Kingdom and Iceland have recently tried to ban porn. Lurking right behind porn in separating sex from genuine relationships are sex robots. Many are already worried that, given current assumptions and practices, there will be little to stop them from radically disconnecting sex from unification with another person.

- Hookup culture is impossible to imagine without widespread access to contraception as an enabling technology. And the riskier

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

In the long history of the church, perhaps no partnership has been more consequential than that between St. Paul the Apostle and his disciple, St. Luke.

Between them, they account for at least 15 of the 27 books of the New Testament, and Luke accompanied Paul on some of the journeys during which the Apostle to the Gentiles sowed the seeds of faith across the Roman Empire.

So the idea of a film exploring the relationship between these two great figures certainly seems promising. With the drama "Paul, Apostle of Christ" (Sony), however, only part of that potential is realized.

Writer-director Andrew Hyatt's somewhat flawed script fleshes out the bare bones available to us from the canonical sources with believable human details. But it unwisely presents famous verses and, indeed, whole passages of Scripture as deriving from Paul's spontaneous conversation.

This includes his famous discourse on love preserved in the 13th chapter of First

Corinthians -- and familiar to wedding guests everywhere.

The story gets off to a sufficiently dramatic start. In the wake of the Great Fire of Rome in A.D. 64 - which the Emperor Nero notoriously blamed on the followers of Jesus - Christians are being subjected to a massive persecution and Paul (pleasingly sonorous James Faulkner), as their most prominent leader, has been arrested, tried and condemned to death.

Thus Luke (Jim Caviezel) is taking a huge risk when he resolves to return to the Empire's capital and visit Paul in his cell at the Mamertine Prison. Fortunately, he has the help of two early Christian leaders mentioned in the Bible, husband and wife Aquila (John Lynch) and Priscilla (Joanne Whalley).

The spouses are at loggerheads over whether the believers still under their protection should remain in Rome or flee. Some in the community also yearn to take up arms and avenge themselves on the authorities.

Though Paul rejects any notion of violent resistance, he is reluctant to give or-

ders about whether his fellow Christians should stay or go. Instead, he and Luke eventually strike on the idea of recording Paul's conversion and their missionary travels together, along with other events, in the text that will become known as the Acts of the Apostles.

This new narrative, they hope, will offer encouragement to those facing possible martyrdom.

For a different reason, Luke's nascent history is of interest to Paul's chief jailer, Prefect Mauritius Gallas (Olivier Martinez). An essentially humane man torn between the rigor with which he is expected to deal with his captive and his vague attraction to the transcendent values of the Gospel, Mauritius is perplexed by Luke's curious behavior in sneaking into his prison.

Catholic viewers will appreciate a scene in which Paul celebrates the Eucharist and gives Luke Communion as well as the way those facing slaughter in the arena prepare themselves by reciting the Our Father.

In fact, "Paul, Apostle of Christ" works better as an easy and enjoyable introduction to its two central figures' lives and works



CNS PHOTO/SONY PICTURES

Jim Caviezel as Luke and James Faulkner as Paul are seen in the film "Paul, Apostle of Christ."

than it does considered strictly as a piece of cinema.

As a valuable resource for catechetical instruction, moreover, the movie makes acceptable and worthwhile fare for teens, despite its unsparing, albeit momentary, presentation of the sufferings to which Paul himself and many of his contemporaries in the early church were subjected.

The film contains scenes of brutality and torture with some gore, a few gruesome images and mature references, including to prostitution.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

50 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

sex created by this culture, perhaps counterintuitively for some, has actually led to more sexually-transmitted infections, not fewer. For evidence-based approaches, contraception no longer appears to be the solution to our epidemic of STIs, sexually transmitted infections.

- More and more progressive and even secular women are starting to react negatively to the health problems created by the

large doses of hormones in the pill and long-acting contraception. Dubbed by some the "Pro-Kale, Anti-Hormone" movement, many women with the means to do so are avoiding the pill's substantial side effects by using versions of natural family planning.

- Most countries who had a sexual revolution now have a fertility crisis. A culture needs to have 2.1 children per woman to replace its population, but every European country is well

below this threshold: Germany is 1.47; Great Britain, 1.8; Italy, 1.37; Poland, 1.32; and so on. Tax incentives to have more children aren't working. Japan's fertility crisis has resulted in trillions in lost GDP and a population decline of 1 million people, all within just the past five years. This is happening in the U.S. as well. In 2008 and 2009, the U.S. had replacement-rate fertility, but since then, we've fallen to about 0.3 kids below replacement level.

- The move from procreation to reproduction has accepted the logic of consumer culture. Given the perceived need for a culturally determined income and lifestyle, the market decides if and when one should have a child. Child-bearing is often delayed until it is much more dangerous for both mother and child.

These cultural trends are so different from where they were 50 years ago that "Humanae Vitae" many finally get a genuine hearing.

The obvious surrender of our sexual culture to consumerist market forces, particularly after #MeToo, has led many different kinds of people to look for alternatives.

If 1968 was one of the worst years possible for "Humanae Vitae" to be heard, then 2018 may be one of the best. Let the conversation begin.

Camosy is an associate professor in the theology department at Jesuit-run Fordham University.

CLINTON

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.

TEA FOR TWO

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

Date: April 22

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: \$10

Features: proceeds will support the Elmore SPCA. This year's theme is "Fabulous 50's, featuring 50's music and contests for dance, hula hoop, costumes

Contact: For more information, Jane Woods at: janie124766@yahoo.com. 518-562-1175

HEALING HEARTS OF CHILDREN

Peru – An Elijah House Teaching Series has been planned

Date: April 19 and 26

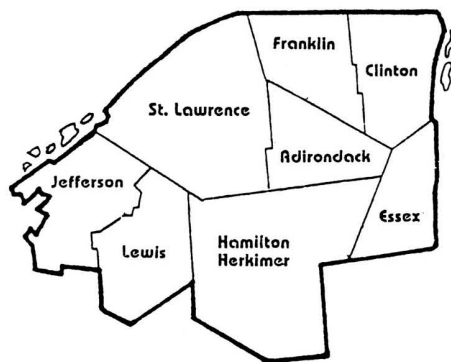
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Features: From tips for new parents in healthy training of children, to repairing the spiritual injuries of adult children, the lessons shift the focus from who to blame for what has gone wrong, to how to restore honor and Godly interactions in family relationships.

ALUMNI REUNION

Plattsburgh – The Seton Catholic, MAI & SJA Alumni Reunion is set



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.

Date: May 25 – 27

Schedule: May 25, Golf at Harmony Golf Course at 11 a.m.; Welcome Back reception at Valcour Brewing Company at 6 p.m.; May 26, School tours from Noon to 2 p.m., Alumni Banquet at the West-side Ballroom at 6 p.m.; May 27, Mass at St. John's Church at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Susan Pellerin at 518-561-4031 option7 to register

GARAGE SALE

Plattsburgh – Donations are being accepted now for the Seton Garage Sale.

Date: Donations accepted now, Garage sale to be held June 2 and 3

Features: Items needed: Furniture, Books, DVDs, Clothing & Shoes, Home Décor, Kitchen Supplies, Holiday Decorations, Electronics (no TVs or printers), Jewelry, Small Appliances, Athletic Items, Toys/Games, Bikes, Accessories, Etc. Drop off locations at Seton Academy and Seton Catholic.

Contact: If you need assistance with your donation, we will pick it up for you. Call or text Hank at 660-626-7442

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.srbarts@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

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

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, \$7.5

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

LOSING A LOVED ONE

Watertown – Bereavement meeting to be held.

Date: April 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: May 5

Time: 4 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free if eating at the parish center; Sauce, \$5 per quart

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 7a.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.

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of May to be held.

Date: May 6

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

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

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

Vocations and the missions

Growing the faith. Our own faith journeys seem like an ongoing cycle of growth: seeds of faith planted by our parents, nurtured by family and friends, strengthened by the seasons of our lives, especially times of trial when we cling close to the Lord's love and hope.

From time to time, questions regarding the role of the Missions in Vocations come up. From our National website of the Pontifical Mission Societies, here are a few of our frequently asked questions and some helpful answers.

- I hear that vocations are growing in the Missions. How many seminarians does the Society of St. Peter Apostle support?

Currently, more than 30,000 major seminarians in some 400 seminaries receive help from St. Peter Apostle. In addition, close to 10,000 men and women Religious novices receive assistance.

- How can I help the Society of St. Peter Apostle?

You can offer your prayers and personal sacrifices for the growth of mission vocations. You can also help young men as they prepare for the priesthood through the Society of St. Peter Apostle with a donation of \$700 for a year of studies. A gift of \$300 will help toward the formation of men and women novices preparing for a life of service as Religious Brothers and Sisters. You may also want to remember the Society of St. Peter Apostle when writing or changing your Will.

- Why does it cost more to educate a seminarian than a Religious novice?

Seminarians typically spend a greater length of time studying for the priesthood than a religious brother or sister would spend in a spiritual formation program. A greater length of study requires a seminary to provide additional textbooks, classroom supplies as well as room and board for that period of time.

- Once ordained, where do these priests serve?

Very often, priests ordained in the Missions will serve in the very dioceses where they were born and raised. Others are asked by the ordinary (bishop) of their dioceses to serve in other areas of their native countries or in other dioceses throughout the world — even in the United States.

- May I sponsor an individual seminarian or novice through the Society of St. Peter Apostle?

Contributions to the Society of St. Peter Apostle are allocated to seminaries and seminarians in mission dioceses throughout the world according to need, with certain help offered to each seminary by the number of students there. This system of allocating funds helps ensure that aid is distributed fairly and that those who are most desperately in need receive enough support.

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

OBITUARIES

Altona — Jeanne L. Forkey, 53; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2018 at Holy Angel's Church.

Brushton — John E. Finnegan Jr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Burke — Donald T. Mangan, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2018 at St. George's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Woodstock, VT.

Cadyville — Richard H. Chase, Jr., 77; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

Mineville — Geraldine Barcomb, 94; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2018 at All Saints Church.

Mooers Forks — Matthew H. Mesec, 46; Mass of Christian Burial April 18, 2018 at

St. Ann's Church.

North Bangor — Edna Elise Cornell, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 9, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Joan Betsy Fisher Barr, 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 9, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Rhea I. (Flood) Casey, 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 21, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Martha E. (Tebo) Demers, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Frederick P. Marek, 96; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2018 at

St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Gary D. Boyer; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2018 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh — G. Eileen Perras, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Potsdam — John Robert Sheehan, 77; Memorial Services May 4, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Saranac Lake — Donald Tallman, 71; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2018 at St. Bernard's Church.

Watertown — Burt Etheridge, 65; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2018 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Chamberlain Cemetery, Round Pond, Maine.

Bl. Romero's canonization probably in Rome in October

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- During an April 11 homily in Washington, Salvadoran Archbishop Jose Luis Escobar Alas said the canonization of Blessed Oscar Romero will "probably" be in Rome and "probably" take place at end of October after a meeting of bishops.

"Soon we will have a canonization," the archbishop said to a crowd of mostly Salvadoran immigrants gathered for Mass at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. "On May 19, we will know the date and the place."

That's the date cardinals will gather at the Vatican for a meeting known as a consistory, where they're expected to decide the details.

The archbishop's statement came hours after reports that Honduran Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga said to members of the press in Madrid that the Romero canonization would take

place Oct. 21.

Archbishop Escobar, who occupies the post held for three years by Blessed Romero, from 1977 until his assassination in 1980, said El Salvador's bishops sent the pope a message asking that the canonization be held in their country. Many of the country's poor would not be able to otherwise attend the ceremony, a first for El Salvador, he said. Archbishop Romero's May 2015 beatification took place in El Salvador. Ultimately, the pope will decide what to do, he said.

"In any case, he (Romero) will be canonized," he said during the homily. "We are happy."

Archbishop Escobar told those gathered at Mass to pray for Blessed Romero's intercession and a miracle so that lawmakers find a permanent solution and an answer to their pleas.

"We would like you to invoke (Blessed) Romero for his intercession in this mira-

cle, a solution to this problem," he said. "He is with us and intercedes for us."

Blessed Romero was assassinated March 24, 1980, during Mass after repeatedly pleading for an end to violence, to injustice against the poor, and to the killing of innocent civilians during an armed conflict that ultimately lasted 12 years and resulted in more than 70,000 deaths in the country.

Some of those deaths included 20 Catholic priests, two bishops, including Blessed Romero, and men and women religious, as well as catechists and ministers, the archbishop said. One of them was Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande who is "en route" to beatification, he said.

The church of El Salvador also is working to recognize the other martyrs, he said, which include four American church women from Cleveland slain in the country late in 1980, months after Blessed Romero's martyrdom.

Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

MIDLANDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Time: 9 a.m.

Schedule: April 28

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

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

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

Prayer request

Father Rolland Hart, a retired priest from the diocese, is now living at Memory Care at Allen Brook in Williston, VT. Memory Care provides a safe and welcoming home for individuals requiring memory care. Father Hart's address is: 99 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, Vermont 05495. Please keep Father Hart in your prayers.

River Inn and breakfast on Saturday.

Contact: cantonkofc@gmail.com or call 315-714-2016.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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

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

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 (entering 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

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.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

YOUNG ADULT DAY

Isle La Motte, VT - The Diocese of Burlington Office for Youth and Young Adults Ministry invites young adults to their Young Adult Day at St. Anne's Shrine for fun, reflection, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Date: April 29

Time: 2 p.m. to 7

EASTER FUN



The Easter bunny visited Kindergarten at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga March 27. Students adopted baby PEEPS, named them, filled out birth certificates and made nests for them. They went home and when they came back the next day there was a treat for being a great parent for a day. Above, Dillon Johnson is pictured with his adopted PEEP.

Features: Day Will include presentations, time for fellowship and reflection, Mass, cookout.

Contact: William Gavin, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry: wgavin@vermontcatholic.org



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