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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 4

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 25, 2018

## Called by name

VATICAN CITY (CNS)- Naming a child is an important task for parents, because it gives children a sense of identity and belonging to their family and to God, Pope Francis said. "Without a name, we remain unknown, without rights and duties. God calls each one of us by name, lov-

ing us individually in the concreteness of our history," the pope said April 18 during his weekly audience.

"Therefore, the name is important. Parents think of the name to give to their child already before birth," he said. "This, too, is part of the expectation of a child who, in

his or her name, will have an original identity, including for the Christian life linked to God."

Continuing his series of Easter-season talks on baptism, the pope said that a person's name, asked during the welcoming rite of the sacrament, "takes us out of

anonymity" and is the first step in a person's journey as a Christian. "Baptism ignites the personal vocation to live as Christians, which will develop throughout one's life. It implies a personal response and not a borrowed answer that is 'copied and pasted,'" he said.

## Diocesan communications director hired

Darcy Fargo of Moira has accepted the position of communications director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including responsibilities as the editor/general manager of the *North Country Catholic*.

She will succeed Mary Lou Kilian who has worked for the NCC since 1978 and is retiring as editor/general manager May 31.

Mrs. Fargo currently works as employment manager for the University of Vermont Health Network at the Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone.

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## Rites to be held for deacon

Deacon Richard Warner, native of Watertown, dies in Colorado; memorial Mass to be in July

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## 'MARRIAGE IS A MINISTRY'



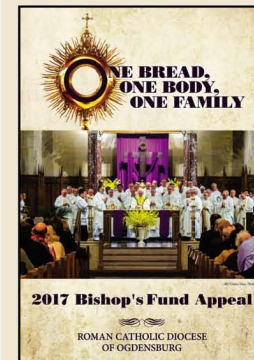
PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak of Ohio, founders of the Pastoral Solutions Institute, authors and nationally renowned speakers on marriage and family life, were the keynote speakers at a diocesan conference "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond" held April 14 in Massena. Full coverage of the day is on pages 4-5.

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:** Diocese strives to insure safe environment, 8-9

## BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Reaches goal for 2017-18



Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that the 2017-2018 Bishop's Fund Appeal has reached its goal of \$1,300,000. As of April 17, the Bishop's Fund had collected \$1,319,493.07 in contributions from more than 9,100 households. At this time, an additional \$49,401.25 remains to be collected in pledges promised. Any funds received over this year's goal will be designated to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. In his message to the diocese about the success of the appeal, Bishop LaValley expressed his gratitude to the staff in the Development Office, Scott Lalone, executive director; Valerie Matthews, Bishop's Fund director; and Renee Grizzuto, office assistant.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

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COUNTRY  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Ready to welcome the 'new Mary Lou'

For better or worse, my chance for mind-changing has passed.

After months of meetings to determine the future of the *North Country Catholic* and, then, who should lead the paper into that future, decisions have been made.

On May 14, we will welcome Darcy Fargo to the diocesan staff as the "new Mary Lou" (and then some.)

The old Mary Lou will have a couple of weeks to share everything she's learned in 40 years and then, happily and with great confidence, pass on the torch.

In my conversations with - and about - Darcy over the past week, I have no doubt that she has the talent and energy to take on my job... and its expanded mandate.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

In addition to her responsibilities as editor/general manager of the NCC, Darcy will wear an additional hat as communication director for the diocese. She'll be working with Deacon Jim Crowley, who will remain the diocesan spokesperson, and other staff members to make sure that the Good News of our North Country church is presented in a uni-

fied and effective manner on Facebook, Twitter, the radio, in secular newspapers and through whatever new media source emerges over the next 40 years.

The mere thought of this new job exhausts me. Luckily for us all, it's a source of excitement for my successor.

As soon as I knew that my time with the next editor would be limited, but before I knew who he/she would be, I started to keep notes about everything I wanted to share. This gave me a chance to think about all the area reporters and photographers who have made my job possible. I took time to reflect on the topics I've tried to address every year and the

stories that deserve more attention. And, as I typed all the items of our newspaper style ("Spell out Father, Sister and Deacon except in headlines," always capitalize Mass and Catholic," and on and on and on) I could hear the voice of Father Christman, my first editor and the best teacher of the newspaper business I could imagine, who patiently explained what and why we did what we did.

It's surreal to think about my life without this work/ministry/love but the time is right for this transition. I knew it a couple weeks ago and I'm even more convinced now that I know who will be filling my shoes.

## FATHER MEUNCH SAYS

## Recognizing the presence of the Lord

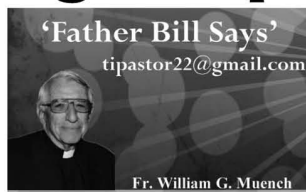
I have been thinking today of the many ways the resurrected Jesus enters into my life.

The Easter Season gives us several weeks to prayerfully celebrate the Lord's Resurrection. On each day of this season the scriptures at the Masses remind us of all the resurrection stories in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus interacted with his disciples in the time after the resurrection.

I am certain that you know the stories. These resurrection stories are the tenderest of all the Gospel stories. I think of Jesus' conversation with Mary Magdalene at the tomb, and of course, Jesus entering the lives of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Jesus enters my life and yours just as he entered their lives each day. I still pray for a stronger faith that I will be open and aware to the presence of Jesus in my life. I know only too well that if I remain open I would become a much holier person, a holier priest.

Recently, Pope Francis published an Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate" (Rejoice and Be Glad). In this formal



letter, he extends a call to holiness in today's world.

In the beginning of the letter, Pope Francis writes this: "What follows is not meant to be a treatise on holiness...my modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges, and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us "to be holy and blameless before him in love." (Ephesians 1:4)

This Apostolic Exhortation is quite extensive - and quite good. Pope Francis writes a great deal in the letter about all we should learn from the saints. Pope Francis mentions our saints as models of holiness. I have discovered many books written about holiness and I have attended many retreats and conferences based on personal holiness. However, I want to tell you that I con-

tinue today to discover most about holiness from the many people and the many experiences that the Lord places in my life. They have helped me to recognize the presence of the risen Lord in my life.

Let me to tell you of one. Each week I bring Holy Communion to one of our home bound parishioners, Each week it is a uniquely peaceful moment. There is something special about each visit and I know that I find a special recognition of the presence of God in my life.

In addition, once a week I celebrate Mass at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph for the retired sisters. Again, it is a spiritually peaceful, holy experience. The Sisters are wonderful holy women who have lived their lives dedicated to the Lord. The Mass with this group is truly a celebration of God's love.

I know the Eucharist is always a time of gratitude for God's many blessings. With the Sisters, the spirit of gratitude is a reality. The Lord's present is truly with us.

I do want to add that the celebration of Mass is always a special moment for me. The

Mass has become my time to recognize the Lord's presence guiding and supporting me. Every time I celebrate Mass something special is part of the experience.

In addition, my road to holiness involves experiences other than prayer - even, social occasions. I am thinking of gatherings of the family and times with friends. They are often opportunities for me to discover the Lord reaching out to me in a special way. I believe that the Lord knows when I need such a gathering in my day.

By the way, when I think of family gatherings, I also think of the many wonderful families I have known in the various parishes I have been part of. These families have been an important part of my life and have brought the Lord's presence into my day. The have been part of my road to holiness in my life.

You never know who or what may uniquely guide you or give you the opportunity that guides you to the Lord and show you the path to holiness.

So pray often that you will recognize the presence of the Lord in your life.

## 2017-18 Bishop's Fund Appeal reaches goal

**OGDENSBURG** - Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that the 2017-2018 Bishop's Fund Appeal has reached its goal of \$1,300,000.

As of April 17, the Bishop's Fund had collected \$1,319,493.07 in contributions from more than 9,100 households. At this time, an additional \$49,401.25 remains to be collected in pledges promised.

Any funds received over this year's goal will be designated to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund is a ministry of the Bishop's Fund Appeal which

provides grants to individuals and families that are facing unexpected emergencies such as medical and prescription expenses, heating and utility costs and loss of homes to fires and flooding.

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund also provides assistance to food pantries so that they may continue to help families in need.

Bishop LaValley said, "I am deeply grateful to the many parishioners who have supported this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal. On behalf of the individuals and families of our North Country who have benefited from such

generosity, thank you! It is through God's blessings and your faithfulness and generosity that we are One Bread, One Body, One Family.

"I also wish to extend my deep appreciation to our pastors whose strong leadership and personal sacrifice supports this critical appeal each year," he said. "Our Bishop's Fund and Development Office, led by Val Mathews, Scott Lalone and Renee Grizzuto continue to provide an invaluable service to the Diocese with their competent and compassionate ministry."

The Bishop's Fund Appeal

through the generosity of so many faithful Catholics, continues to provide the following vital programs and ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg: Education of Seminarians, Family Life Office, Natural Family Planning Office, Respect Life Ministry, Formation for Ministry Program, Office of the New Evangelization, Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Priests' Graduate Studies, Vocation Office, Permanent Deacons, Deacon Formation, Tuition Assistance Program, Campus Ministry Program, Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools, Depart-

ment of Faith Formation, Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Guggenheim Center, Department of Worship, and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

"If you have made a pledge to this year's appeal, we encourage you to complete your pledge before June 15, 2018," said Mrs. Matthews. "If you have not made a gift or wish to make an additional gift, donations can be mailed to: Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at [www.rcdony.org/development](http://www.rcdony.org/development)."

## Rites set for Dc. Richard Warner

**WATERTOWN** - A memorial Mass for Deacon Richard C. "Dick" Warner Sr., 81, will be held in July with full military honors at Glenwood Cemetery. Deacon Warner died at his daughter's home in Fountain, Colorado, April 13.

Born October 15, 1936 in Watertown, he was the son of Gerald and Hildred (Weston) Warner. He was educated in the Watertown City School District. He enlisted in the United States Seabees from 1954 - 1958. Deacon Warner owned Warner's Business Equipment until he was deployed to Desert Storm. While serving in the Air National Guard, aka The Boys From Syracuse, he was deployed as part of Operation Desert Storm, among other deployments. He retired from The Boys From Syracuse in 1996 after 26 years of service. He later worked for Fort Drum, retiring in 2011.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana ordained him a permanent deacon Oct. 1, 1983 and as-

signed him as a deacon assistant at St. Anthony's Church.

He was a member of the Italian American Civic Association, in which he served as the first non-Italian Club President. He was also a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Northside Improvement League and numerous car clubs.

On September 19, 1959 he married Anna F. Vecchio, at St. Anthony's Church, officiated by Msgr. Lynch.

Besides his wife Anna, survivors include children Nancy (Dan) McFadden, Fountain, Co., Richard C. Jr., Watertown; Sarah (Mark) Ferrante, Simpsonville, S.C., grandchildren, great-granddaughter, brother Wayne Warner, sister, Patricia Roberts.

He is predeceased by his parents, in-laws, Jerry and Nancy Vecchio, brothers-in-law, Joseph, Sebastian "Bill", Jerry, and Michael Vecchio, and a sister-in-law, Barbara Vecchio.



Deacon Warner

## Communications director, NCC editor to join staff

**OGDENSBURG** - Darcy Fargo of Moira has accepted the position of communications director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including responsibilities as editor/general manager of the *North Country Catholic*.

She will succeed Mary Lou Kilian who has worked from the *North Country Catholic* since 1978 as assistant editor, editor and then general manager of the diocesan newspaper.

Mrs. Kilian is retiring May 31.

In addition to her responsibilities with the *NCC*, Mrs. Fargo will assist Bishop Terry R. LaValley in advancing the mission of the Diocese of Ogdensburg through strategic communications and media relations using print, audio, video and digital media.

She will oversee and coordinate the digital media currently in use by the diocese and devise a strategic plan to expand the use of digital

media in the distribution of a unified message.

Mrs. Fargo currently works as employment manager for the University of Vermont Health Network at the Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone.

In this position she has produced an employee newsletter, recruited staff members, written policies for the human resource department and developed communication plans, among other responsibilities.

Previously, she worked as a senior employee management, communications and training specialist for Alcoa, Inc., in Massena.

She has also been news editor of the *Malone*

*Telegram*, bureau chief for the *Punxustawney Spirit* and *Jefferson County Neighbors* weekly newspaper Punxustawney, Pennsylvania; and staff reporter for the *Malone Telegram*.

A 2002 graduate of Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y., Mrs. Fargo is a native of Bombay.

She and her husband, Adam, have been married for 13 years and are the parents of an 10-year-old son, Jacob.

They are parishioners of St. Mary's Parish, Brushton.

Mrs. Fargo has created websites and has maintained social media presence for area Catholic parishes, is a member of the board of directors for Family's Choice of the North Country and a volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Massena.



Darcy Fargo

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*Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak speak at 'Marriage: God Calls, We Respond' conference*

# 'Marriage is a ministry'

By Tom Semeraro  
Contributing writer

**MASSENA** – Marriage as a ministry was the focus of the first of two presentations offered by Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak, keynote speakers at a diocesan family life conference "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond" held April 14 at Sacred Heart Church and Trinity Catholic School.

The program was sponsored by the diocesan Department of Family Life and Offices of Vocation and Evangelization. A large group of married couples, engaged couples, families, lay ministers, as well as clergy were in attendance.

Following an opening prayer service led by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, the Popcaks – authors, educators and life coaches – presented "Marriage as a Ministry; God's Plan for Love and Marriage vs. Society's View".

In their talk, the couple discussed levels of marriage as they exist in society today: civil, romantic, theistic, and concluding with Catholic marriage.

Giving real life examples and situational outcomes, the Popcaks presented Catholic marriage as the most loving and truest form of marriage. When couples marry according to the Catholic model, they said, they are accepting God's love for them and asking God to help teach them how to love each other.

Dr. Popcak took this view further by explaining that when couples marry, they actually enter into what is considered a "School of Love".

In essence, they become "apprentices" in God's love, as they learn how to love each other in family life.

The Popcaks offered insight into what this means in daily life and how a husband and wife can work toward

loving each other as God loves them. They stressed the importance of "praying together" and treating marriage as "sacred".

They also described the goal of living in "charism", or essentially sharing the joy of marriage and family life with others, by embracing the particular role God has for them and their family.

Dr. and Mrs. Popcak spoke about viewing the mundane and menial everyday tasks family members do for each other as corporal acts of mercy.

"When you prepare dinner for your family, you are 'feeding the hungry,' or when you do laundry and prep the kids clothes, you are 'clothing the naked,'" Mrs. Popcak said.

She shared what she called a transformative moment when she realized that, by changing her perspective on this aspect of her life, seemingly laborious and monotonous tasks could be viewed as "steps on her road to holiness".

During the moderated breakout sessions which followed the morning address, attendees were asked to share their views on family life, Catholic marriage, spousal support and more.

Couples, families, and ministers shared views and perspectives on their personal marital experiences as well, as what the future may hold for new couples and families.

The Popcaks continued their presentation with an afternoon session, "Building Blocks for Constructing Your Marriage Castle".

Dr. Popcak began this session with an explanation and understanding of sexuality, natural family planning and the sacredness of intimacy in a Catholic Marriage. They described ways for couples to serve and love each other all day, and all through their



PHOTOS BY TOM SEMERARO

**Matt and Sarah Bosley of St. Philip of Jesus parish in Willsboro have been married for 12 years and are the parents of four children. "Communication is very important, as well as forgiveness, and being open and honest with each other and the kids," they said when asked about their reaction to the Popcak's presentation. "We really liked the teaching of the 'School of Love' and how we approach God together, as a couple in prayer."**

lives. They also covered the ultimate expression of love, the creation of children through a loving Catholic Marriage.

Further information about Catholic marriage and the

living ministry of the Popcaks is available at [www.catholiccounselors.com](http://www.catholiccounselors.com). The website for the diocesan Family Life Office is [www.rcdony.org/family-life.html](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life.html)



**Zachary and Erin Leader of St. Bernard's of Saranac Lake are shown with their children Lucy and Isaac. Mr. Leader said, "Today's talk reminded me of how much Erin does at home for the kids and me and that she does it out of love for us. When the Popcaks compare Corporal Acts of Mercy to the every day things I do for my family, I really gained a different perspective and realized the importance in what I do each day."**



**Mary Burns and Luke Henry, a recently engaged couple from St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, said, "When the Popcaks spoke about using the day the day things we do for each other, to serve each other, as a way to be God's love for each other, that is something we really feel. It stuck with us from today."**

## SCENES FROM THE LIFE AND MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

# FACES OF FAITH

Married and engaged couples reflect on the beauty and power of Catholic marriage



PHOTOS BY TOM SEMERARO

Deacon John Fehlner and his wife Maura came from Keene to participate in the Life and Family conference "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond."



Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan director of family life ministry welcomes the participants to the conference.



Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, diocesan NFP directors, were part of the planning committee for the program.



Theresa and Edward Quaal from Immaculate Conception parish in Brownville were among the couples who participated.



Dough and Megan Croley of St. Peter's in Massena enjoyed the day with their baby.



Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth ministry director, attended the conference with her fiancé Charlie D'Souza.

# Funeral held Monday for Sr. Marie Angele Ellis, SSJ

**WATERTOWN**—A Mass of Christian Burial for St. Joseph Sister Marie Angele Ellis, 90, was held April 23 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse chapel, with her brother Augustinian Father Kail Ellis presiding.

She died April 17 at the motherhouse.

Sister Marie Angele was born Marie Therese Ellis in Watertown on March 22, 1928, daughter of Angele Hoheiche Ellis and Toufee T. Ellis.

A graduate of Augustinian Academy, Carthage, she graduated from Central City Business Institute, Syracuse as a medical secretary. She worked for the Syracuse City Clinic as a medical secretary for ten years.

Sister Marie Angele entered the Sisters of St. Joseph Sept. 8, 1956. She received the habit on April 28, 1957 and made final profession on

June 24, 1962. She received her bachelor's degree from the New York State University of Potsdam. She taught in AuSable Forks and St. Patrick's School, Watertown.

For 37 years, Sister Marie Angele served as secretary and treasurer of the community. Within this period, she served as assistant superior to the major superior.

Sister Marie Angele also served as a member of the Finance Council for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

In 1997, Sister Marie Angele served as a parish minister at St. James Parish, Carthage. She returned to a prayer apostolate at the Motherhouse in 2013.

Sister Marie Angele is survived by her brothers, Raffae G., Orlando, Florida; Augustinian Fathers Alfred J and Kail C., both of Villanova, Pennsylvania; and a sister Alfreda M., Altamonte Springs,

Florida. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by one brother, Delor J., Mashpee, Massachusetts.

Contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Online condolences to her family may be posted at [www.cummingsfuneral.com](http://www.cummingsfuneral.com).

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. 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 3** - 6 p.m., St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington.

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

## 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](mailto: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 26** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg  
6 p.m., Knights of Columbus St. Lawrence Deanery Priest Appreciation Dinner at the Shamrock Club in Brasher Falls

**April 27** - 7:00 p.m., Confirmation at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh

**April 28** - 10 a.m., Diocesan Youth Rally and Mass at St. Mary's Church in Canton

**April 29** - 11 a.m., Confirmation at St. James Church in Gouverneur

**May 2-3** - Deacon Assembly at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid

**May 3** - 1:30 p.m., Council of Deacons Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid

**May 4** - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

## Rest in Peace

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

**April 26** - Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998

**April 27** - Rev. John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., 1908; Rev. Michael F. Ambrose, 1934

**April 28** - Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

**April 29** - Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

**April 30** - Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

**May 1** - Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

**MAY 2018**

Our Lady

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	2 REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	3 MSGR. LEONARD J. POISSANT	4 REV. SONY G. PULICKAL VJ	5 REV. PATRICK A. RATIGAN	6 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	7 REV. MARK R. REILLY
8 OUR PASTOR	9 MSGR. PETER R. RIANI	10 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	11 REV. STEPHEN ROCKER	12 REV. MIKOLAJ L. SCIBIOR	13 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	14 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR VJ
15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	18 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	19 REV. F. JAMES SHURTLEFF	20 MSGR. HARRY K. SNOW	21 REV. BRYAN D. STITT
22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. RICHARD S. STURTZ	24 REV. JONAS RAFAEL TANDAYU MSC	25 REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	26 REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HGN	27 REV. HOWARD RAYMOND WERTMAN	28 REV. J. VENETTE
29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 MSGR. PAUL E. WHITMORE	31 REV. LEO A. WILEY				


For more information visit us online at: [www.mprpapistolate.com](http://www.mprpapistolate.com)

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The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  [www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net)

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

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## Environmental Stewardship

### Another way needed to meet the challenge

Jesus called children to himself and taught us that we need to become like children. One of the challenges that we are asked to consider during April is: how to respond to our increased awareness of the abuse and violence inflicted on God's little ones, both locally and globally?

As a nation we observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In our own Diocese we observe "Protecting God's Children. The "Virtus" Program gives valuable training to those working with children.

A way of protecting God's children, that we might not immediately consider is: How does the lack of care for the natural environment abuse and inflict violence upon the well-being of children now and in the future?

From a recent report from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (unicef) (established in 1946 after World War II,) we hear the "cry of the children" from around the world. In their recent book, entitled Children on the Front Line, it is noted

"Children and young people represent 30 per cent of the world's population. Not only do they represent the largest group of people currently affected by climate change, but they are also more vulnerable than adults to its harmful effects. Children and young people also constitute the generation that will be required to deal with the future impacts of climate change and that will have to deliver the very deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions that will be essential in the coming decades. This book attempts to build up a clear picture of what climate change means for the children of today and tomorrow."

This report brings out still another way we can make a difference in a child's life, simply by the way we live each day.

Suggestion for this month might include: Consider ways that you can reduce greenhouse emissions by the number of miles you travel... i.e., car-pooling, combining errands, shopping locally. Share your concerns with your legislators.

## YOUNG FAITH IN PLATTSBURGH - ALIVE AND WELL



Several students from Seton Academy participated in the PEAK festival on Saturday, April 14. PEAK is the acronym for parents, educators and kids! They had a variety of musical experiences and were part of a presentation for parents and friends in the afternoon. Pictured are, front, Eric Glover, Abby Schaub and Anthony Semeraro; and back, Megan Mast and Emma Hanna. Absent at the time the photo was taken, Ava Glover.



Recently, the Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Victory parish in Plattsburgh, presented awards to the students for their "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters. Winners include: Charlotte Boulé, Isaac Devine, and Kayla Bushey. Jim Durham presented the awards.

# Camp Guggenheim

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**2018 Schedule**

**12-15 Year Olds:**  
 Week 1: July 1-6  
 Week 2: July 8-13  
 Week 3: July 15-20  
 Week 4: July 22-27  
 Week 5: July 29-August 3

**16-18 Year Olds:**  
 Week 6: August 5-10

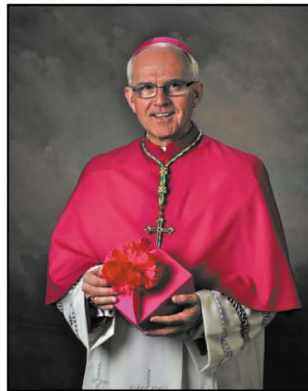
# PROMISE TO PROTECT



# PLEDGE TO HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ:

The month of April has been designated as *Child Abuse Prevention Month*. This provides us with an opportunity to highlight our awareness of child sexual abuse and to call attention to our ongoing responsibility to provide safe, healthy environments for our children and young people. It also affords me the opportunity to assure you that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is continuing our strong efforts to create and maintain a climate of safety and of joy for all the youth entrusted to our pastoral care.



I am grateful to Jill Lawrence, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, who directs our efforts to ensure that the national and diocesan policies established to provide safe environments for our children are implemented fully. Since 2003, independent audits have been conducted in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to determine how well we comply with national and our own diocesan policies. With the coordinating efforts of Mrs. Elaine Seymour, our Charter Compliance Coordinator, we have been found to be compliant every year. The strong support and cooperation of our pastors and their pastoral staffs enable our Church to be a safe place in which we can all grow in love of God and neighbor.

We know that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, so tenderly loves and accompanies all those who are hurt in His Church. We are a Church of the hurting, indeed, as Pope Francis says, a *field hospital*. We remain vigilant in providing a safe environment for all within the Church and sorrowful when we have failed our sisters and brothers and caused such hurt and suffering.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

*Terry R. LaValley*

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg



### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*





### WHAT HAS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

#### Our Commitment to Children's Safety:

- Safe Environment Policies & Procedures
- Mandatory Background Checks / References
- Annual Training for Staff, Parents and Children
- Reporting Procedures Implemented
- Children 's Activities Supervised
- One-on-one Instruction Monitored



Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Ogdensburg

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### DIOCESAN STATISTICS NATIONAL AUDIT JULY 1, 2017- JUNE 30, 2018

- 4,628 students attended Christian Formation
- 1,698 students attended Catholic schools
- 346 youth attended Guggenheim Summer Camp
- 143 adults and children attended Family Guggenheim
- 67 Safe Environment training sessions were held
- 552 Background checks on clerics, employees/volunteers

### Provision of Diocesan Assistance in reporting abuse Victims' assistance coordinator: Terrianne Yanulavich 518-651-2267

### WHAT HAS THE CHURCH DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN NATIONALLY?

The Church has done more to protect children than almost any other organization in the U.S. 195 U.S. dioceses/eparchies have a victim assistance coordinator to support the abused.

- 2,400,627 adults trained to prevent abuse
- 4,484,609 children trained to recognize abuse
- 2,390,956 background checks for clerics & employees and volunteers

### CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS

- 6 Million children nationally
- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds
- 4 to 6 children die in U.S. daily from abuse
- 1 in 4 girls & 1 in 6 boys will be abused before age 18

More than 70% of the children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect were two years of age or younger. **More than 80% were not yet old enough for kindergarten.**

Around 80% of child maltreatment fatalities involve at least one parent as perpetrator.

### Report Abuse of Vulnerable Adults

NYS Only (Adult Protection Services): 844-697-3505

## We are grateful to all the facilitators who have continued conducting Safe Environment Sessions



### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP

- You can be trained in safe environment practices. Free VIRTUS safe environment training dates are printed in the North Country Catholic weekly with locations across the diocese. Or go to [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org), scroll down to the bottom of the page and click Safe Environment Office; then click on VIRTUS trainings. Parents are welcome to register
- You can monitor the computer use in your home by using an internet filter and/or parental control software: [www.netnanny.com](http://www.netnanny.com) or [www.1.k9webprotection.com](http://www.1.k9webprotection.com) (free)
- Most importantly, spend time with your children, helping them to know safe place on the internet.



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NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE HOTLINE: 1-888-373-7888

Family seeks Archbishop Sheen's intercession for newborn son's healing

# Praying for a miracle

By Jessica Trygstad  
Catholic News Service

**ST. ANTHONY, MINN. (CNS)** - Even before Katherine and Jeff Dobbs were married, they had a name picked out for a future son: Fulton Francis.

Fulton, for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, known for his mid-20th century broadcast evangelism, and Francis, for Pope Francis, whom the couple met at a general audience during their honeymoon in 2017.

Little could they have known the significance of their baby's namesakes less than a year later.

Fulton Francis Dobbs was born Christmas Eve with an immunodeficiency that remains undiagnosed. They have been praying for Fulton's healing through the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, whom Pope Benedict XVI declared venerable in 2012.

The next step in the sainthood process is beatification, which requires one miracle that is verified as having occurred through that person's intercession.

## Prayer charge begins

After Fulton's birth, the Dobbs' parish, St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony, distributed cards with a prayer written by Franciscan Father Andrew Apostoli, who was

ordained by Archbishop Sheen and has worked on his canonization cause.

Katherine's father, Steve Burrill, also a St. Charles Borromeo parishioner, has been leading the prayer charge.

"Your faith needs to get you through the 'whys,' not the 'why me?' but the why us?" Burrill, 61, told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. "I think it would be strange not to have that. But it's faith that helps you figure that out, or at least try to work through it. I can't think of two people who were more ready to be parents ... than these two."

Fulton's difficulties surfaced during Katherine's 30-week ultrasound, which revealed that he wasn't growing at a normal rate. Her doctor ordered her to go on bed rest. At 37 weeks gestation, doctors decided to induce labor, and Fulton was born Dec. 24 at 3 pounds, 13 ounces and 17-and-a-half inches.

From the start, Fulton did not eat well and his oxygen levels dropped, so Katherine, 32, and Jeff, 30, had him baptized at the hospital. After about a week, doctors performed genetic tests and Fulton was placed in isolation.

Meanwhile, his newborn screening tests indicated that he had severe combined



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY JEFF, KATHERINE DOBBS  
**Jeff and Katherine Dobbs sit with their newborn son, Fulton, at their home after being released from the hospital in early March in Brooklyn Center, Minn. Fulton, named after U.S. Archbishop Fulton Sheen, was born Christmas Eve with an immunodeficiency that remains undiagnosed.**

immunodeficiency, or SCID, involving a disorder that leaves little or no immune response.

Commonly known as "bubble boy disease," the condition leaves those who have it highly susceptible to severe infections. But more tests ruled out SCID, which could have been treated with a bone marrow transplant.

Thus far, every genetic test has come back inconclusive.

While Fulton's March 2 homecoming was joyous, it brought new challenges. The Dobbses have few visitors, and when they do, guests must wear masks and gloves; Fulton cannot be around children. The couple must wear protective gear at home if they exhibit symptoms of an illness. They can't take him out in public.

The couple was trained to administer infusions in Fulton's legs every other week,

giving him antibody protection.

Katherine admitted that at first she was even afraid to cry, fearing her tears could kill Fulton because of the germs they contained.

"So, just to think about even more than just one hour at a time was so anxiety-provoking," she said. "I read all these books on childbirth and nothing has been able to basically be applied to this situation in life. I feel like the Lord is saying, 'My ways are not your ways,' and ... not to plan the next moment because it's impossible to plan the next moment. So, just to trust that (God is) going to provide, and receive the graces of the moment."

Katherine's love of St. Therese of Lisieux inspired her and Jeff to read Archbishop Sheen's book, "St. Therese: A Treasured Love Story," which includes text from talks he gave in 1973 about the French nun. During the last weeks of her pregnancy Katherine researched Archbishop Sheen and listened to his talks "Life is Worth Living" from his 1950s television show.

## Another healing

Her research led to an Illinois woman who shares not only her esteem for the archbishop, but also, at one point, prayers for a baby's miraculous healing.

Katherine connected with Bonnie Engstrom, who, during a presentation at St. Charles Borromeo March 23, shared the account of the alleged miraculous healing of her newborn son, James Fulton, in 2010 through Archbishop Sheen's intercession.

"And wouldn't it be amazing if we had Fulton's miracle," Engstrom told the gathering.

Engstrom, 36, grew up 20

miles away from Archbishop Sheen's birthplace of El Paso, Illinois. While she was familiar with the archbishop for that reason alone, she started to watch videos of him during her pregnancy.

James was stillborn during a home birth. He was rushed to a local hospital, where doctors and nurses worked to revive him. As the doctors began putting their hands up to call his time of death, 'after 61 minutes of not having a heartbeat, James' heart started to beat again, and it never stopped again,' Bonnie said.

Despite the surprise recovery, doctors cautioned that no one goes without a heartbeat for an hour and lives. But the boy survived and is a healthy 7-year-old child today despite medical tests early in life that revealed various serious complications. But they all disappeared and Engstrom credits the intercession of Archbishop Sheen for her son's recovery.

Doctors subsequently determined the boy's recovery was a medical miracle. The alleged miracle was submitted to Vatican's Congregation for Saints Causes through the Diocese of Peoria, which is coordinating the archbishop's canonization submission. The case is on hold because of a conflict with the Archdiocese of New York, where Archbishop Sheen is buried.

Katherine attended Bonnie's presentation. She and her family continue to trust in the power of prayer, "that God is in the details, and he's a good father," she said.

Katherine acknowledged the family faces a long road to full healing, "but the Lord has given (to) me in prayer before, just that he's always been there. And so, I know he has been in this, too."

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Retired pope celebrates 91st birthday

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Retired Pope Benedict XVI had a "peaceful and familial" 91st birthday April 16, celebrating with his 94-year-old brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, who was visiting from Germany, the Vatican said. Pope Francis offered his early morning Mass for his predecessor and then sent his personal best wishes to the retired pope, who lives on the other side of St. Peter's Basilica in a refurbished monastery. The birthday evening plans, the Vatican press office said, included a visit and performance by the Swiss Guard band. Pope Benedict was elected in April 2005 to succeed St. John Paul II. He stepped down Feb. 28, 2013.

## Pope, Christian leaders condemn violence against Syria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Sharply criticizing a failure to find nonviolent means of bringing peace to Syria and other parts of the world, Pope Francis appealed to world leaders to work for justice and peace. "I am deeply disturbed by the current world situation, in which, despite the instruments available to international community, it struggles to agree on joint action in favor of peace in Syria and other regions of the world," he said after praying the "Regina Coeli" with people gathered in St. Peter's Square April 15. "While I unceasingly pray for peace and invite all people of good will to keep doing the same, I appeal once again to all political leaders so that justice and peace may prevail," he said. The pope's appeal came after the United States, France and the United Kingdom launched missiles on Syria April 13, targeting sites intended to weaken the nation's chemical weapons capability. The missile strikes came one week after an alleged chemical attack in the Ghouta region, outside Damascus. Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow telephoned Pope Francis after the missile attack, he told reporters April 15 at his residence outside of Moscow.

## Pope advances sainthood cause of Canadian nun

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis advanced the sainthood cause of a Canadian nun who founded Ottawa's first hospital and dedicated her life to abandoned children and the elderly. At a meeting April 14 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the pope signed a decree recognizing that Canadian Sister Elisabeth Bruyere, founder of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, lived the Christian virtues in a special way. He also signed decrees recognizing the heroic virtues of four other women and three men. They could be beatified once a miracle attributed to their intercession is recognized. A second miracle is needed for canonization. Born March 19, 1818, Sister Bruyere entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal before setting up a community in Ottawa, which at the time was called Bytown. Three months after her arrival in 1845, she and several other sisters founded a school, a general hospital, an orphanage and a home for the elderly to assist the many English, Irish and Scottish immigrants who arrived in the French-Canadian town. She died in 1876. Following the announcement of the decree, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast of Ottawa said Sister Bruyere's life and ministry reflected "God's love for us all."

## VATICAN LETTER

# 'Seamless garment' revisited: Pope insists all life deserves defense

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - When Pope Francis insisted that the lives of the unborn and of the poor are "equally sacred," he was not trying to shift the focus of Catholics from fighting abortion to fighting poverty, he was trying to show they are part of the same battle, said Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

The life of the unborn must be "promoted and defended with great determination and given an effective priority," the archbishop told Catholic News Service April 17.

"At the same time," he said, "we must keep in mind that the dignity of every human being is equal and inviolable at every stage throughout his or her life."

In "Rejoice and Be Glad," his apostolic exhortation on holiness, Pope Francis wrote that living a Christian life involves the defense of both the unborn and the poor, and he criticized what he termed the "harmful ideological error" of thinking one's own cause is the only important 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," Pope Francis 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, the victims of

human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection," the pope said.

## We must never do death's job. Never

Pope Francis' words reminded many people of the "seamless garment" approach to life issues promoted by the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago.

While applauding its recognition of the sacredness of all human life, some people criticized the approach, saying it could give people a mistaken impression that, for example, the church teaches abortion and capital punishment are equally serious sins.

Others worried that some Catholics would claim their defense of life in one area meant that they did not have to pursue the protection of life in other areas.

But "Pope Francis has reaffirmed that abortion is evil without mincing words," Archbishop Paglia said. At the same time, he asks that "the pro-life commitment be enlarged."

The pope's words in the exhortation reflect the same vision the pope had in renewing the statutes and membership of the Academy for Life, he said; the pope believes "true support for life cannot be limited to isolated moments of its existence, but also must pro-

mote the conditions of justice and peace" life needs to thrive.

What Pope Francis is telling Catholics, he said, is "to be pro-life always, in every situation and everywhere, not only in one moment, in one country or one aspect. We must rediscover the prophetic call to defend life in its concrete situations, not as an abstraction, by defending human beings from the very beginning of life to its end."

Rather than watering down Catholics' commitment to ending abortion, the archbishop said, attention to defending life at every stage and in every circumstance "should make us stronger, including in effectively combating the absurd prospect of abortion."

By putting together abortion, euthanasia, hunger, immigration, the death penalty, weapons trafficking, war and other serious issues, he said, Pope Francis makes it clear that all human life always must be defended.

A prophetic pro-life stance, Archbishop Paglia said, "has no limits," while an "ideological approach" zeroes in on particulars.

"Ideology moves the mind, while prophecy moves the heart, but also the hands because it dares to dream of a future that is beautiful for everyone."

"We must never do death's job," the archbishop said. "Never."

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# 'I am the vine and you are the branches'

Soon after the early Church began to grow, a major event occurred.

Saul of Tarsus, one of the most feared and hated persecutors of Christians, miraculously converted to Christianity. No one could have predicted the startling accident that befell Saul on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus. He was knocked off his horse, and struck blind by a divine shaft of light that left him blind and helpless.

He was directed by a Voice to seek out one Ananias who would give him further directions.



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

The rest is history. After some time in prayer and solitude, Barnabas, a man respected and trusted by the Christians, brought him to Jerusalem, and introduced him to Peter and the other leaders.

At first, distrust and fear kept them at a distance, but gradually he was accepted. Despite many severe trials, Paul's theology prevailed. The Church would never be the same again.

It was surely a miracle of grace that often-bitter fighting between various factions did not split the Church apart and destroy it

Furthermore, many were sorely tested when friends and relatives opposed them or even betrayed them to the authorities. What saved the whole enterprise was surely the teaching we find in today's second reading. John tells his followers "... love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." We must not merely "mouth" the beautiful teaching of Jesus, but work on the difficult task of living those words.

All of the disciples must likewise have found consolation in the powerful image of today's Gospel.

In the great farewell address of Jesus at the Last Supper, He tells his disciples: "I am the vine; you are the branches". Think about

**APRIL 29**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

READINGS

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8"

it! As a branch cannot survive if it is separated from the vine, neither can we survive if we sever our connection with Jesus.

He is constantly strengthening us with grace, just as a vine gives life moment by moment to its branches.

Sometimes we take ourselves all the credit for the resulting growth within us. We even try to control the directions in which our faith

life is shared. We like to pick our own ministries, rather than allow the Lord through the Church have a say in the decision.

Then, when our activities are "pruned" through failure—or a call to another ministry, we can complain or become bitter. At those times, we need to be more trusting, and realize that perhaps God's Providence has broader plans for our growth and the growth of His kingdom.

This is what Jesus meant by "pruning". Let's hope it's all for a closer grafting on the Vine. Consult the NCC for information and a summary of Pope Francis' new Apostolic Exhortation, "Gaudete et Exultate" (Rejoice and Be Glad".

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

# Cowboys, infertility, deeper moral questions

Most people still remember the story of Nadya Suleman, dubbed "Octomom," a single woman who used *in vitro* fertilization to become pregnant with eight babies simultaneously.

Suleman had asked her fertility specialist, Dr. Michael Kamrava, to implant at least a dozen embryos into her uterus, leading to the birth of the famous octuplets in 2009. Dr. Kamrava's medical license was later revoked by the California Medical Board.

In commenting on the case, Judith Alvarado, Deputy Attorney General in California, concluded that Dr. Kamrava had acted "like a cowboy" in ignoring fertility industry guidelines.

When it comes to the "wild west" of infertility — a field of medicine with little oversight and unbridled profit margins — there are a lot of cowboys out there.

Recently there was the case of Kelli Rowlette who,

after having her own DNA analyzed in 2017 through a genealogy website, shockingly discovered that her biological father was actually a fertility specialist who had once treated her mother.

Without her mother's knowledge or consent, the specialist had used his own sperm to impregnate her, while falsely claiming he was using a mixture of sperm from her husband (who had low sperm count) and a donor who was supposed to have been an anonymous university student with features similar to her husband.

Another infamous case involved Bertold Wiesner who, back in the 1940s, established a fertility clinic in London to help women struggling to conceive. His clinic supposedly relied on a small number of highly intelligent men to serve as sperm donors for artificial insemination, with more than 1500 babies being

born. More than seventy years later, based on DNA testing of people who had been conceived at the clinic, it turned out that as many as 600 of the babies born may have relied on sperm from Mr. Wiesner himself.

There was also the troubling story of Dr. Cecil Jacobson of Fairfax County, Virginia. He was accused of a "purposeful pattern of deceit" during the 1980's when he fathered up to 75 children using his own sperm for artificial insemination with his female patients. He was eventually sentenced to five years in prison and had his medical license revoked.

Another notorious episode relied on DNA testing and other evidence gathered by police in Brazil. They discovered that many

of the 8,000 babies born after IVF treatments at the clinic of Dr. Roger Abdelmassih in Sao Paulo were not genetically related to the couples who were raising them.



**Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk,  
PhD**

Authorities believe that Abdelmassih misled many of his clients during the 1990s and early 2000s and impregnated them with embryos formed from other people's eggs and sperm, in a bid

to improve his clinic's statistics for successful implantations and births.

Yet another nefarious incident involved Doctors Riccardo Asch, Jose Bulmaceda and Sergio Stone, three fertility specialists and faculty members at the University of California at Irvine who ran a campus fertility clinic during the 1990s.

They were accused of fertilizing eggs they had har-

vested from women and implanting the resulting embryos into unrelated women, as well as selling some of the embryos to scientists and researchers. Dozens of women and couples filed lawsuits against the doctors and the university.

One of the reasons these acts of deception by fertility specialists are so offensive to us is that we realize how the procreation of our own children is meant to involve a strict exclusivity between husband and wife.

Whenever we violate that exclusivity by hiring outsiders to produce our offspring in clinics, or engage strangers to provide their sex cells for these procedures, unthinkable outcomes become possible.

The plethora of these cases also reminds us how many of the cavalier approaches to human procreation being promoted by the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## AT THE MOVIES

## RAMPAGE

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

Those looking for a film that seriously engages with the human condition or advances the art of cinema will not find what they're looking for in "Rampage" (Warner Bros.).

Grown-ups out to kill the better part of two hours and willing to be satisfied with some campy fun, on the other hand, will have little cause for complaint.

An entertaining bit of out-sized nonsense, the flick combines 1970s-style disaster movie spectacle with the even older altered-animal trope that gave the world Godzilla back in 1954. The fact that "Rampage" is derived in part from the video arcade game of the same title is a tipoff of what to expect from it, including destructive action and shallow characterizations.

Cue the cartoonishly villainous brother-and-sister team at the helm of an evil corporation called Energyne, Claire (Malin Akerman) and Brett (Jake Lacy) Wyden. The Wydens' scheme to weaponize a DNA-changing chemical hits more than a bump in the road when the space station on which their secretive research is being carried out is destroyed, and containers of the substance plummet to various localities around the world.

One dose of it ends up infecting, transforming and enraging George, a previously peaceful albino gorilla who inhabits a fictional wildlife sanctuary attached to the real-life San Diego Zoo. To save George from running amok and being put down, his devoted trainer, Davis Okoye (Dwayne Johnson), teams with geneticist Kate Caldwell (Naomie Harris) and with an unconventional government agent

known simply as Russell (Jeffrey Dean Morgan).

Davis is a Special Ops veteran (of course), Kate used to work for Energyne (naturally), while Russell, who cultivates the image of a modern-day cowboy, represents the OGA -- Other Government Agency. These connections come in handy once the trio find themselves not only trying to contain George but battling an enhanced wolf and a monstrous crocodile as well.

Devoid of any artistic or moral significance, director Brad Peyton's mayhem meter invites the audience to revel in the gruesome downfall of the wicked siblings, though the toll exacted by the monsters is generally portrayed without blood. Additionally, the script includes an unusual number of vain invocations of the divine name.

These defects aside, "Ram-



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Dwayne Johnson and Jason Liles (as George the Gorilla) star in a scene from the movie "Rampage."

page" makes for a mindless, pleasant romp -- though viewers are likely to forget all about it shortly after exiting the theater.

The film contains frequent monster violence, mostly stylized but with some gore, several uses of profanity and a couple of

milder oaths, at least one rough and numerous crude terms and obscene gestures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

## Cowboys

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

fertility industry are unethical at their core.

We are witnessing an unprecedented burgeoning of laboratory techniques for manufacturing human life, many of which are deeply antagonistic to human dignity and contrary to the parental obligations assumed by spouses when they marry.

The natural exclusivity intended in parenthood is meant to afford protection, security about our origins, and the safety of the home hearth.

In the headlong rush to achieve a pregnancy at any price, many couples, regretfully, are allowing hawkish businessmen to manipulate their sex cells, create their

children in glassware, store them in frozen orphanages, and even discard them like medical waste.

The tragic fallout of these decisions should reignite our natural moral sensibilities, and point us back in the direction of the Creator's plan for human procreation. Our children are truly safeguarded in the dignity of their origins when they are brought into the world exclusively within the marital embrace of husband and wife. Turning to the lawlessness of modern day fertility "cowboys," meanwhile, is a quick study for violation and heartache.

*Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did*

*post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director*

*of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncb-center.org](http://www.ncb-center.org)*



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## CLINTON

**HEALING HEARTS OF CHILDREN**

**Peru** – An Elijah House Teaching Series has been planned

**Date:** April 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.

**SPRING BRUNCH**

**Altona** – Spring Brunch to be held.

**Date:** May 6

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 1

**Place:** Holy Angels Church

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$6; under 5, Free; Take-outs Available

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

**Lyon Mountain** – Knights of Columbus Council #7215 to have a Mission of Hope Mother's Day Brunch.

**Date:** May 13

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion Council #7215 to have a Mission of Hope Mother's Day Brunch.

**Cost:** Adults, \$10, All Mothers, \$5; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

**Features:** 50/50 raffle; Proceeds to Benefit North Country's Mission of Hope & Knights Council #7215.

**Contact:** Takes outs are available 518-735-4372; For more information please call (518) 578-2638

**ALUMNI REUNION**

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

**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 Westside Ballroom at 6 p.m.; May 27, Mass at St. John's Church at 9:30 a.m.

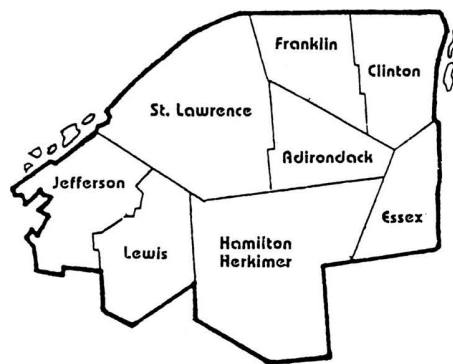
**Contact:** Susan Pellerin at 518-561-4031 option 7 to register

**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



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.

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:** 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

**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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

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

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

## 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

**ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

**Watertown** – The St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will be having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations into the priesthood and to the religious life.

**Date:** April 28

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

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

**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

**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: catholicof-carthageopenhagen.org Or the artist's personal website: bobrenaudart.com

**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 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.

## 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: Ves-

pers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

## ST. LAWRENCE

**CORPUS CHRISTI**

**Norwood** – A Celebration of Corpus Christi to be held.

**Date:** June 3

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** Mass followed by a procession with the Holy Sacrament around the block and back into the church where benediction will conclude the service. Bishop Terry LaValley, will be the principle celebrant. Priests, deacons, sisters, Knights of Columbus councils, all women and men societies, and youth groups are more than welcome. A reception will be held in the Meditation Garden following the service.

**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

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION**

**Massena** – Friday Devotions are set featuring Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** First Friday of every month

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 7:30

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

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

# The tragedy of human trafficking

*"Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ... It is a crime against humanity... 'Tens of millions of children are forced to work in degrading conditions, exposed to forms of slavery and exploitation, as well as to abuse, ill-treatment and discrimination... Let us all renew our commitment, especially families, to ensure the tutelage of every boy's and girl's dignity and the chance to grow up healthy.'" -Pope Francis*

## What is Human Trafficking?

The United Nations Protocol on Human Trafficking defines human trafficking as the "recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud, or coercion". Human trafficking takes a variety of forms in every region of the world. Some adults and children are trafficked for prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Other individuals are trafficked for forced labor in agriculture, sweat shops, fishing crews, and domestic servitude or are trapped into situations of bonded labor or debt bondage. Some children may be lawfully and forcefully recruited as child soldiers by armed forces and combatants or other forms of labor.

## The Catholic Church's teaching

The Catholic Church has long spoken out against depravity of human trafficking and slavery. Their historic concerns on forced labor state that "slavery, prostitution, and the selling of women and children into disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as mere tools for profit rather than as free and responsible persons are an affront to fundamental values rooted in the nature of every human person. Pope Francis speaks out to end modern day slavery. He feels that "victims of various kinds of human trafficking" and how the need for an end is immediate. There are 21 million victims of trafficking worldwide. Our Faith calls on us to defend life and human dignity to fight conditions that lead to enslavement of human beings. Much like the call to be Missionaries, we are called to defend life and end slavery.

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) helps make a difference in fighting trafficking and child labor practices. Prayers and sacrifices through MCA support missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus to the poor and suffering, including child workers and those subjected to terrible conditions. MCA assists volunteers and missionaries who work with children that are victims of forced labor, domestic abuse, and provide support while uniting children with their families. Basic needs such as clean water, food, education and clothing are examples of provisions made by MCA to compromised children. When children escape poverty to obtain an education, the chains of child labor, trafficking and misery are broken. MCA is proud to be able to make these dreams a reality.

## OBITUARIES

**Canton** – Elizabeth Jean "Betty" (Eggleston) Ames, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Crown Point** – Sophia DeZalia MacKay Young; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Forestdale Cemetery, Crown Point.

**Deferiet** – Bernetta V. (Ganeriski) Miterko, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 20, 2018 at St. Rita's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Ruth M. (Gagnier) Whalen, 93; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2018 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Florence C. (Keefe) Benware, 97; Funeral Services May 14, 2018 at the Cappiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home.

**Hogansburg** – David V. Hopps, 88; Mass

of Christian Burial April 20, 2018 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

**Massena** – Jean A. (Sharlow) Patnode, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 20, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

**Massena** – Mark H. Snider, 94; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Moers Forks** – Curtis S. Hemmila; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2018 at St. Ann's Church.

**Morrisonville** – Kelli M. (Gagnon) Trombley, 36; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church.

**North Bangor** – Mary Ellen (Ballesty) Maguire, 78; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Malone.

**Ogdensburg** – Emily Jane (Vincent) St. Denny, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Yvette E. (Turbide) Hebert, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Potsdam** – William F. Manning, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

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315-608-7556

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# 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](mailto: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 River Inn and breakfast on Saturday.

**Contact:** [cantonkofc@gmail.com](mailto:cantonkofc@gmail.com) or call 315-714-2016.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Applications for the 2018-2019 Diocesan Youth Council are due May 7

**Features:** DYC is an opportunity for students in grades 10-12 to grow in faith and leadership through helping with diocesan events and growing as disciples in their own parishes.

**Contact:** To apply, go to: [www.rcdony.org/youth-ministry/diocesan-youth-council](http://www.rcdony.org/youth-ministry/diocesan-youth-council)

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

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

**Saranac Lake** - A Rachel's Vineyard

## RESURRECTION GARDEN



The religious education class at St. Hubert's in Star Lake created a Resurrection Garden for Easter with the help of their teacher, Deborah Norman. From left are Leo Brooker, Darryl Cooper, Deb Norman, Caleb Cooper and Jack Brooker. The stones removed from the tomb are marked, Miracles, Hope, Rejoice and Blessings.

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](http://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](http://www.rcdony.org/camp).

### 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 pro-

grams in the evening.

**Contact:** Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at [chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com](mailto:chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com) or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786. Additional information: [www.heartworkcamp.com](http://www.heartworkcamp.com).

### 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](mailto:vde-mers@rcdony.org)

## NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

### YOUNG ADULT DAY

**Isle La Mott, 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

**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](mailto:wgavin@vermontcatholic.org)

Join us for a celebration of

# CORPUS CHRISTI

Priests, deacons, sisters,  
Knights of Columbus councils,  
all women and men societies, and  
youth groups are more than welcome.

June 3, 2018

2 p.m.

St. Andrew's Church,  
Norwood

Mass will be followed by a procession with the Holy Sacrament around the block and back into the church where benediction will conclude the service.

The Most Reverend Terry LaValley,  
Bishop of Ogdensburg will be the  
principle celebrant.

A reception will be held in the Meditation Garden following the service.

