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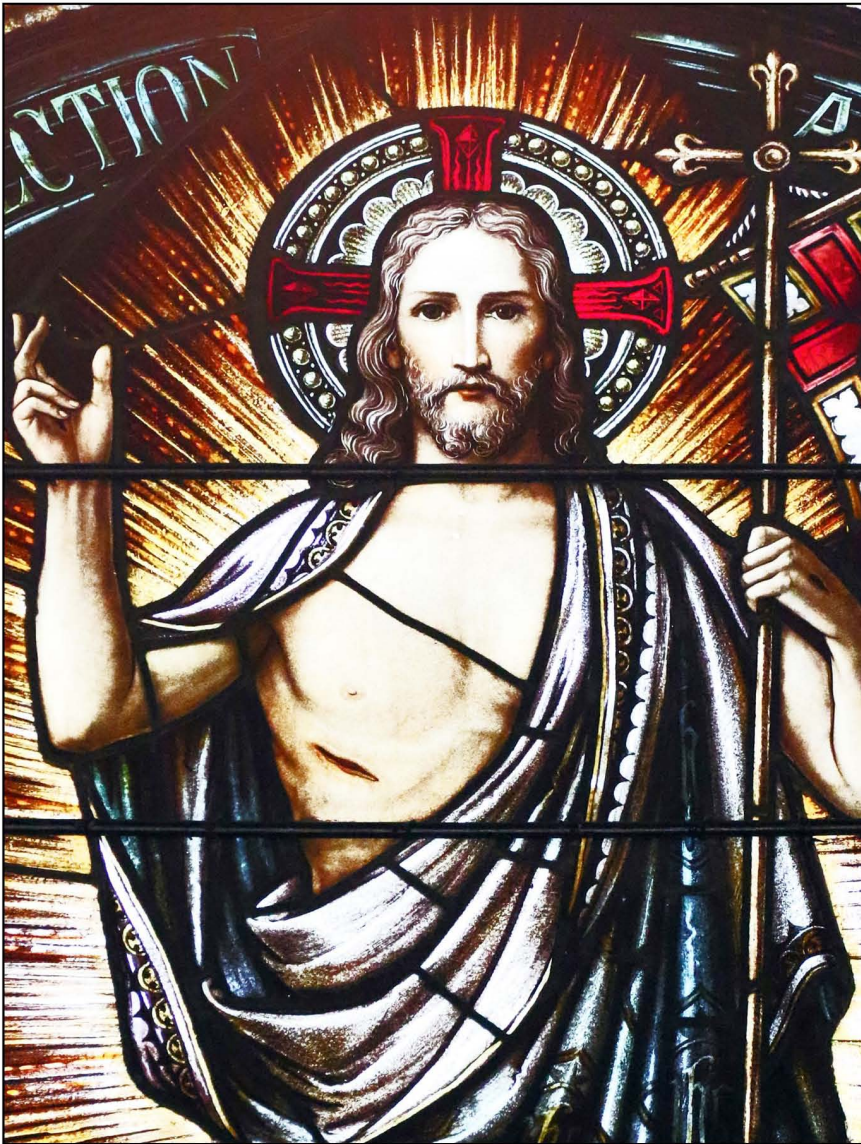
Something for (almost) everyone in federal budget | PAGE 10

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 1

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 4, 2018

## HE IS RISEN



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

The risen Christ is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck, N.Y. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, was April 1 this year. The Easter Season continues through Pentecost Sunday May 20.

## Jesus' church offers truth

ROME (CNS) - Leading a prayer to God for the grace to feel ashamed and repentant for so many sins in the world, Pope Francis highlighted the hope that always comes from Jesus.

There is hope "because your church, holy and made up of sinners, continues even today, in spite of attempts to discredit it, to be a light that illuminates, encourages, comforts and wit-

nesses your unlimited love for humanity, a model of altruism, an ark of salvation and a source of certainty and truth," the pope said.

There is hope "because from your cross - the fruit of greed and cowardice of many doctors of the law and hypocrites - came the resurrection," which turned darkness into eternal light and shows that Jesus' love is their hope.

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Eleven Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are ready to register students to come to places where they can "Learn, Serve, Lead and Succeed" during the 2018-9 school year

CONTACT INFORMATION, PAGE 6

### Care for God's Creation

Final installment of Lenten series "Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" addresses the social teaching on caring for creation

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

### Around the Diocese

PAGE 14

## Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations

Parishes across the Diocese of Ogdensburg will observe the Feast of Divine Mercy April 8, the first Sunday after Easter.

Christ revealed his message of divine mercy to the mystic St. Faustina Kowalska. She recorded these revelations in her diary, known today as "Divine Mercy in My Soul."

Details about observances in Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, Malone, Houseville, Watertown and Massena are printed on this week's Around the Diocese pages.

Msgr. Whitmore reflects on the readings of the day for Divine Mercy Sunday in his scripture column.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12, 14, 16

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

## Catholic school: excellent option

The beginning of the Easter Season is the perfect time for families to take a serious look at the option of a Catholic school education for their children. The eleven Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are ready to register new and returning students for the upcoming school year.

Over the past several weeks, the value of a Catholic education has been on display in some unique activities of Catholic school students during the season of Lent.

At Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, for example, the IHC Mystery Players have been bringing the stories

of Jesus' birth and death on the cross during the Advent and



Mary Lou  
Kilian

Lenten seasons through powerful and prayerful meditations... since 1981!

Many Catholic schools sent their students on a field trip in March – to the Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Seton Catholic students in Plattsburgh, and certainly many others, presented a living Stations of the Cross.

On any given day in our schools, priests make visits to the classrooms, children plan and participate in special Masses, and teachers lead their students in service projects, helping the children reach out

to others far beyond their familiar circle of family and friends. (See page 15)

A few weeks ago, St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, offered a list of reasons why Catholic schools should be a choice for every Catholic parent who has the option. (Sadly, unlike the 'good old days', there aren't Catholic schools in nearly every community.)

Sister Ellen Rose is an expert on Catholic schools having served as a teacher, principal and now, superintendent for more than a dozen years.

As a different kind of expert – a student and a parent – I think her words are worth repeating.

We celebrate Catholic schools

and welcome all children to come because they....

- combine our Catholic faith with academic excellence;
- provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life;

- instill in students the values of service to others;
- partner with parents in the faith formation of their children;

- instill respect for the human person and all creation;
- emphasize moral development and self-discipline;

- recognize a person's eternal destiny;
- prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders;

- provide a safe and welcoming environment.

That's hard to beat!

## FATHER MUENCH SAYS

## Easter - a time for song and dance

Happy Easter to you all! This is the day the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad!

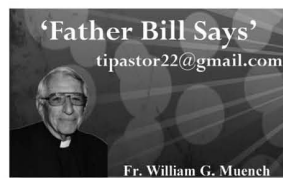
Christ is risen! Truly He is Risen!

I send to you all my Easter blessings. I promise to all of you a special remembrance in my prayers and Masses during this Easter season as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Easter is celebrated by our Church for more than one day. Easter is a season for us, celebrated for several weeks until we reach the Feast of Ascension Thursday.

As disciples of Jesus, the happiness of the Resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Each and every one of us is transformed by the resurrection of Jesus. Our Savior lives! When we speak of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior, we use the present tense. Jesus is, Jesus lives – in our lives in our time.

I would like to share with you today a little about Easter music. At Christmas time, we all sing Christmas carols (at



Fr. William G. Muench

least the first verse). These songs tell us of what we believe about the Birth of Jesus in very poetic language.

The same is true of Easter. There are many wonderful Easter hymns though we don't remember them as well as the Christmas songs.

The Easter hymn that comes to my mind first will be familiar to you also – "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". Like many of the other Easter hymns the expression that comes up often in this hymn is "Alleluia". Alleluia is such a powerful word – meaning "Praise the Lord. Many is the ordinary person who expresses joy especially at discovery shouts out "Alleluia".

The words of the first verse of this hymn express our Easter joy: "Jesus Christ is

risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!"

Each of the Easter hymns celebrates the excitement of Christ's resurrection. Jesus came to this earth to be one of us – incarnate in every way – to bring to us a new life and the love of our God.

Jesus' message for all time is of God's great love for us all – a compassionate, forgiving love. Jesus demonstrated God's love for us all by his life and crucifixion and by his resurrection to new life. Easter celebrates all of this.

Here I would like to share one other Easter hymn with you. I am certain this is my favorite. This hymn comes to us from the religious group, the Shakers. The hymn is "The Lord of the Dance." It is a simple, yet, powerful message. The Shakers actually had a simple dance that they used in their spirituality.

The refrain of this song indi-

cates the heart of the song's message: "Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. I'll lead you all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the Dance, said he."

We celebrate Easter with a dance. The dance is a celebration of gratitude. Each verse of the song mentions a time in the life of Jesus. There is a verse about the birth of Jesus, then another about the calling of the apostles, then one about Christ's sufferings and crucifixion – and, finally, the last verse about the resurrection of Jesus. This is the last verse: "They cut me down and I leapt up high, - I am the life that'll never, never die. I'll live in you if you live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.

Resurrection is about life and love. There is a reminder of the apostle's joy at Christ's resurrection. That joy is ours today. The joy reminds us that one day, we believe, we will find new life with the Lord in our own resurrection.



*Following nearly 24 years of service in parishes, schools and to those most in need*

## Daughters of Charity end ministry in diocese

**OGDENSBURG-** Answering an invitation from Bishop Paul S. Loverde, the Daughters of Charity began their ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1994, ready to serve in a rural area where an increased presence of religious

women was welcome.

The first Daughter to arrive was Sister Molly Smith who began her work as a regional director of religious education in August, 1994.

Nearly 24 years later, the last two Daughters of Charity

to serve the North Country church are leaving.

Sister Donna Franklin, diocesan director of Catholic Charities for 22 years, and Sister Patricia Collins, who worked for Catholic Charities out of the Ogdensburg regional office, will be moving out of the area by the end of April.

In addition to service in Catholic Charities, the Daughters of Charity have ministered in parishes in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties; at Holy Family School, Malone; St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg; St. Vincent de Paul Center (later known as St. James Outreach Center) in Gouverneur; the Gouverneur Outreach Foundation; in the diocesan Christian Formation and deacon programs, Seaway House; the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Massena; and more.

Belinda Davis, Director of Communications for the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise, said that "among the factors involved in the decision to withdraw were the diminishing number of Daughters and the importance for Daughters to live in community for which they need sufficient numbers of Sisters together to maintain this integral part of their Community Life".

"Sister Patricia and Sister Donna recognize their departure will be bittersweet," Ms Davis said, "They will miss the devoted and caring community in which they have served."

Sister Patricia now will minister in Utica, where she will serve at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees; Sister Donna's mission will be to Albany, where she will begin to serve in the Ministry of Prayer at St. Louise House.

Founded in Paris, France in 1633 by St. Louise de Marillac and St. Vincent de Paul and tracing their roots to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in the



**Father F. James Shurtleff, former pastor at St. Joseph's in Malone, and Daughter of Charity Sister Geraldine Fritz dress in historic garb for a 1997 fundraiser at Holy Family School in Malone.**

United States in 1809, the Daughters of Charity were among the first community of religious women who were not cloistered.

Their community was unlike any other. St. Vincent instructed them to have "as a monastery, the houses of the sick; as a cell, a hired room; as a chapel, the parish church; as a cloister, the streets of the city; as enclou-

sure, obedience; as grille, the fear of God; and as a veil, holy modesty."

"This was radical in the 1600s and things are no different today," Davis said. "The Sisters, through their vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and their additional vow of service to the poor, continue to follow these rules and go where they are most needed."



PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE ARCHIVES.

**Sister Donna Franklin helps unload a truck during the 1998 ice storm which ravaged the North Country.**



**Sister Mary Grace Higgins enters the St. James Outreach Center in Gouverneur.**



**Sister Pat Collins, at her desk in the Ogdensburg regional office of Catholic Charities, took on extra responsibilities during the Christmas season.**



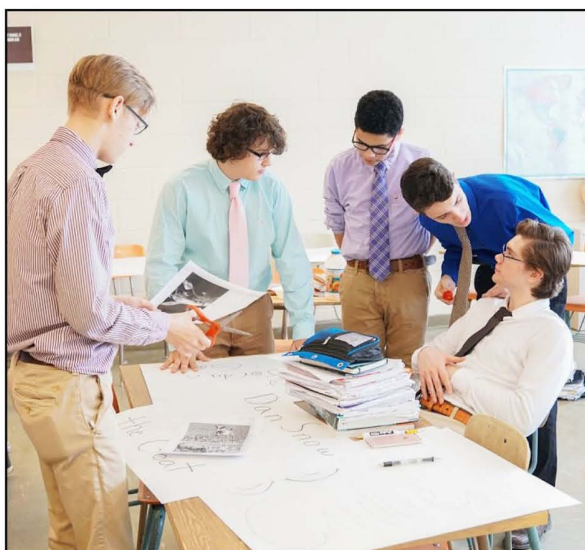
SCENES FROM SPIRIT DAY DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF IHC

Watertown Catholic school serves children in grades pre-kindergarten through 12



St. Joseph Sister Mary Ann Croitz leads a class on vocation awareness for a group of high schoolers. Immaculate Heart Central School has been a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph since it was founded in 1881 as Immaculate Heart Academy. The school system currently educates about 700 students from about 15 local school districts. IHC has a reputation for exceptional academics, athletics and service and features daily study and practice of the Catholic faith.



PHOTOS BY RYAN GRANT

Creative minds at work: Ethan Uliano, Jonah Frechette, TreShawn Murray, David Clarkson and Mac Pratt prepare signs for the senior volleyball game held at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. IHC strives to nurture student's mind, body, and spirit, providing not just an education, but a foundation for life.



Evan Munger served as the "cavalier" for the IHC Cavaliers during the pep rally. The school has a highly respected athletic program which, despite the school's relatively small size, has garnered numerous section, league, and state championship titles over the years.



Gabby Duah and Kennedy Lawler enjoy some face-painting fun.



The presence of area priests - including Father Martin Cline, pastor in Adams, at right - is a familiar site at IHC, even on crazy dress up days. He is pictured with Cody Sweeney, Mr. Andrews, William Spicer, Connor Way, John Poggi and Brendon Kelly.



The sixth graders get in the spirit of Spirit Day with a variety of silly hats.



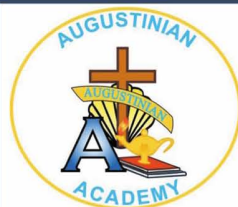
Cheers from students in the primary music class.



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE... IT'S REGISTRATION TIME!



St. Mary's School students from Ticonderoga traveled to St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg for the March 22 Chrism Mass. Pictured with Bishop LaValley are Father Kevin McEwan, pastor; Madeline Lender, Aurelia Leerkes, Julieanna Holman, Brooklyn Huestis, Baileigh Clark, Skylar Barber (an SMS student before his family moved out of town), Aubrey Whitford, Madelyn Holman, Kaelyn Hurlburt, and Garrett Beebe.



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Olivia Kenney, a ninth grader at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh received honorable mention while representing Kazakhstan on the Security Council - which received Best Committee - during a Model United Nations session recently held at Northeastern Clinton School in Champlain.



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# Cath. Charities offers grants for addressing local poverty

**OGDENSBURG** - Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, a local grant program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Unlike other services of the agency which provides direct assistance to individuals, the Campaign for Human Development Grant program provides small grants to human service agencies, churches and other organizations who address the issues of poverty.

Grant applications should stress how the funds will be

used to reduce the underlying causes of poverty. In addition, proposals should include projects that are a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.

The sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization.

Approved projects will be those that demonstrate the potential for continued funding after the CCHD funds have been expended. Although grant applicants do not have to be catholic, strategies must be consistent with the teaching of the

Roman Catholic Church.

Approved grant amounts range from \$1500 to \$3000 and applications can be requested from Catholic Charities by mail, phone or e-mail.

If you have any questions or to receive an application, please write to: Catholic Charities, 6866 State Hwy. 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315)393-2255; or e-mail your request and mailing address to: ccdirector@wad-hams.edu

Grant applications are due back to Catholic Charities by April 30.

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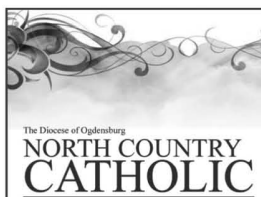


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## Bishop's Schedule

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

**April 5** – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg  
5 p.m., Operation Andrew Holy Hour and Dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 6** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 7** – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 10** – 12:30 p.m., Mass at Altona Correctional Facility

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

## Environmental Stewardship

### Access to clean water

Access to clean water is a fundamental right must be a global priority, said Catholic leaders present at the 8th World Water Forum and the Alternative World Water Forum. Catholic representatives spoke about the need to find ways to create a sustainable supply of fresh drinking water for all, especially the poorer populations around the world.

"We have a mission," said Msgr. Bruno-Marie Duffe, secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. "The church has the responsibility to protect human rights, to protect the poorer communities, and this also includes being able to make sure these populations have access to clean water."

"The reality is that we have many people that live in terrible situations. There is data from 2015 that shows that over 844 million people around the world have no drinking water, and that more than 2 billion people drink contaminated water," said the Vatican official, who has worked for many years on issues involving human rights and pastoral care.

"We have the technical capacity and technical means to treat, transport, and transform sea water into drinking water," he told Catholic News Service. "It is not a question of not having the knowledge, it is a question of political and moral will."

Auxiliary Bishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner of Brasilia, secretary-general of the Brazilian bishops' conference, spoke at the opening session of the alternative forum.

"We are not discussing what we should be discussing, deforestation. Society is not concerned with water sources and deforestation," he said.

"Pope Francis believes that we need to compensate the debt we have with the environment by now taking care and cultivating land and water. We do not wish to explore, but to cultivate and take care of our lands and waters," said Bishop Steiner, referring to "Laudato Si'."

"This is our common home; we should take better care of it," he added.

## Rest in Peace

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

**April 4** – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

**April 5** – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

**April 6** – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

**April 7** – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffly, 1934

**April 8** – Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901

**April 10** – Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

## 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



*North Country Cursillo sponsors a diocesan Day of Recollection at St. Augustine's in Peru*

# Creating 'campfire moments'

By Ken Racette and Darcy Fargo  
Contributing writers

**PERU** - After recalling Peter's betrayal of Jesus around a campfire, as well as his subsequent profession of love for Jesus, also around a campfire (John 21:15-19), Bishop Terry R. LaValley told those gathered at St. Augustine's for the second annual Day of Recollection, that "we all have our own campfire moments."

Bishop LaValley provided the keynote address for the Day of Recollection held on March 3.

Sponsored by North Country Cursillo, the event was hosted by the parishioners of St. Augustine's and Father Alan Shnob, and centered around the theme, "The Paschal Mystery."

The event drew approximately 90 people and included witness testimonies, spiritual exhortation, music and prayer, as well as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunity for the Sacrament of Recollection and an anticipated Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley.

In his address, Bishop LaValley shared some of his own fears and weaknesses, and said he was greatly inspired by Peter, who through fear denied Jesus three times, yet became the Rock of the Church that Jesus called him to be, even giving up his own life for Christ.

He spoke of the campfire experience of John 21:15-19, which he said, "provides a good image for the Paschal Mystery: around it we experience Peter's act of betrayal, sin and around it Peter's affirmation of love of Christ and the divine forgiveness, redemption that follows."

"I think that it's safe to say that we all have our own campfire experiences, perhaps not as dramatic as Peter," Bishop LaValley said.



**Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Albert J. Hauser, pastor of the Catholic Community of Moriah; and Father Timothy G. Canaan, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh, were among the featured speakers at the March 3 Day of Recollection at St. Augustine's Parish in Peru. The program was sponsored by North Country Cursillo.**

"But we have those moments where we deny our God and reject the love He offers, for as many reasons as there are individuals.

"We also relish those moments when God's healing presence was very real, His forgiveness tangible," he said.

Bishop LaValley also asked those assembled for the event to remember Peter's and Jesus' words around that campfire when we are tempted with fear or apathy: "Do you love me?" "Lord, you know that I love You!" "Feed my sheep."

#### Recalling Cursillo experiences

Father Shnob opened the event with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a few remarks about the value of Cursillo.

He recalled his own Cursillo Weekend in Cornwall, Ontario, which he attended with a bishop, several priests and lay candidates. He remarked that several men had been inspired to enter the diaconate through their experience of that Weekend.

Next, Deacon David L. Clark of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh shared his conversion story. He explained how God led a Wesleyan Methodist teenager to begin learning about Catholicism through a priest who sang to mentally disabled children about Jesus, and his later conversion through the faith of his wife.

#### The Paschal Mystery

Father Albert J. Hauser, pastor of the Catholic Community of Moriah, began the discussion of the Paschal Mystery. He described Christ's life as one of complete servanthood, pondering the mystery of how the Word of God, who created the magnificent universe, could come into our world as a helpless baby and later wash the feet of twelve men who would become the leaders of the Church.

Sally Kokes of St. Augustine's later shared how God used the people and events of her young life to form her faith and strengthen her to endure the deaths of two of

her children and other tragedies with hope and love.

Father Timothy Canaan, pastor of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh, explained how God allowed him to suffer the loss of several loved ones and later struggle with anxiety in order to teach him compassion and empathy for those who are in his spiritual care.

He gave several examples

of how Catholics must endure the pain of the "Good Fridays" of life in order to experience the joys of the "Easter Resurrection."

Steve Forgette of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh looked at his life of faith through the lens of his parents and grandparents, who had inspired him from his earliest memories.

He described how he learned through an old news article that God has spared his father during a terrible car accident and how he realized without this miracle Steve himself would never have been born.

Father Jack Downs summarized the day in his closing remarks.

"As we continue to grow and mature in our Christian lives, the two words, Paschal Mystery, should take on richer and deeper meaning so that at the conclusion of each Eucharist, when we are commissioned to 'Go in Peace,' we can go out into the world as living sacraments of this Paschal Mystery," Father Downs said.

Bishop LaValley presided at the closing Mass which featured the choir of St. Augustine Church and Honor Guard by the Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

  
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## MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

# Care for God's creation

By Colleen Miner  
Director, Respect Life Ministry

## Last in a series

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. Perhaps a first memory of a creation story is from Genesis or Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them."

Is life this simple?

Pope Saint John Paul II's 1990 World Day of Peace message is: "When man turns his back on the Creator's plan, he provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of the created order. If man is not at peace with God, then earth itself cannot be at peace: 'Therefore the land mourns and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and even the fish of the sea are taken away' (Hos 4:3)."

This can be confusing.

In one passage (Matthew), the birds do not sow or reap yet the heavenly Father feeds them but in Hosea, the birds are taken away when the land mourns.

So, what is this connection between humans and creation - how does one affect

the other?

Let's turn to the popes to see how they explain the connection.

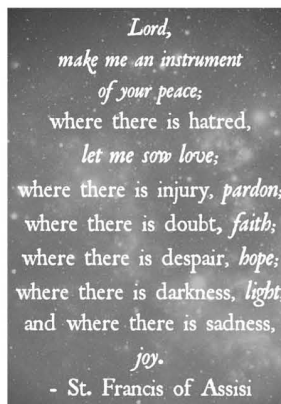
## Humans and Nature

Saint John Paul II (*Centesimus Annus*) states: "Not only has God given the earth to man, who must use it with respect for the original good purpose for which it was given to him, but man too is God's gift to man. He must therefore respect the natural and moral structure with which he has been endowed" (No. 38) "We cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations" (No. 6).

"The seriousness of the ecological issue lays bare the depth of man's moral crisis. If an appreciation of the value of the human person and of human life is lacking, we will also lose interest in others and in the earth itself. Simplicity, moderation and discipline, as well as a spirit of sacrifice, must become a part of everyday life, lest all suffer the negative consequences of the careless habits of a few." (No. 13)

Pope Benedict XVI (*Caritas in Veritate*) states that "Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other. Herein lies a grave contradiction in our mentality and practice today: one which demeans the person, disrupts the environment and damages society." (No. 51)

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsi-



bility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. When nature, including the human being, is viewed as the result of mere chance or evolutionary determinism, our sense of responsibility wanes." (No. 48)

## Human Ecology

We must be careful when caring for the earth that we do not neglect the human person. So, when we hear "Love the Earth, don't give birth" this should be alarming.

Pope Benedict VI (*Caritas in Veritate*) raises this caution: "But it should also be stressed that it is contrary to authentic development to view nature as something more important than the human person...the natural environment is more than raw material to be manipulated at our pleasure; it is a wondrous work of the Creator containing a 'grammar' which sets forth ends and criteria for its wise use, not its reckless exploitation." (No. 48)

"The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere. In so doing, she must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone. She

must above all protect mankind from self-destruction. There is need for what might be called a human ecology, correctly understood. The deterioration of nature is in fact closely connected to the culture that shapes human coexistence: when 'human ecology' is respected within society, environmental ecology also benefits. Just as human virtues are interrelated, such that the weakening of one places others at risk, so the ecological system is based on respect for a plan that affects both the health of society and its good relationship with nature." (No. 51)

"If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology.

"It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves. The book of nature is one and indivisible: it takes in not only the environment but also life, sexuality, marriage, the family, social relations: in a word, integral human development. Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other. Herein lies a grave contradiction in our mentality and practice today: one which demeans the person, disrupts the environment and damages society." (No. 51)

## Birth Control and Nature

A connection between humans and nature which many are not aware of is the effects of artificial birth control on our ecosystem. Not only do they pollute the body (class A carcinogen), but once excreted, our waters are polluted and chemically changed.

The environment cannot handle the chemical waste of women taking birth control. Estrogen-filled birth control (pills, patch, etc) enter into our waste water and have horrible effects on the fish population too.

Controlling creation by manipulating reproduction with artificial means, results in nature itself being changed. We must remain open to life, allowing the flow of nature and the circle of life in its natural state.

## Overpopulation Myth

Perhaps you've heard the myth that the earth is overpopulated. Population Research Institute has three easy steps to debunk this myth:

<https://www.pop.org/debunking-the-myth-of-overpopulation/>.  
Pope Benedict (*Caritas in Veritate*) said that "On this earth there is room for everyone: here the entire human family must have the resources to live with dignity, through the help of nature itself—God's gift to his children—and through hard work and creativity. At the same time we must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it." (no. 50)

Pope Francis (*Laudato Si*) "Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Support And Pray  
For Vocations



# Diocesan college students gather for retreat

By Amanda Conklin  
Contributing Writer

Ogdensburg – Joe Frissora, a senior at Clarkson University in Potsdam, was one of 15 college students who gathered at Wadhams Hall March 3-4 for the annual Lenten retreat led by campus ministers from Canton and Potsdam.

"These retreats provide us the great opportunity to see that we are not alone in this 'modern world,'" Frissora said. "We all recognize that there is more to this life than here and now.

"Going on retreats allows us to come together in search for more, to learn about our faith, and to grow spiritually without the distractions of the world around us," he said.

In addition to Clarkson, the students came from SUNY Canton, St. Lawrence University and SUNY Potsdam, to take part in the retreat with the theme, "One Body, Many Parts," based on Romans 12:5.

The weekend started with icebreakers, including a game of "human hungry-hungry hippos." Friday night also included Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Fathers Steve Rocker,



Students from St. Lawrence University, Morgan Cappa, Ellie Sarle, and Jordan Tanguay, make cord rosaries during the annual Lenten retreat for college students held March 3-4 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Bryan Stitt, Chris Carrara and Raymond de Souza (of Ontario) joined the students to offer the opportunity for confession.

On Saturday, the retreatants took part in a workshop on the Crusades, led by Tylor Starkey, campus minister for Potsdam; a workshop on approved Marian apparitions around the world, led by Amanda Conklin, campus

minister for Canton, and a discussion on Christians in Syria, led by Father Steven Murray.

The students also made cord rosaries; led by Ellen Miner of Saranac Lake, who runs a rosary-making business called "Rosie's Rosaries," and a viewing of the movie "Arrival" followed by a discussion on Theology and film.

The group attended Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Saturday afternoon and spent a few minutes after Mass admiring the stained glass and architecture of the church.

The weekend concluded Sunday with a workshop on prison ministry, led by Seth Conklin who serves as the prison chaplain for Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone.

Chaplain Conklin spoke about the importance of this corporal work of mercy and how prisoners are often forgotten. He shared some ways that the students could help if they were interested.

Francisca Medina, is a junior at SUNY Canton, who is being fully initiated into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil, shared how the retreat impacted her.

"The retreat was amazing," she said. "This is my second retreat since I have been getting closer with my faith and the overall experience was breath taking.

"As college students who look for something different in regards to guidance and support, attending the retreats is something to look forward to," she said. "Personally I do a lot of self-reflecting which has helped me spiritually and mentally. The students I have come across have impacted me in a positive way. I couldn't be more thankful for all who have blessed my heart."

Every participant received a Magnificat, Mass journal, and St. Thomas Aquinas "prayer for students" prayer card. The students prayed morning and evening prayer each day of the retreat, which included chanting the Divine Mercy Chaplet

## Creation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

must also be concerned for the world around us and take into account the nature of each human being and of its mutual connection in an ordered system." (no. 8)

"When we fail to acknowledge as part or reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities - it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected." (no. 117)

### God saw what he made

Genesis 1 & 2, the chroni-

cle of the first six days of existence would be a good place to start in our Lenten reading.

"From nothing, God created the heavens and an earth. He spoke forth the first rays of light, separating them from the darkness; then He made distinction between the heavens and the waters below. Gathering the waters into seas and drying the land, God then spoke into reality plants and trees of every kind.

With His voice He scattered the stars and hung the sun

and moon. Filling the waters with living creatures and the skies with birds, He then filled the land with living creatures . . . and then He declared that it was "good."

The entirety of Day 6 was given to the creation of humanity.

"From the dust of the ground God shaped the first

man, breathing life into his nostrils, and giving him dominion over everything else that had been created."

What connections between your life and nature can you make?

What lifestyle changes can you or your family

make to better care for God's creation?

To learn more about the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching visit

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>

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## WASHINGTON LETTER

# Something for (almost) everyone in budget

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)**- The 2,000-page omnibus spending package passed by Congress in overnight sessions March 22 and signed into law the following day by President Donald Trump may not meet everybody's definition of omnibus.

Some might argue that instead of "omnibus," the proper word is "ominous."

And if \$1.3 trillion can't solve everyone's wish list, then what can?

The original spending package was approved Feb. 9 to avert yet another government shutdown, yet despite all the money in that bill, the bill imposed another government funding deadline of March 23.

Some in Congress, mainly Republicans, who advocate for reducing the size of the federal government, dreaded the size of the spending measure. Many of those senators and representatives voted against it, but not enough to counteract those who voted for the bill.

Others in Congress, mostly Democrats, lamented that the bill had no provisions for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the federal program for those brought into the United States with-



CNS PHOTOS/GREG SHEMITZ/BOB ROLLER

**Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., chair of the Committee for Religious Liberty, are pictured in a combination photo. In a March 22 statement it was "deeply disappointing" Congress omitted the Conscience Protection Act from the congressional funding bill for fiscal year 2018.**

out legal permission as minors by their parents. Some of those Democrats voted against the bill, but others voted for it, saying it was the best deal they could get as the minority party in Congress.

When a keep-the-government-open bill comes to the floor, it can become a magnet for provisions entirely unrelated to keeping the government open. A 2,000-page bill suggests that many, many such provisions survived the bill.

One such provision was the continuance of federal funding for Planned Parenthood, the nation's single largest provider of abortions. Although none of the federal money pays directly

for abortions, there had been talk over the past year of defunding Planned Parenthood due to some lawmakers' vocal opposition to its role in abortion.

Another such provision was \$50 million targeted for security at houses of worship and religiously based nonprofit organizations. In recent years, there had been a spate of violence at houses of worship, including the shooting deaths of 26 during services at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

The omnibus package contains \$4.5 million for salaries and expenses for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Commission chairman

Daniel Mark told Catholic News Service in a March 29 telephone interview from Minneapolis that the funding had been expected.

The money, Mark said, will be put to good use. The Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, passed in December 2016, "added to our mandate to keep fuller lists, complete lists, of prisoners of conscience. We have an ongoing project of keeping lists of as many of them as we can," he said. "We'll need more staff, more outside contractor work. There's a lot of time that goes into compiling the list and making sure the information is carefully verified."

The omnibus package also contains \$10 million for religious freedom programs that, according to Mark, go through the State Department, which has its own office for religious freedom. "Former Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson had proposed reorganizations that brought the Office of Religion and Global Affairs into that," Mark said.

Another spending feature was \$5 million to aid persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East and Africa. The issue of U.S. aid delivery in these areas has long been a thorn in the side of Christian leaders who believe the aid groups that

typically receive funding from the U.S. government pay scant attention to the religions whose pull have kept people from fleeing terrorism hot spots.

In a March 29 email to CNS, Thomas Farr, director of the Religious Freedom Research Project at the Berkley Center of Georgetown University in Washington, said he did not have details about the money - with the House being given 16 hours to ponder a 2,000-page bill, details about many initiatives remained sketchy - but had ideas "about how funds should be employed to reduce persecution."

Even at 2,000 pages, some things can be noticeably absent.

One such absence that was "deeply disappointing" to the U.S. bishops was the Conscience Protection Act, which had no monetary impact. The provision is aimed at protecting individual physicians, nurses or other health care professionals who refuse, on moral grounds, to assist in abortions when asked to do so by their employers.

The provision would have taken the core policy of the Weldon Amendment, which has been part of the annual federal Health and Human Services appropriation since 2015, for, or provide coverage for abortion - and written it into permanent law.

Those "inside and outside of Congress who worked to defeat" this legislation "have placed themselves squarely into the category of extremists who insist that all Americans must be forced to participate in the violent act of abortion," said a March 22 joint statement by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty.



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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope to priests: Show Jesus' truth by being close to people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- If Jesus and his truth are to become truly present in today's world, priests must do what Jesus did and be "street preachers," going out to encounter and accompany sinners with tenderness and compassion, Pope Francis told the world's priests. Jesus "could have been a scribe or a doctor of the law, but he wanted to be an 'evangelizer,' a street preacher," the bearer of good news for his people, the pope said March 29 during the chrisma Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. "This is God's great choice: The Lord chose someone who is close to his people," Pope Francis said. Jesus' incarnation implies inculturation, so that people find his presence not only in far-off lands, but in their own parish, "in the new culture of young people," he added. Presiding over the first of two Holy Thursday liturgies, Pope Francis blessed the oils that will be used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, ordination and the anointing of the sick. As Holy Thursday was the day Jesus shared his priesthood with the apostles, Pope Francis led the many priests, bishops and cardinals present in a renewal of their priestly vows. He also dedicated his lengthy homily to how God's special gift of being close to his people relates to the vocation of being a priest.

## Knights give more than \$1 million to Iraqi, Syrian Christians

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) -- As part of its ongoing support of persecuted Christians in the Middle East, the Knights of Columbus committed more than \$1 million to Iraqi and Syrian Christians for Easter. Announced during Holy Week, the support includes \$800,000 in new financial assistance and \$250,000 as part of its ongoing commitment to rebuilding an Iraqi Christian town. The funds will help with food, clothing, shelter and education for Christians targeted by Islamic State militants. "As we recall the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, it is particularly timely for us to remember and support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have, in places like Iraq and Syria, endured so much persecution for their faith," said Knights of Columbus CEO Carl Anderson in a March 27 statement. "Having faced suffering and even death at the hands of ISIS, we hope that our assistance will help these communities to rise up again and rebuild for the future," he added.

## Says Mary, Mother of the Church feast should be celebrated

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Reminding bishops, pastors and Catholics around the world that all Latin-rite Catholics should celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church on the Monday after Pentecost this year, Cardinal Robert Sarah said the celebration should take precedence over any other possible liturgy that day. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, headed by Cardinal Sarah, had announced in early March Pope Francis' decision to add the feast to the church's calendar as an "obligatory memorial." The Monday after Pentecost is May 21 this year. Although there are a few specific cases in which the rector of a church or pastor of a parish could choose to celebrate a different Mass that day, Cardinal Sarah said in a note released March 27 that "all else being equal, the obligatory memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church is to be preferred." In addition, he said, the list of Mass readings published with the pope's decree "are to be held as proper because they illuminate the mystery of spiritual motherhood."

# Pope: Jesus' church offers truth, comfort despite efforts to discredit it

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - Leading a prayer to God for the grace to feel ashamed and repentant for so many sins in the world, Pope Francis highlighted the hope that always comes from Jesus.

There is hope "because your church, holy and made up of sinners, continues even today, in spite of attempts to discredit it, to be a light that illuminates, encourages, comforts and witnesses your unlimited love for humanity, a model of altruism, an ark of salvation and a source of certainty and truth," the pope said.

There is hope "because from your cross - the fruit of greed and cowardice of many doctors of the law and hypocrites - came the resurrection," which turned darkness into eternal light and shows that Jesus' love is their hope, he said.

At the end of the Stations of the Cross in Rome's Colosseum March 30, the pope read a prayer he wrote, asking Jesus to help "strip us of the arrogance" of the unrepentant criminal that was next to him at his crucifixion and to become more like the "good thief" who was filled with shame, repentance and hope when he gazed upon Jesus.

In his prayer, which he read from a hillside overlooking the crowds holding candles and a torch-lit cross, the pope listed a number of sins and the shame they cause when one gazes upon Jesus' supreme act of love.

There is shame for: having abandoned God or mocked him when things got difficult; choosing power, appearances and money over God; there being so many

people, even some clergy, who let themselves be misled by ambition and vanity; leaving younger generations "a world broken by divisions and wars, a world devoured by selfishness where the young, the least, the ill and the elderly are marginalized"; and the shame for having lost all sense of shame.

Repentance comes from recognizing one's "nothingness" and knowing with certainty that only Jesus can "save us from evil, only you can heal us from our leprosy of hatred, selfishness, pride, greed, revenge, cowardice, idolatry," he said.

Praying that Jesus always offer the grace of shame and repentance, the pope also prayed people remember the hope contained in his Gospel, which continues to inspire so many people to see that only the good can win over evil, "only forgiveness can conquer rancor and revenge, only a fraternal embrace can dissolve hostility and fear of the other."

Missionaries, too, bring hope, he said, because they are the ones challenging humanity's "sleeping conscience" by risking their lives to serve others, including immigrants and the exploited.

The meditations for the late-night event were written by 15 current and former students of a high school religion teacher in Rome. The pope wanted the reflections to be written by a group of young people as part of giving them a voice before the upcoming synod of bishops.

Earlier in the day, Pope Francis presided over the Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, which began with a silent, solemn procession down the central nave of St. Peter's Basilica.

As is customary, the papal household's preacher gave

the homily. Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa said that while the church listens to young people in preparation for the synod, the church must not forget to also help them listen to Jesus.

Repeating the pope's call for all Christians to renew their relationship with Jesus or at least be open to letting him encounter them each day, the Capuchin priest said God has a special mission for young people.

Their task, he said, is "to rescue human love from the tragic drift it had ended up - love that is no longer a gift of self but only the possession, often violent and tyrannical, of another."

The ability to be totally giving and welcoming of love requires long preparation, whether it be for the vocation of marriage, religious life or service, he said.

Jesus on the cross is an example of giving himself for others carried to the extreme, and Christians are called to be courageous in going against the current cultural stream of selfishness and going against the crowd that chases after worldly things, he said.

There is a world out there that has nothing to do with God's plan, he said; it is a world that has come "under the dominion of Satan and sin" and plays a "decisive role in public opinion," which is then spread in infinite ways "electronically, through airwaves.

These mistaken ways are then seen as "the norm" so that when people "act, think or speak against this spirit (it) is regarded as nonsensical or even as wrong and criminal," he said.

He encouraged young people to go the opposite direction where Jesus, "our God and savior," awaits.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday

Today, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the world.

Not only do we celebrate the appearance of the Resurrected Lord to the Apostles in the Upper Room, but, at a much later time in history, His appearance to a simple Polish nun, Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, on Feb. 22nd, 1931.

She saw the Lord clothed in white with red and pale rays shining out from His heart. He said to her:

*"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this*

*image be venerated, first in your chapel, and (then) throughout the world.*

*I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death, I Myself will defend it as My own glory"*

The name of God is mercy. It is His identity card. Mercy

is the core of the Gospel message. Mercy is the face of God in the Old Testament, but much more in God's Son, Jesus, who came for sinners and those who knew they were sinners. Especially is mercy the reason

for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which we call Confession.

What is the connection between the Resurrection event which we continue to celebrate today, and God's mercy?

We can look at how mercifully Our Saviour treated those who abandoned him, or, like Peter, actually denied Him.

We can look at those like Thomas who strongly doubted until Jesus stretched out his wounds for him to see. Jesus' first words to his disciples huddled in fear in the Upper Room was "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you".

Instead of condemning them for being so cowardly, he commissioned them to

outrages of the whole world against God's love.

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the effects of Jesus' gift of His mercy to His followers.

They were then filled with the spirit of reconciliation and peace through their faith in Jesus as their Saviour.

Their community was filled with mutual respect, love, and forgiveness.

Because they had received God's mercy, they in turn extended mercy to all their brothers and sisters.

Through the power of our prayer for God's mercy on our sinful world, eventually that same spirit in our society could restore unity and peace that we so earnestly desire.

## APRIL 8

## Divine Mercy Sunday

## READINGS

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

lead His Church. There is God's Mercy!

How about us? We are all sinners who have disappointed the Master. Yet, again and again, Jesus pours His mercy on all of us, forgives us, and sends us to build his Church through forgiveness, love, and courageous witness to His Truth.

Today, we are urged to pray the Divine Mercy Chapel in reparation and atonement for the sins and

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## Wrong-headedness of 'wrongful birth' lawsuits

At its core, the idea of a "wrongful birth" claim is unreasonable and ethically incoherent. Parents who bring these lawsuits against obstetricians and hospitals claim that medical professionals should have detected a particular disease or defect in their unborn baby through prenatal testing and informed them about it.

Had they been given this information, their argument continues, they would have chosen to abort their baby, rather than spending years of their lives caring for a less-than-perfect, possibly infirm child.

Wrongful birth lawsuits enable the parents to seek legal redress, often in the form of multi-million dollar settlements.

In 2013, for example, a jury in Washington state awarded a \$50 million payout to a couple who claimed they would have aborted

their five-year-old son Oliver if they had known he had an "unbalanced chromosomal translocation." Because of the mismatched chromosomes he received from his parents, he has an IQ of less than 70 and is unable to walk.

Rachelle Harz, a malpractice lawyer who spearheaded one of these lawsuits in New Jersey in 1999, expressed some of the tortuous thinking that goes into these cases during an interview for 60 Minutes.

She noted that although the physician in this case, "didn't cause the child's retardation, what he caused was not giving the proper information to the parents to allow them the choice to abort the child."

She concluded that the doctor "caused the birth of this very, very neurologically impaired child."

The fundamental flaw in her argument, of course, is

the claim that the doctor "caused the birth" of the baby, when, in fact, the birth was caused by an activity that took place nine months prior between the husband and wife.

That action of the mom and dad, not an action by the doctor, resulted in the birth. What the doctor actually "caused" by not discovering and sharing specific medical information with the parents was the preservation of the child's life.

These lawsuits rely on fundamentally flawed logic: first, that it is wrong and illegal for a doctor not to know or to withhold medical information such that a life that would have been ended is saved; second, that a doctor is somehow obligated to facilitate or cooper-

ate in harmful or lethal actions that parents intend to carry out against their own offspring.

The medical profession, however, has long professed allegiance to the creed of "do no harm," so that doctors can serve uniquely as healers, not killers. For obstetricians in particular, the unborn children they track and follow during pregnancy count as that doctor's patients

in the same way that the mothers do. Whenever a couple sets out with the intention of aborting an imperfect child and requests that prenatal testing be performed for this purpose, the process of testing itself becomes immoral.

In the same way, any physician or health care professional who arranges



**Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore**



**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.**



## AT THE MOVIES

# READY PLAYER ONE

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Those who may have wondered what it would be like to be a pinball crashing around inside a machine amid flashing lights and ear-splitting sounds will find that experience approximated in the sci-fi fantasy "Ready Player One" (Warner Bros).

Director Steven Spielberg's adaptation of the 2011 novel by Ernest Cline (who co-wrote the screenplay with Zak Penn) offers a dizzying immersion into virtual reality, an alternative universe known as the Oasis. There, we are told, "you can go anywhere, do anything, be anyone - the only limits are your own imagination."

Thus, in the dystopian world of the year 2045, everyone straps on a pair of goggles and uses the Oasis to escape their miserable lives and seek whatever form of pleasure they desire. In other words, narcissism reigns supreme.

The Oasis was created by an eccentric scientist named James Halliday (Mark Ry-

lance), a hippie/stoner version of Apple's Steve Jobs. Obsessed with late 20th-century pop culture, he filled the Oasis with references to films, TV shows, comics and games of the period.

As a result, "Ready Player One" is catnip for baby boomers, who will enjoy spotting the DeLorean car from "Back to the Future," Atari video games, the T-Rex from "Jurassic Park" and the Batmobile, among many other nostalgia-inducing items.

Before he died, Halliday designed a contest for gamers. By following clues and locating three keys, the winner will unlock the location of a golden "Easter egg" and inherit Halliday's fortune, as well as control of the Oasis.

So the race is on. On one side is Nolan Sorrento (Ben Mendelsohn), a wicked CEO who harnesses the resources of his corporation to solve the puzzle. Motivated by greed, his goal is to populate the Oasis with as many pop-up advertisements as possible.

Opposing Sorrento is the standard Spielbergian gag-

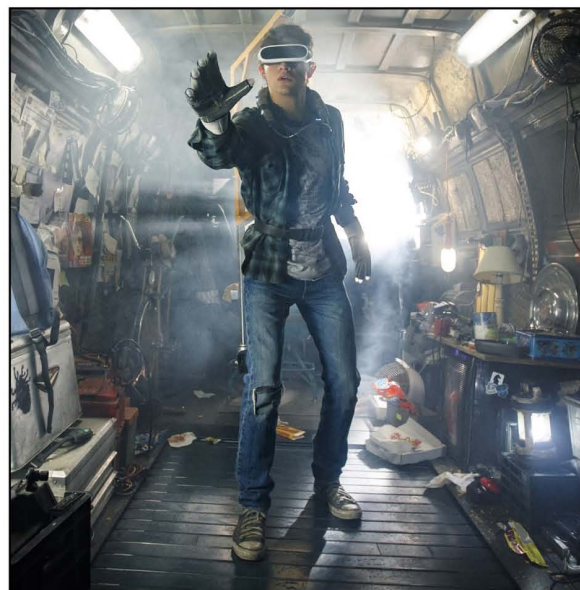
gle of intrepid teenagers, led by Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan). Wade is an orphan, living unhappily with his aunt and escaping whenever possible into the Oasis, where he appears as an animated avatar named Parzival.

There he makes a love connection with the comely (and creatively spelled) Art3mis (Olivia Cooke), who joins him on the quest for the keys.

Rounding out a gang of five are muscled mechanic Aech (Lena Waithe) - who is reconstructing the fabled Iron Giant robot from the 1999 film of the same name - and two warrior brothers, Daito (Win Morisaki) and Sho (Philip Zhao).

It doesn't take long to figure out that this movie's inspiration is another beloved classic, 1971's "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Substitute Halliday for Wonka, Wade for Charlie Bucket and a golden egg for a golden ticket, and the picture becomes clear.

"Ready Player One" initially offers relatively wholesome escapist fun as the teens careen around the Oasis, which resembles the



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Tye Sheridan stars in a scene from the movie "Ready Player One."

Las Vegas Strip on steroids. The film takes a bizarre turn, however, when it recreates key scenes from Halliday's favorite movie, 1980's "The Shining." At this point the previously cartoonish and bloodless violence becomes anything but, making "Ready Player One" suitable for mature viewers only.

The film contains some intense violence with gore,

much stylized mayhem, brief sensuality and partial nudity, one use of profanity and occasional crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

## Wrong-headedness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

None of us is perfect. None of us is born into this world completely free of defects, whether physical or psychological. Those limitations, however, never entitle others to place our lives in the crosshairs and pull the trigger — especially our own parents! In sum, these wrongful birth cases promote catastrophic misunderstandings about parental duties and about the physician's obligations towards mothers and their children

in pre-natal care settings.

Recognizing that some parents will face considerable expense, labor and difficulty in raising a child who requires special care and attention due to disabilities, it seems reasonable to promote a pro-life and supportive response on behalf of these families, rather than encouraging the corrosive practice of wrongful birth lawsuits. That supportive response should include the expectation of everyone chipping in and helping out,

whether through insurance, taxes or crowd-funding, or through other forms of civic, societal or ecclesial outreach.

*Father Pacholczyk 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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## ADIRONDACK

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

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

**Date:** April 8

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

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

Features: Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reconciliation

## CLINTON

## DIVINE MERCY

**Plattsburgh** - Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

**Date:** April 8

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

**Schedule:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:15 p.m.; Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany, Benediction 2:30 p.m.

## SPRING SALE

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

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

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

## 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.

## WIN A TRIP

**Plattsburgh** - Seton Gala raffle tickets are available.

**Cost:** \$100

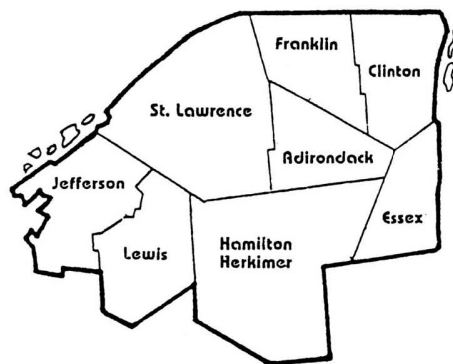
**Features:** Only 125 tickets to be sold. Prize: seven nights lodging at a choice of destinations between Napa Valley, Andrews, Scotland, Eagle Beach, Aruba, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Playa Naranja, Costa Rica or Killarney County, Ireland.

**Contact:** Call 518-561-4031, Option 7 to purchase a ticket

## ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

**Altona** - A parish breakfast is set

**Date:** April 8



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Church Hall

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

## TEA FOR TWO

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

**Date:** April 22

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Cost:** \$10

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

**Contact:** For more information, Jane Woods at: janie124766@yahoo.com.

518-562-1175

## LAKESIDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

**Dates:** April 8 & 22; May 6.

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's

**Features:** discussion, prayer, dinner.

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

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

**Date:** April 22

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

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

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

## BECOME A HOST PARENT

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

**Features:** Host parents receive a generous stipend, a handbook, guidance

**Contact:** Cara Chapman, cchapman@thesetonschools.org or 518-561-4031 ext. 2004 with questions or for an application

## FOR LAY MINISTERS

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

**Date:** May 12

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

**Place:** Holy Name Church and School

**Cost:** \$10

**Speaker:** Fr. Paul Kelly

**Topic:** The Holy Spirit Empowers Us!

**Contact:** Online pre-registration is encouraged.

www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-layministers/clm-event-registration.html or by mail to: PO Box 106 Canajoharie, NY 13317

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

**Place:** St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## FRANKLIN

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Malone** - Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

**Date:** April 8

**Schedule:** The 11 a.m. Mass at Notre Dame Church will open the celebration From noon until 3 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1 p.m. and continue up until 2:50 p.m. At 3 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung and there will be Benediction.

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

## JEFFERSON

## VOCATIONS RETREAT

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

**Date:** April 7

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

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

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

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

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

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

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

## SPAGHETTI 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

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

**Date:** April 7

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

## BREAKFAST PLANNED

**Black River** - All you Can eat Egg and Pancake breakfast to be held.

**Date:** April 14

**Time:** 11 a.m.

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

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

## ROSARY CRUSADE

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

**Date:** May 18

**Place:** St. James Minor Church

**Schedule:** begins with Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 6 p.m. and at the top of the next seven hours, three complete Rosaries will be prayed in honor of Our Ladies Seven Sorrows. Each hour also has specific intentions.

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

**Contact:** For more information about the event you may wish to check out the St. James parish website: catholicsof-carthageopenhagen.org Or the artist's personal website: bobrenaudart.com

## LEWIS

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Houseville** - Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

**Date:** April 8

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

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

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org

# MCA: St. Agnes is 'walking the walk'

St. Agnes School, under the direction of teacher Mrs. Marcia Bugbee, DRE, participate in fundraising and awareness efforts for the MCA program. Mrs. Bugbee recently wrote to the Mission Office to cite the wonderful things that the students in Lake Placid have been involved in.

*"In the past years our students have raised money for this cause by doing chores at home. This year we will be raising money through a mission walk pledge. Our children will be given the opportunity to walk in our gym each day during Lent to raise money for the Missionary Childhood Association. Below you will find an explanation of our Lenten journey for this school year.*

*Each family in our school received a letter along with a pledge card. Each day children were given the opportunity to walk in our gym before recess for approximately 10 minutes.*

*At the end of each day, homeroom teachers gather the children in front of the prayer table and the weekly captain passes out stickers to those who walked that day. Each child places their sticker next to their name on the classroom goal tracker. Homeroom teachers have implemented MCA into their social studies and art displayed in the classroom. Our 2nd and 3rd grade students everyday pray one decade of the mission rosary during Lent. Every Friday we gather for Prayer Service where we total up all the pledges from each classroom. Our goal this year is \$300.00 but in just 2 1/2 weeks we have raised \$400. If I can be of any further help, please, don't hesitate to ask.*

*We had a lot of fun this school year in helping raise not just money for the needs of others, but also an awareness of who our neighbors are."*

How wonderful, caring and kind these young people are! The Mission Office is proud to acknowledge the hard work and dedication to MCA whose motto is "children helping children". You make us proud! God Bless



Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

## OBITUARIES

**Bloomington** – Pearl E. (LaGoy) Tuthill, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 2, 2018 at St. Paul's Oratory; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

**Constableville** – Mary E. (Wynne) Smith, 93; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Wayne P. Martin, Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Westville.

**Lowville** – Marie H. (Zehr) Buell, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

**Massena** – John W. Larue, 94; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Gail A. (Tesser) McKenty, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2018 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Bessie L. (Towne) Kelly, 88; Funeral Services March 29, 2018 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Dakotah Ryan Douglas Mahnke, 22; Funeral Services March 28, 2018 at the Fox and Murray Funeral Home/

**Ogdensburg** – Mary Catherine "Cathy" Sherry, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Diane A. Bushey, 65; Mass of Christian Burial at later date at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

**Plattsburgh** – Lillian Mary (Brothers) Delisle, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2018 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Whispering Maples.

**Plattsburgh** – Mary E. Lynch, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2018 at St. John XXIII Newman Center; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

**Plattsburgh** – William R. Selzer, 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Richard R. Turnbull, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

**Port Henry** – Manuella (Sierra) Sears, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Sackets Harbor** – Carmen M. (Perry) McWilliams, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2018 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery.

**Star Lake** – Harold William Pickering, Sr., 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2018 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

**Theresa** – Gary R. Leddy, 68; Funeral Services March 23, 2018 at Frederick Bros. Funeral Home; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Antwerp.

**Ticonderoga** – Shirley Ann (Wells) Johndrow, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Theodore E. Delaney Jr., 57; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2018 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Rosaura L. Espejo, 64; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2018 at Holy Family Church.

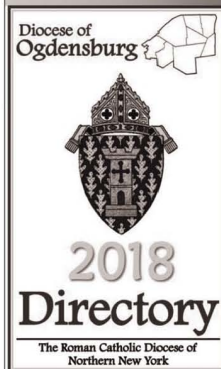
**Watertown** – Battalion Chief David M. Lachenauer, 61; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Willisboro** – Elizabeth Hayes Alden, 86; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Philip of Jesus Church.

## GO GREEN!

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# Around

## LEWIS

### SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Constableville** – A spaghetti dinner to benefit St. Mary's Youth Group and St. John's Altar and Rosary is set

**Date:** April 10

**Time:** 5 p.m. to gone

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

**Menu:** spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, Italian bread, dessert, beverage

**Price:** \$8 for adults; \$4 for children, under five, free.

## ST. LAWRENCE

### HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

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

**Date:** April 7

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

**Place:** Trinity Catholic School

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Massena** – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

**Date:** April 8

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

### 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 Beati-

tudes: an invitation to explore the first and eight beatitudes and ways to put them into practice through prayer, sharing and other spiritual practices.

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

### MIDLANDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

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

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Schedule:** April 14 and 28

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

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

### TRIP TO YANKEE GAME

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

**Date:** Aug. 10

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

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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS

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

## IN HONOR OF A FALLEN HERO



Funeral services for Watertown Fire Department Battalion Chief David Lachenauer, age 61, were held March 27 at St. Patrick's. The chief died only weeks following his retirement. The cancer that eventually took his life was contracted when Chief Lachenauer, then a captain and in school in New York City, responded to the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center. His death is listed as "in the line of duty." Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Patrick's, officiated. Firemen from across New York State attended, including a cadre of bagpipers from the Buffalo Fire Department. Following the funeral Mass, the ceremonial ringing of three bells took place with a final dispatch of Chief Lachenauer over the Fire Department radio frequency. He is survived by his wife Cindy and four children.

### Schedule:

• April 9, St. Patrick's Parish Center, Port Henry, from 6:30 p.m. to 8

• April 16, Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake, from 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Features:** The workshops are designed for people who wish to explore beginning the annulment process. The tribunal staff will have the forms available to begin the process and will be on-hand to answer any individual questions.

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

### PARISH VOCATION MEETINGS

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

**Schedule:** April 21 in Watertown; May 5 in Norfolk

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

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

### OPERATION ANDREW

The Spring round of Operation Andrew to be held.

**Schedule:** April 5 at St. Mary's Cath-

edral and April 12 at St. Bernard's Church

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

**Contact:** Your pastor or the Vocations office to register.

### MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

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

**Date:** April 14

**Place:** Trinity Catholic School

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

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

### OPERATION MIRIAM LUNCH

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

**Date:** April 15

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** SSJ Motherhouse

**Features:** Prayer to know one's voca-

tion with benediction; Lunch With Bishop LaValley, followed by sharing of vocation stories and information about consecrated life. Parents are welcome.

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

### YOUTH RALLY

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

**Date:** April 28

**Place:** St. Mary's

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

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

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

### CAMP GUGGENHEIM

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

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

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