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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 5

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 2, 2018

Baptism... a gift from God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The sacrament of baptism isn't a good luck charm but a gift from God that enables Christians to overcome evil, Pope Francis said.

Those who receive the sacrament are given the strength to overcome "the temptation to separate from

God, from his will, from communion with him (and) fall into the snares of worldly seductions," the pope said April 25 during his weekly general audience.

"Baptism is not a magic spell but a gift of the Holy Spirit that allows those who receive it to fight against the

spirit of evil, believing that God sent his son into the world to destroy the power of Satan and bring men and women from the darkness to his kingdom of infinite light," he said.

Thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the general audience de-

spite the day being a national holiday commemorating Italy's liberation from Nazi occupation.

Pope Francis, however, chose to reflect on the spiritual liberation from evil offered to men and women who receive the sacrament of baptism.

At the annual Youth Rally



PHOTO BY MARIKA DONDEES

Cathy Russell and St. Joseph Sister Mary Gregory Munger are shown at the vocations exhibit at the 2018 diocesan Youth Rally held at St. Mary's in Canton Saturday.

FULL COVERAGE, NEXT WEEK'S NCC

Corpus Christi

Plans are set for annual celebration June 2 at

St. Andrew Church in Norwood.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

A BISHOP AND SOME FUTURE BISHOPS?



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop Terry R. LaValley encouraged the altar servers for the April 21 Confirmation Mass at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks to try on his mitre and zucchetto for size. From left are Garrett Richards, Holy Name Church; Nathan Beattie, St. Augustine Church, Peru; Anthony Semeraro, Catholic Community of Keeseville, and Gavin Richards, Holy Name Church.

SEEKING ASYLUM

For seriously ill child, Alfie



CNS/PAUL HARING

Tom Evans, father of the seriously ill child, Alfie Evans, who died Saturday, is pictured outside of St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 18. Evans met Pope Francis and pleaded for "asylum" for his son in Italy so he may receive care and not be euthanized in England. Doctors had not been able to make a definitive diagnosis of the 22-month-old child's degenerative neurological condition; he had been on life-support at a children's hospital in Liverpool. However, doctors at the hospital have said keeping the toddler on life-support would be "futile," and he should begin receiving palliative care, against the wishes of the family.

GUGGENHEIM: Camp registration continues through June 1.... page 4

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Tentative thoughts about springtime!

Is it safe to relax? Have we seen the last of the endless snow of 2018?

I'm going to err on the side of optimism and believe that the forecast for 70-degree temperatures this week will actually become our collective "dream come true."

That makes it much easier to look forward to all the spring and summer events in our North Country church.

Our young people led the way with the annual Youth Rally held this past weekend in Canton. We will be

able to see faces of faith and read words of wisdom from the day in next week's NCC.

Mary Lou
Kilian

Another annual event that will capture our attention is the deacon convocation to be held Wednesday and Thursday in Lake Placid.

This year, 16 brand new deacons will be warmly welcomed as the group prepares to listen to Bishop Christopher Coyne, our neighbor from the Diocese of Burlington.

Later in May, the priests will gather in Lake Placid for their

annual assembly. A highlight of their gathering will be a Mass and dinner during which the priest jubilarians are honored.

As always, the NCC will join in the tributes, this year recognizing Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Pierre Aubin and Father Normand C. Cote, for 60 years of priesthood; Fathers Douglas A. Decker, Alan J. Lamica and Alan D. Shnob for 40 years; and Father Timothy G. Canaan, a 25-year jubilarian.

Younger members of our Catholic family will be the center of attention as Bishop LaValley travels across the diocese to preside at the sacrament of Confirmation.

Unfortunately, we won't be gathering together an ordination this spring but vocation work on the parish and the diocesan level insures that we'll have plenty in the future. Bishop LaValley will lead a holy hour for vocations May 3 at the cathedral, and, on May 5, a parish vocation ministry meeting has been scheduled in Norfolk.

And, if we're really brave, we can look all the way to summer when more faith-building, fulfilled opportunities will be available for our young people.

Yes, it's safe to think about Guggenheim. In fact the time to register is now!

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Words of thanks and some saintly advice

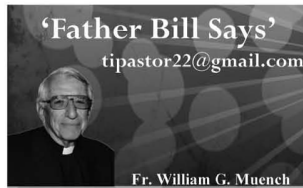
I am going to begin today with a word of gratitude and my wish for a happy retirement to my friend and editor, Mary Lou Kilian.

I want to thank you, Mary Lou, for your efforts to continue the excellence of the *North Country Catholic*. Mary Lou, you were great.

The North Country Catholic is an important resource for the Diocese of Ogdensburg – its history is long and extensive. Mary Lou Kilian has continued that excellence and I am truly proud of the *North Country Catholic* as a priest of this diocese. As I offer my congratulations to Mrs. Kilian, I promise to her my prayers as she continues to enjoy her other career as a grandmother.

It was over five years ago that Mary Lou invited me out to lunch. I was then in Saranac Lake – a bit of a ride from Ogdensburg. On a pleasant morning in the Adirondacks, she arrived at St. Bernard's. During lunch she spent some time offering me this space I have occupied since then. I am grateful to her for this unique opportunity to be involved with the NCC.

So, I have had this happy ex-



Fr. William G. Muench

perience of working with Mary Lou. She has been such an excellent editor – always patient with me as I rushed to meet a deadline. Thank you, Mary Lou.

I would also like to us this opportunity today to encourage you all to find the opportunity to read and study, Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Exhortation, "Gaudete Et Exsultate" (Rejoice and Be Glad). Pope Francis describes this letter as a Call to Holiness in Today's World. I want to guarantee that you will find this a well done and inspiring message. And let me add – this is not some difficult Papal message – you will understand Our Holy Father's message. Pope Francis writes this letter as directed to each person, each one of us, he speaks directly to "you."

Pope Francis focuses on Jesus' Beatitudes in one section

of the letter. Let me quote him: "The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card. So if anyone asks, "What must we do to be a good Christian?", the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives." (63)

Pope Francis reminds us of the model set by so many saints. He mentions many and I imagine they are his favorite saints.

He writes: "The saints now in God's presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us." (4) He points out to us that they show us and guide us to the way of holiness.

I would like to add to Pope Francis' saints, the many saints, my saints, who have been part of my life. They are not canonized by the Church but they have, and by the way continue to have, a profound influence on my life and my priesthood.

Pope Francis begins this letter by making it very clear that holiness is for us all not just a few. He writes this: "We are frequently tempted to think that

holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." (14)

Personally, I have thought often of this quest of holiness in our lives as Christians. So, I am truly pleased that Pope Francis has taken the time to write this letter to us – joining with all who call us to holiness.

I like to point out that it is truly about the little things in life. Only a few of us will be called to do something great and extraordinary in our search for holiness. However, each day we all will be challenged by the ordinary. Someone, I expect it was a saint, gave me this definition of a saint – which I have shared with you often. A saint is someone who does ordinary things extraordinarily well.

GO GREEN!

Receive the NCC in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.
E-mail eward@diogodensburg.org
to sign up today.

Annual event to be held at St. Andrew in Norwood June 3

A Corpus Christi invitation

NORWOOD – Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at a Corpus Christi celebration June 3 at St. Andrew's Church.

Mass will begin at 2 p.m. followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament around the block and back into the church where benediction will conclude the service.

Priests, deacons, sisters, Knights of Columbus councils, all women and men societies, and youth groups are invited to participate.

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

The Knights of Columbus at St. Andrew's initiated this annual Corpus Christi service in 2015 with the intent of rotating between St. Mary's in Potsdam and Sacred Heart in Massena.

A year of planning

Deacon Philip Regan, one of the organizers of the annual celebration, writes about its origins:

The Feast of Corpus Christi honors the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. "Corpus Christi" is Latin for "Body of Christ." Taken from the book, "God is Near Us," by Cardinal Ratzinger, later to be Pope Benedict XVI, there is a chapter on Corpus Christi which gives us a deeper meaning and understanding of this great feast. Cardinal Ratzinger breaks it down into three parts. First, is standing before the Lord.



PHOTO BY MARIKA DONDRS

In the 2017 celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi, Father Mark Reilly carried the Blessed Sacrament out of Sacred Heart Church in Massena to begin a walk on the streets of the village. Since 2015, parishes in Norwood, Potsdam and Massena have taken turns hosting the celebration of Corpus Christi. This year's service will be held June 3 at St. Andrew's in Norwood with Bishop Terry R. LaValley presiding.

This is when we are celebrating the Mass, meeting together around the Lord, for the Lord, standing side by side. Second, is walking with the Lord, the procession. Third, is kneeling before the Lord glorifying Him during benediction.

I'd like to share how the seed was planted for our first celebration in 2015. We (Norwood Knights of Columbus) were discussing the

Feast day at our August 2014 meeting and thought it would be great to celebrate this Feast as in the days of old. Msgr. John Murphy, our pastor, gave us the

green light to start planning for Corpus Christi, 2015.

We had a little less than a year so, the first step was to invite Bishop LaValley to be our principle celebrant. Knowing how busy he is, we were pleased and honored when we received his letter accepting our invitation! We then compiled a list of active and retired priests, deacons, and other religious; invitations were sent. We also invited surrounding Knights of Columbus Councils and the different societies of area parishes. Information was sent to parishes for their bulletins so the date could be saved.

We approached the Village Board to get approval for the procession around the block. They in turn, contacted the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department who provided personnel to control traffic at the intersections.

Everything was in place. All we had to do was pray for a wonderful turnout.

On June 7, 2015 our church was blessed with over 155 participants. Nearly everyone joined in the procession around the block. What a beautiful site in Norwood with the Bishop carrying the Monstrance,

which held the Blessed Sacrament, The 4th Degree Knights providing color, priests, deacons religious, altar servers, and parishioners from all over singing and praying as they processed. Back at the church we ended with Benediction. A reception followed with the help from our Altar Rosary Society.

The success of this day was beyond our expectations. We all agreed this must become an annual celebration. After discussing at our next meeting we thought it best to rotate with different parishes in hopes of keeping the Feast of Corpus Christi a glorious celebration in our area. St. Mary's parish in Potsdam hosted Corpus Christi in 2016 and Sacred Heart Church in Massena hosted it in 2017.

We are excited to be the host this year. Our goal is to make it more successful than 2015!

Please mark your calendars and join us if you can. We encourage our youth from surrounding parishes to attend. I truly believe it will remain in their hearts for a long time and hopefully they will want to come back.

Welcome Spring!

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



Adult Children of Alcoholics

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

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

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

YOUNG FAITH

JOB OPENING

Director of Youth Ministry

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a **Director of Youth Ministry**.

The position is responsible for the planning and implementation of the diocesan youth program. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree with extensive experience in the fields of religious education and faith formation, successful experience as youth minister, knowledge of current catechetical documents, familiarity with the characteristics of youth's personal, spiritual and emotional development, proven interpersonal skills and competency in administration and the use of technology.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail ksnover@rcdony.org.
Deadline for application is **May 18, 2018**.

NEWMAN CLUB GUEST



Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently visited the Potsdam Newman club for dinner and discussion with students from Clarkson University and SUNY Potsdam. The bishop is pictured with the students and Father Stephen Rocker, pastor in Potsdam. Tylor Starkey serves as campus minister for the parish.

IS YOUR SCOUT WEARING ONE OF THESE?



Now's the time to start working on a religious emblem. There are a variety of emblems for Scouts of all types and ages (Daisy, Brownie, Cub, Girl, Boy, Venture, and Explorer).

For more information, go to www.rcdony.org/scouting or contact Scott Quinell at 315-212-0137 or bsaquinell@gmail.com. The emblems are awarded at the annual Scout Mass—this year to be in Canton on October 13th. Get started today!

Guggenheim sign-ups open

SARANAC LAKE—Registration for Camp Guggenheim, the diocesan summer program for young people, continues through June 1.

The registration forms are online at www.rcdony.org/camp.

The first of six weeklong sessions begins July 1. Weeks one through five are open to 12-to-15 year-olds while the sixth week, Aug. 5-

10 is just for those ages 16 to 18.

Each week provides campers with a mix of faith, fun and adventure.

Faith formation and growth is at the heart of the Guggenheim experience and is an important part of every day. Campers actively participate in Mass, reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and prayer

throughout the day.

Camp activities include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, arts & crafts, campfires, dances and more.

"Campers are actively involved in living out and sharing their faith," said Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director. "It's what makes Camp Guggenheim so incredible."

DYC applications due May 7

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

Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director says that the 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.

Applications are available at www.rcdony.org/youth-ministry/diocesan-youth-council.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



SPRINGTIME IN THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

FACES OF FAITH



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Douglas Schirmer, Ogdensburg, shares his journey to the seminary with the group attending the first Operation Andrew dinner of the spring. The dinners are an opportunity for young men to learn about priesthood with Bishop LaValley and share a meal.



Father Jay Seymour, president, and Deacon Ronald Pomerville and Deacon James Chaufy assisted at the annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at St. Hedwig's Catholic Church in Houseville on April 8.



Dr. Alvin Maloney, a parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Watertown, was awarded the Samaritan Medical Center's Lifetime Achievement Award in an April 10 ceremony. From left are Dr. Mario Victoria, Samaritan's chief medical officer; Dr. Maloney and his wife, Judy; and Thomas Carmen, president and CEO of Samaritan.



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of SLFA (St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack deaneries) hosted guest presenter Deacon William O'Brien who addressed the theme "Behold Thy Mother" in the Brzana Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral. The event was attended by 24 commissioned lay ministers. There was also time allotted for Marian prayer and devotion.



April is the Month of the Military Child, and Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown participated in an Out-Of-Uniform Friday event to join the Purple It Up campaign. All students, PreK-12 grade, were permitted to wear jeans and a purple shirt to honor the children of the people who serve the country and sacrifice their lives for it. Students and faculty could pay \$1 to be out of uniform, and 100% of the donated funds goes to the IHC's general fund to help students and teachers. Pictured are Immaculate Heart Central School's Primary level military students.

Funeral held for FIC brother

ALFRED, ME. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Brother Marcel Lacasse (in religion, Brother James), 91, was held April 21 at Notre Dame Chapel. He died April 16 at Maine Medical Hospital in Portland. Burial was in the Brothers Cemetery.

He was one of ten children born of Lucien and Desneiges (Nadeau) Lacasse in Waterville, Maine on Dec. 17, 1926.

His formation as a Brother of Christian Instruction (FIC) began in Alfred in 1939. He entered the novitiate 75 years ago in 1942.

He was a 1952 graduate of LaMennais College, Alfred, and earned graduate degrees in education (Boston College, 1958) and Mathematics (University of Detroit, 1963).

He started his teaching career as an elementary school teacher in Plattsburgh, and Sanford, Maine. He was also assigned as a teacher at Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh along with other teaching positions.

In 1964 he contracted to be

the dean of students at Walsh College (now University) in Canton, Ohio and eventually served as registrar.

For decades he held administrative positions internal to his congregation of the Brothers of Christian Instruction (province bursar) and local religious superior.

In 1995, he retired to the brothers' retirement center on the Notre Dame campus to serve as its superior until precluded by health issues.

He was predeceased by his parents; three sisters, Rolande Therrien, Ursuline Sister Jacqueline Lacasse, and Doris Dumais; as well as by twin brothers, Henri Louis and Henri Paul Lacasse and Jacques Lacasse.

He is survived by a sister, Geraldine Lacasse of Rochester, N.H. and brother, Bertrand Lacasse of California and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions to the Brothers' Retirement Fund can be made in his memory (c/o Br. Daniel Caron, PO Box 159, Alfred, Maine 04002.)

Bishop's Schedule

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

7 p.m., Holy Hour for Vocations/Marian Hour at Mary's Cathedral

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

May 5 – 10:30 a.m., Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam
4 p.m., Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy

May 6 – 9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Augustine's Church in Peru celebrating Fr. Shnob's 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

3 p.m., Confirmation at St. Patrick's Church in Port Henry

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

May 8 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

May 9 – 4 p.m., Vigil for Ascension of the Lord at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

May 2 – Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

May 3 – Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

May 4 – Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

May 6 – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

May 7 – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

May 8 – Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

Protecting God's Children

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

Upcoming sessions:

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**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

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Environmental Stewardship

Planting Seeds of Hope (Part 1)

Each year, Earth Day - April 22 - marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Although mainstream America largely remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962. The book began to raise public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and links between pollution and public health.

Earth Day 1970 gave voice to that emerging consciousness, . . . putting environmental concerns on the front page. Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders.

By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. (Excerpts from www.earthday.org/about/the-history-of-earth-day)

Today we hear the voices of Pope Benedict and Pope Francis calling all of humanity to observe 'earth day, every day,' as part of our moral responsibility as follows of Christ 'to care for our common home.'" In Chapter 5 of *Laudato Si* Pope Francis challenges the political leaders and corporations locally and globally to dialogue on how to protect and enact laws that will protect God's creation that is meant to provide all living creatures a healthy environment to live and grow in. "We believers cannot fail to ask God for a positive outcome to the present discussions, so that the future generations will not have to suffer the effects of our ill-advised delays. (#169-170) "... continuity is essential, because policies related to climate change and environmental protection cannot be altered with every change of government." (#181)

Where and to whom do I feel called to express and/or work with regarding my concerns for the health of our planet and the health of our children?

A sick planet produces sick people!

TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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- Be a practicing Catholic;
- Have successful experience(s) in a Catholic school;
- Give evidence of administrative leadership skills in the areas in Catholic identity, instructional evaluation, management, promotion and maintenance of an effective learning environment and school advancement.

Applicants should send a cover letter expressing their suitability for the position, resume, a completed application (available at www.rcdony.org/catholic-schools) transcripts and two letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate's proven administrative ability and one letter of recommendation attesting to the person's adherence to the Catholic Church, no later than May 25, 2018 to:

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ,
Superintendent of Schools
100 Elizabeth Street; PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669



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CHEVROLET

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Dismissal of Catholic House chaplain sparks outrage

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The apparent forced resignation of the chaplain who tends to the spiritual needs of the U.S. House of Representatives and is Catholic has drawn fire against the Speaker of the House, who also is Catholic. Earlier in April, news trickled out that Jesuit Father Patrick Conroy, a beloved figure on Capitol Hill, was set to retire in May, but various news outlets on April 26 began reporting that he was "ousted" and forced to resign by House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican from Wisconsin. NBC News reported April 26 that it had obtained a letter penned by the chaplain to Speaker Ryan saying: "As you have requested, I hereby offer my resignation as the 60th Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives." Father Conroy's office declined an interview request by Catholic News Service about the resignation, but in an interview published by The New York Times, he said he was asked to resign but didn't know why and expect to leave the post he's held since 2011 by May 24. In a June 2017 interview with CNS, he said he had opinions about politics, like most people, but knew his job was focused on his role helping members of Congress without paying attention to political stripes. "I can think anything I want," he said. "But I can't say it. Some people say, 'You're there, why don't you say prophetic things?' If I did, a week from now, there would be a different person here and nothing would have changed."

In 'historic' move, pope names laywomen to congregation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis appointed three women as consultants to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It marks the first time women and laypersons were named as active contributors - not support staff. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, called decision to appointment the women "historic." The new female consultants are: Linda Ghisoni, born in Italy in 1965, is one of two women Pope Francis named to be undersecretaries of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life in 2017; Michelina Tenace, born in Italy in 1954, is a professor and head of the department of fundamental theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University; Laetitia Calmeyn, born in Belgium in 1975, is a consecrated virgin and teaches theology at the College des Bernardins in Paris. She is a nurse specializing in palliative care and received her doctorate from the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute.

Pope unites two Canadian dioceses under Abp. Prendergast

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has united the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall with the Archdiocese of Ottawa "in the person of the bishop," Archbishop Terrence Prendergast of Ottawa, indicating the situation may change in the future. A permanent change would have been accomplished by merging the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall with the Archdiocese of Ottawa. Instead, the Vatican announced April 27 that the two would be joined under Archbishop Prendergast, "archbishop of Ottawa (and) also bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall." The formula indicates that diocesan structures could continue to operate independently for the time being. The last bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall, Bishop Marcel Dampousse, was named bishop of Sault Sainte Marie in November 2015. The following January, Pope Francis named Archbishop Prendergast as apostolic administrator of the diocese. In a letter posted on the diocesan website in 2017, Archbishop Prendergast said his appointment came with "the mandate of making a recommendation as to whether the diocese should be merged with a neighboring diocese, the most likely being the Archdiocese of Ottawa."

'Demonizing immigrants hardens American heart'

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Newark Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin said he worries that reducing the number of immigrants, particularly refugees to the U.S., and demonizing them represents a "hardening of the American heart," and that should be of concern to a country that has been historically a welcoming place.

The country's iconic Statue of Liberty "is welcoming people because of who they are and not seeing them simply as objects of charity, but as potential contributors to this experiment that is the United States of America," Cardinal Tobin said in the CMSOnAir podcast aired April 23 by New York's Center for Migration Studies. "We should be concerned about the success that some voices in the public square have had in demonizing the other."

In the interview with Donald Kerwin, the center's executive director, Cardinal Tobin expressed worries about sentiments popular around the country at the moment, including some that paint certain groups of immigrants as rapists, drug smugglers or as people intent on taking jobs away.

"All of which aren't true," he said. "And people forget that they're part of families. They love their children. Many of them are here at great sacrifice leaving behind their families, so that they can provide for their children. I think what religious leaders can do is help people understand, because if you can put a face on someone, it's much more difficult to do really inhuman things to them."

It's similar to what happened to the Irish and other communities that arrived in the U.S. in the past, he said, when they were painted in extremely unflattering ways

and yet they contributed to the country.

The world's main religions counsel strongly against persecuting the stranger because God himself identifies in a very real way with those who are foreigners among you

Newark Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin

"We should ask why we want to become so ethnocentric. I don't think the word xenophobic is too strong to describe some of the caricatures that are proposed to Americans. I want to believe that Americans are smarter than that and that their hearts are bigger," he said.

While many Christian immigrants are being affected by some of these events, other Christians shouldn't exclusively help them but try to help everyone who is suffering even though it's true that "the people who are being deported include great numbers of Christians."

"My hometown of Detroit, Michigan, has a large Chaldean community, which is being eviscerated by ICE," he said, referring to the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

When asked whether people of good faith can disagree on immigration and other issues that the church advocates for as matters of prudential judgment, not doctrinal issues, Cardinal Tobin said that, "if prudential judgment simply means or reduces the question of the help to undocumented people or immigrants as matters of secondary concern, I think that that's wrong."

"I think that is a misrepresentation of some of the fundamental principles of the church's social doctrine," he further explained. "Certainly,

the capricious nature of the laws and the enforcement of laws around immigration is an offense of human dignity. It is a wound to the common good. So, yes, I don't have a whole lot of time for people who reduce things to prudential judgement. I'll listen to everybody, but I think that there is more of a self-fulfilling prophecy to justify the present chaos."

He said he's not opposed to borders or thinks they "are necessarily wrong." But he said that "when they achieve almost an idolatrous force that they become so sacred that you would close your eyes to the needs of people who come across the border seeking a better life or help or when they reduce human dignity to a caricature or when they break the fundamental solidarity that we owe even across national or cultural borders, then I think as believers, we have to question that."

People should never forget where their family came from, he said, or the challenges they and other immigrants of the past faced - whether they did or did not enter the U.S. legally.

"They were all lumped into the same offensive group," he said. "I think that remembering that and remembering that out of those immigrant communities came people like Marconi, who gave the radio to the world, and Enrico Caruso, and all of these people who enriched our nation's lives in so many ways, that's one thing, is to remember. Secondly, is to listen to your faith before you listen to a particular ideology. God is pretty clear. He doesn't favor one nation over another."

The world's main religions counsel strongly against persecuting the stranger, he said, and that's "because God himself identifies in a very real way with those who are foreigners among you."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

After Easter prayer: unity in love

The days after Easter have been exciting and joy-filled days for the early Church.

However, the time has come for Jesus to leave his followers and to ascend back to the Father. Now is the time for a new presence to take over—that of the Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus has tried to prepare them for this new way for God to guide his fledgling Church but there were bound to be surprises..

Just when some consensus to Jesus' message of salvation for the Jews has been achieved, the Holy Spirit hits them with a thunderbolt of new teaching. Peter

has a noonday trance that disturbs him. A heavenly agent forbids him to call any food unclean that God has made clean!

Cornelius, a pagan, is likewise visited by an angel who commands him to summon Peter. Through the resulting encounter, Peter is convinced that the message of salvation he though applied only to Jews, is meant also for non-

Jews.

This does not go over well with many Jews back in Jerusalem. Salvation was no longer an exclusive prerogative for the Chosen People. Now, all are chosen! The community peace is shattered!

tered!

What saves the new Church?

That other "shocker" - the command to love one another "as I have loved you." Love is the "glue" that holds the community together, not just then but now.

Two thousand years of trial and error has not made any easier this fundamental teaching of our faith. Love!

Just think of what dynamic transformation there would be in our world society, if all Christians really loved one another!

Think of how much more peaceful the transition would have been after the changes of Vatican II hit the Church in the '60's and '70's. We could have avoided so much hurt and bitterness, if we had just listened a little

May 6

Sixth Sunday of Easter
READINGS

Acts 10: 25-26; 34-35; 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

more to the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit asks us if we like the idea of love, we respond enthusiastically. But even though the Lord has actually commanded us to love, we balk, make all kinds of excuses and compromises. Yet, the meaning is clear. Love one another and listen to one another!

God listens to us a lot! We get in trouble when we fail to listen to God and to His Vicar, the Pope. With-

out a closer adherence to this command. we will have never have the unity that is necessary for the Church to grow.

Love is a necessary path for the light of truth and obedience among Jesus' followers.

What can we do? We can beg the Holy Spirit daily to flow into us more freely so that we will produce better fruit. Like good fruit, love is tantalizing, appealing, and truly irresistible. There is no power on earth stronger than love. It will ultimately silence critics, win over those who are hostile to the Church, and bring all nations and peoples to the salvation for which Christ died and rose again. As we await Pentecost, much prayer for unity in love is our goal



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

VATICAN LETTER

Power of words: Listening must lead to action

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— Pope Francis' planned meeting with abuse survivors from Chile could mark a turning point in how the Catholic Church deals not just with prevention, but especially with how it responds to accusations.

The pope has said he wants the four days of meetings in April to be his chance to ask for forgiveness and express his "pain and shame" for what they have suffered.

And Pope Francis, who emphasizes the importance of listening and learning, also sees this as a chance to hear survivors' suggestions for how to avoid repeating "such reprehensible acts," the Vatican said April 25.

But this meeting is different from his other meetings with survivors. This time he is not only acknowledging and apologizing for abuses perpetrated by others, he himself caused shock and pain when he repeatedly discounted claims there was evidence Chilean Bishop Juan Barros knew of abuse against minors. Pope Francis went so far as to label such claims as "calumny" in remarks to reporters in January.

Setting aside an entire day for each survivor at end of April looked less like a typical meeting

and more like a personal act of contrition.

Juan Carlos Cruz, one of the three survivors who will meet the pope, told Catholic News Service, "This is an opportunity for Pope Francis to make a difference and hold bishops accountable who are still covering up."

It is also a chance to "make sure that survivors all over the world are looked after, taken care of and respected and not disparaged and made to feel like they are guilty, which is what bishops currently do," he said April 25.

Much like Pope Benedict XVI's misstatement in Regensburg about Islam sparked new and innovative initiatives with Muslims, Pope Francis' recognition of his poor choice of words and approach toward abuse allegations could trigger a turning point and lead to something new.

It is an opportunity to go beyond damage control and actually "change things in a startlingly positive way," said Mark Vincent Healy, a survivor and campaigner from Ireland, who was one of six survivors invited to Pope Francis' first meeting with victims at the Vatican in 2014.

"The man I met was so compassionate," genuine and generous with his time, he said of the pope.

"The pope is not a bad man. It was a big mistake" to call the Chile accusations slander, Healy said. "So how can he turn this negative into an opportunity for the best," for "coming clean" and

looking at why he and other church leaders can react so negatively and defensively against people crying for help, Healy asked.

One change that must come from listening to victims, he said, is to look at victims differently - not as enemies, opportunists or politically motivated, but as brothers and sisters belonging to the same wounded family.

Victims "wouldn't raise an accusation so publicly with so much to lose" since disclosure often brings tremendous added stress, severe repercussions and even reprisal, he said. They are "seeking help to survive in a better way. Help us do that," he said.

"The church should react with compassion. Don't question the veracity. It should ask how best it can respond with love and regard," he said.

Also, "we are living in a world where our leaders are not fact-checking before they speak," he said, which means everyone, including the pope, should "be more engaged in fact-checking," especially before making charges or outright denials.

Another critical need is for the church to become a bold, active partner working alongside survivors and delving into the past to look for victims and encourage them to stop hiding, he said.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Strong pro-life values are embedded in the towering, richly complex Marvel Comics-based adventure "Avengers: Infinity War" (Disney). While this often-dazzling, sometimes-dizzying epic is safest for grown-ups, its positive moral lessons may lead at least some parents to deem it acceptable for older teens as well.

The film's ethical stance can first be read through the principal aim of its outsized villain, slaughter-loving tyrant Thanos (Josh Brolin). He cherishes a long-standing scheme to bring his version of harmony to the universe by wiping out half its population, thus freeing up scarce resources for the survivors.

This maniacal goal is based on Thanos' sincere -- but obviously wildly misguided -- assessment of the fate that befell his place of origin, Saturn's moon Titan, whose civilization was destroyed, according to his ac-

count, by overpopulation. Foreseeing a similar outcome for the cosmos as a whole, Thanos believes his theoretically laudable purpose: to establish a sustainable paradise, will justify his cataclysmic methods.

Fortunately, neither the Avengers nor the Guardians of the Galaxy agree. So they team up to thwart him.

To gain the necessary power to accomplish his plan, Thanos needs to collect a set of supernatural gems called the Infinity Stones which, once assembled, will give him control over all reality. So the array of good guys -- who are too numerous to name but include, perhaps most prominently, Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man, Benedict Cumberbatch's Dr. Strange and Chris Pratt's Star-Lord -- make it their business to stop him.

Throughout the ensuing struggle, Thanos' opponents consistently refuse to sacrifice anyone on their side for the sake of their larger objective, a principle embodied in the motto "We don't

trade lives." Thus co-directors (and brothers) Anthony and Joe Russo's mesmerizing saga drives home the message that the common good is not to be achieved at the price of any individual's innocent life, much less those of a multitude.

Less substantial, but perhaps more surprising, than this theme of ends and means is a fleeting reference to Jesus that some will find ultimately faith-affirming, others too frivolous in tone.

On a purely aesthetic level, an outstanding cast in top form, together with clever self-parodying dialogue in Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely's script make the two-and-a-half-hour-plus run time pass quickly. And then there's the unthinkable wrap-up, a denouement so shocking it will certainly draw gasps of surprise -- and may even leave devoted fans of the Marvel universe beside themselves with frenzy.

The film contains much harsh but mostly bloodless violence, a couple of mild



CNS PHOTO/MARVEL STUDIOS

Benedict Cumberbatch, Robert Downey Jr., Benedict Wong and Mark Ruffalo star in a scene from the movie "Avengers: Infinity War."

oaths as well as several crude and numerous crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture

Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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MOVIE REVIEW
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CLINTON

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

ROSARY RALLY

Chateaugay – A Rosary Rally will be held to pray for peace in the World

Date: May 12

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Contact: Elaine McGivney at 518-529-6133 or Joan Johnston at 518-497-0707.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru – The 32nd Annual Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Bill McBride Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held.

Date: June 15

Time: 10 a.m. Shotgun start

Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club

Features: The 4 person scramble is dedicated to its former chairman, the late Bill McBride Jr.

Contact: Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 518-643-5444 or email gnetlombard@charter.net.

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

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

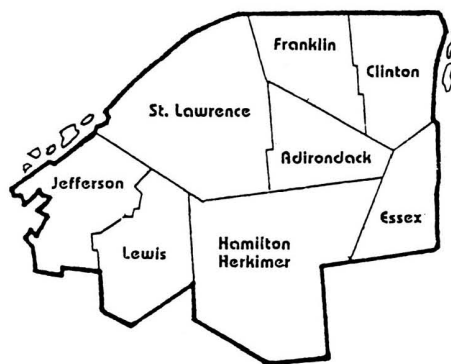
ALUMNI REUNION

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

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



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

GARAGE SALE

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

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

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

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

LAKESIDERS FISHERS CLUB

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

Dates: 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

JEFFERSON

ROSARY CRUSADE

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

Date: May 18

Place: St. James Minor Church

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

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

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

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

Watertown – Commissioned Lay Ministry (CLM) Association of Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries is holding a dinner.

Date: May 9

Time: Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner and speaker

Place: SSS Motherhouse

Cost: \$10

Features: Fr. Chris Looby will share his experiences and insights about his recent travels to Greece. Open to Commissioned Lay Ministers and their spouses, local Clergy, and Religious

Contact: Register by May 4 by contacting Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920, ext. 1413 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

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.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Society to have spaghetti dinner.

Date: May 31

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

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.

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, SSI

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

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral will host a Marian Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: May 3

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Lower Chapel

Features: Part of the statewide campaign recommended by the NYS Council of the Knights of Columbus and the vocation committee of the Cathedral.

Contact: St. Mary's Cathedral at 315-393-3930. All are welcome.

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 or call 315-714-2016.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org

Our Peruvian beginnings

Did you know that...

2018 marks the 55th Anniversary of the founding of San Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru in the Archdiocese of Arequipa, Peru by the Diocese of Ogdensburg? San Martin de Porras Parish is still open today as it continues to grow and thrive.

Did you know about the Peru beginnings?

The first two priests from Ogdensburg to serve in Peru were Father Paul Hagan and Father Roger Martin. Bishop James J. Navagh invited the priests to go to South America. Their acceptance would be the beginnings of what would later be called the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate (OPA).

Both priests were genuine missionaries who left for places they never visited endured hardships and faced challenges beyond what they would have had in their home diocese. They were pioneers.

The story of the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate has many dimensions – its outward trials and achievements. The history also forms a small part of a larger story of the North American mission to South America and belongs as well to the currents and movements of the Catholic Church of that time. It was a period of ferment, searching and unsteadiness that sent many priests, sisters and lay people from North America to serve in South America. On their part there was zeal, trial, misunderstandings and various evaluations were and will be made of that larger effort of the North American Church of that time. The history of the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate belongs to that wider context. We give thanks to God for the priests from our diocese that followed in the footsteps of Fr. Hagan and Fr. Martin for their ministry in a developing country.

(The Mission Office appreciates this account with permission from *The Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate: The Early Years* by Father Stephen Rocker.)

Today, the Diocese of Ogdensburg continues a positive relationship built on trust and decades of faith. The Diocese continues to support San Martin de Porras through the annual collection for the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Our recent assistance with upgrading a kitchen facility and replacing a 40 year old truck are of note. The people of Mollendo are so grateful to the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and love hearing from us and having visitors to their village. The church has multiplied in size over the years as their love for Christ grows too. This is truly an example of the Missionary experience where we lead by example, sacrificed prayers and resources as we learned the love of God does not have any boundaries.

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

OBITUARIES

Carthage – Betty (Betrus) Czoper, 96; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2018 at St. James Church; burial parish cemetery.

Carthage – Marjorie J. (Rigabar) Ward, 94; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Hopkinton – Sharon A. (Foster) Mitchell, 72; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2018 at Church of the Holy Cross; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Keeseville – Clarence Young, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

LaFargeville – Vito L. Raineri, Sr., 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2018 at St. John's Church.

Malone – Dawn S. Trombly, 51; Funeral Services St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home; burial in Stephens Cemetery, Brandon.

Massena – Barbara A. (Regis) Gibson, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary

Cemetery.

Massena – M. Ruth (Canough) Langevin, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

North Bangor – Walter "Woody" Woods, Jr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Honorius "Henry" T. Lalonde, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Josephine F. "Josie" Lightfoot, 97; Mass of Christian Burial 28, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Thomas P. Luckie, Sr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Catherine B. (Collins) Furnia, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in

Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Plattsburgh – Katherine H. "Kitty" Shedd, 96; Funeral Services April 21, 2018 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Potsdam – Ruth Ann (Bradish) Barton, 77; Funeral Services April 27, 2018 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Parishville.

Potsdam – Vera B. Wells, 91; Funeral Services April 23, 2018 at Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Laurelle Delia (Badger) Montpelier, 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 31, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Westville – Truman A. "Lucky" Wood, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 01, 2018 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Willsboro – Stanley C. "Stan" Flora, 76; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2018 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery

Pope Francis: Heaven is not a boring waiting room

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Heaven is not an eternally dull existence but rather the completion of a journey toward a promised encounter with the Lord, Pope Francis said.

Although Christians may know full well that their goal is to go to heaven, "we begin to slip" when asked, "What is heaven," the pope said in his homily April 27 during Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"Many times, we think of an abstract heaven, a far-away heaven, a heaven that we say 'yes, its fine.' But some may think: 'Isn't it a little boring being there for all eternity?' No, that is not heaven," he said.

Pope Francis' homily focused on the day's first reading from the Acts of the

Apostle, in which St. Paul proclaims "that what God promised our fathers he has brought to fulfillment" through Jesus' resurrection.

Trusting God to fulfill his promises, he said, puts Christians on a path "toward an encounter, the definitive encounter with Jesus. Heaven is the encounter with Jesus."

Pope Francis said that during this journey, Jesus "isn't sitting there waiting for me but, as the Gospel says, he works for us. He himself said, 'Have faith in me' and 'I will prepare a place for you.'"

Jesus prays for all who em-

bark on this path toward heaven. However, the pope said, Christians must continue to remind themselves that "he is faithful" and that he will fulfill his promise.

"Heaven will be that encounter, an encounter with the Lord who has gone there to prepare the place, the encounter with each one of us. And this gives us confidence; it makes trust grow," he said.

"May the Lord give us this awareness of being on a journey with this promise. May the Lord give us this grace: to look up and think: 'The Lord is praying for me,'" Pope Francis said.



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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ST. LAWRENCE

ITALIAN FEST

Gouverneur – Italian Fest to be held.

Date: May 11

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

Place: St. James School

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

Features: Take-outs available. Chefs: Joe & Carolyn Pistolesi. Raffles, games & face painting. Fried Dough. Italian Dessert Sale. Public Open House to check out St. James School.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Canton – The Canton-Potsdam K of C Assembly 707 is hosting a Charity Golf Tournament With proceeds to benefit local Special Olympics

Date: June 16

Place: Partridge Run Golf Course

Features: captain and crew format with prizes for the top three finishers in the following divisions: Men's, Women's and Mixed. There will also be contests for longest drive, closest to the pin, and putting. The cost is \$50 per person which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart and lunch at the turn.

Contact: To register a team, email: cantonkofc@gmail.com or leave a message at 315-714-2016.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CATHOLIC BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS

Catholic Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the diocese are encouraged to Work on a religious emblem. There are a variety of emblems for Scouts of all types and ages

(Daisy, Brownie, Cub, Girl, Boy, Venture, and Explorer).

Contact: www.rcdony.org/scouting or contact Scott Quinell at 315-212-0137 or bsaquinell@gmail.com. The emblems are awarded at the annual Bishop's Scout Mass in October.

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

PARISH VOCATION MEETINGS

Regional parish vocation ministry meetings have been scheduled

Schedule: May 5 in Norfolk

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

Contact: Contact Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org

www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

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

Date: June 1-3

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

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

AT THE EASTER VIGIL



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley confirmed Christine Bookman, music director at St. Mary's Cathedral, during the Easter Vigil at the cathedral. Mrs. Bookman's sponsor, Gail Barr, is shown at right, along with other sponsors of new Catholics, Thomas Lawrence and Mary Burns.

Power

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Being on the margins is worse. People are shamed further by it" and end up isolated, alone in their despair, he said.

The renewed Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors - the pope's independent body of experts that gives him recommendations for best practices to help the church on the local level - has chosen to protect the identity of their members who are survivors of abuse and to reach out to other anonymous survivors as consultants. Two survivor-members stepped down early from the commission last year, citing frustration with the slow pace of reform.

Teresa Kettelkamp, former executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and a new member of the commission, told CNS that this approach with survivors will give them a larger, broader range of people to contact especially from countries where talking about abuse is still taboo.

"You respect their privacy, but you still get their input," she said. "I think that may give them more confidence in contributing to the work we do" in every aspect, including formation, education, guidelines and norms, and not just healing, she said.

The new and returning commission members, she said, also were asked to be more

"sensitive" to forming "realistic" expectations of what they can accomplish and focus only on making proposals for the pope.

"We're not an investigative body or a recourse or an appeals commission. Our goal and focus have to be what advice can we give to the Holy Father," Kettelkamp said.

Healy said action and follow-up must come out of all these listening sessions and that will require an eradication of a culture of fear -- a victim's fear of coming forward and the church's fear of losing assets or its reputation when one of its members has been named a perpetrator.

"You'll never go wrong if you do the right thing," he said. "God provides for you. What do you fear? Bankruptcy? But how when God is our father? If he feeds the birds of the air, why not his own children?"

After listening to a victim, he said the church must ask itself, "how much work are you prepared to do to bring healing? Are you prepared to treat this like a plane crash and go look for more victims," and is the church ready to acknowledge abuse will flourish where "people are not held to account?"

"Our faith is made strong by doing the right thing," Healy said. "This should be our new policy."

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