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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 16, 2019

Follow Me: Bishop reflects on retreat message

Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined around 260 bishops from around the nation for a retreat held at Mundeleine Seminary outside of Chicago.

The retreat was held at the request of Pope Francis.

Reverend Raniero Cantalamessa, a Franciscan Capuchin priest, was the Retreat Director.

Father Cantalamessa's reflections were centered on the two themes: "To be with Jesus" and "to preach the Gospel."

In this week's "Follow Me," Bishop LaValley reflects on the retreat message.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

A PARTING GIFT



Mrs. Kathy Toner's fifth-grade students perform a song they wrote for Father Timothy G. Cnaan after Seton Catholic's Feast Day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Mass on Friday, Jan. 5. The celebration marked Father Cnaan's last time presiding over a Mass at the school. In the fall, Father Cnaan announced he would be retiring for health reasons. Seton Catholic also gifted Father Cnaan with a scrapbook filled with letters from the school community. In return, he gave the school a pewter chalice and a chasuble that he wore to every school Mass.

FAITH IN A FORTRESS



Bishop Terry R. LaValley baptizes an inmate at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. Four inmates received all three Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Ten others were confirmed. The ceremony was performed at St. Dismas, the Good Thief, the church built behind the walls of the correctional facility.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Prayer has power to change lives, hearts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - God is a father who never ignores his children when they call to him in times of suffering, loneliness and despair, Pope Francis said.

Although at times it seems that "so many of our prayers seem to have no result," Christians are called by Christ to "insist and not give up," the pope said Jan. 9 during his weekly general audience.

"Prayer, prayer always changes reality, let us not forget that: It either changes things or changes our hearts, but it always changes," he said.

Arriving at the Paul VI audience hall, the pope greeted thousands of cheerful pilgrims, shaking hands, embracing children and even taking a sip of mate tea offered to him by a pilgrim.

Continuing his series of talks on the Lord's Prayer,

the pope reflected on the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray.

In teaching them to pray the "Our Father," he said, Jesus "explains to his followers in what words and with what feelings they must turn to God."

"Father - that is such a beautiful word to say," the pope said. "We can pray just with that word, 'father,' and feel that we have a father; not a mas-

ter but a father."

At important moments in his own life, Pope Francis explained, Jesus is "in an atmosphere of prayer" and guided by the Holy Spirit in his actions. He also prays for others, including "for Peter who will soon deny him."

"This consoles us, knowing that Jesus prays for us, he prays for me, he prays for each one of us so that our faith does

not fail," the pope said. "We can also say to Jesus: 'You are praying for me; continue to pray because I need it.' (Pray) like that, with courage."

Even in his final moments, the pope added, Jesus is immersed in prayer, for example when consoling the women along the way of the cross, when promising the joys of paradise to the good thief and before taking his last breath.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Let's be more like the 'Massena ladies'

Because of my profession, I frequently get invited to events – presentations, rallies, celebrations, luncheons and dinners.

When I attend such events, I may not know anyone. While I'm an extrovert, I still experience the apprehension and nervousness that comes with attending a luncheon or dinner, where I'll be expected to socialize with those around me, and not knowing if I'm imposing by sitting with an unfamiliar group of people.

That brings me to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) luncheon I attended last

week (see the full story on page 12).

I walked in and saw a group of tables set for lunch. Most tables had several attendees seated around them and several vacant seats.

"Is there assigned seating," I asked.

"Sit wherever you'd like," I was told.

Almost immediately, a woman standing nearby – someone I'd met before, but don't know well – invited me to join her table. I was sitting

with a group I've come to know as "the Massena ladies."

The Massena ladies welcomed me, a relative

stranger. We had wonderful conversations. We enjoyed our lunch together. Some of the women at that table have extended similar kindnesses to me at other events.

The kindness of those women means more to me than they could possibly imagine. To be completely honest, my experience of Catholicism has not always been one of welcoming.

Like a lot of young adults, I was away from the church for a significant amount of time. When God helped me find my way back, I walked into my chosen parish (which shall remain nameless) feeling very self-conscious. I know it was only in my head, but I felt like others knew I should've been there

and wasn't. I felt awkward not knowing some of the responses/prayers had changed. I felt uncomfortable.

It took almost six months before someone other than the pastor spoke to me and welcomed me. In the parish's defense, I didn't go out of my way to meet others, either. But if I hadn't been completely convinced of the truth of Catholicism, I likely wouldn't have gone back after those first few nervous Masses.

We can do better.

May we work to be a welcoming church. May we recognize strangers, and greet them.

I pray we become like the Massena ladies.



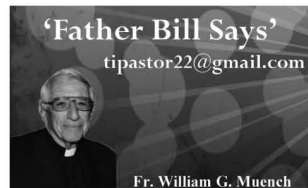
Darcy L. Fargo

Jesus became man, blessing humanity

I have decided today to look back again at all that happened this year over Christmas time. Do you have some good memories of all that happened this Christmas? I suspect you do. I am certain that the reason that I am thinking of this today is because I am still receiving Christmas cards. I love Christmas cards. I would love to receive Christmas cards all year long.

When I think of Christmas cards, I think of them as a statement of faith in our belief that Jesus became one of us. This is called our belief in the incarnation of Jesus. Jesus accepted our humanity. Jesus took on our flesh. Our humanity is blessed and sacred because Jesus was once of us. This changes who I am. Jesus was once one of us, and what a powerful influence that must have on how I should live my life.

While speaking with some Confirmation students recently, I thought of this ex-



ample: it is like playing on a sports team with a particularly outstanding All-Star. I was thinking that someone might brag – I played on a team with LeBron or say Tom Brady. However, when it comes to life, I am one of a people with whom Jesus lived.

Thomas Merton writes this idea so much better than I: "It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race, though it is a race dedicated to many absurdities and one which makes many terrible mistakes! Yet, with all that, God Himself, gloried in becoming a member of the human race. A member of the human race! To think that such a commonplace realization should suddenly seem like the news that one

holds the winning ticket in a cosmic sweepstakes."

On the weekday and Sunday Masses between Christmas and the Epiphany, the first Scripture readings are taken from St. John's First Letter.

This is the same St. John who wrote the fourth Gospel. We believe that St. John, called the Evangelist so as not to confuse him with the Baptist, was the youngest of the apostles of Jesus. He certainly lived much longer than the other apostles. His writings were probably written between the years 90-100 A.D.

This First Letter of St. John was written to give encouragement to those new Christians. This Letter is a magnificently beautiful message, especially of God's great love. Let me share a bit from the Fourth Chapter with you. John wants to make certain that we realize that God loves us. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No

one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us."

St. John urges us to recognize how blessed we are. We are a loved people; we are a special people. God loves us so much that God promised to remain in us. And we discover God's love best by loving one another. And this love that we bring into our lives, our families and our communities truly brings it to perfection.

Again, St. John: "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him."

Jesus spoke of God – God as his Father and his love for his Father. The apostles evangelized this world by teaching all of God's great love for all. Many young people continue to want to know just who God is. St. John challenges us to realize that when we love and live in love, we will find God. God will be with us and remain with us.

FOLLOW ME

Retreat was time to reflect, pray; time of hope

As you know, I accepted Pope Francis' invitation and joined about 260 bishops from across the United States for a recent seven-day retreat at Mundeleine Seminary outside of Chicago. Reverend Raniero Cantalamessa, a Franciscan Capuchin priest, was our Retreat Director. He has been the Preacher to the Papal Household since his appointment by St. John Paul II back in 1980. Pope Francis asked him to lead us in this week-long opportunity for focused prayer and reflection. The Holy Father desired a climate of prayer and silence and an environment for the bishop to experience an intense personal encounter with the Lord. He prayed that the bishops might receive the strength and light of the Holy Spirit to find the right solution for the problems that afflict the Church in our country today.

Father Cantalamessa's theme was taken from Mark 3:14: "He appointed twelve [whom he also named apostles] that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach..." All of Father Cantalamessa's reflections were centered on the two themes: "To be with Jesus" and "to preach the Gospel," both essential aspects of the apostolic mission with which I have been charged.

Father began by relating to us what an American Capuchin brother said to him, partly in jest but also somewhat seriously: "I don't think you are as great a preacher as people say. You have been preaching for so many years to the Roman Curia and I don't see any conversion taking place

there." Father Cantalamessa responded, "Brother, I'm too busy trying to convert myself than to think I can convert others." He told us the same thing. He said that he did not come from Rome to convert us, but to encourage us, for right now, that's what you need the most." He was right.

Father set the tone by assuring us that he wasn't going to talk about pedophilia or give advice about eventual solutions. That wasn't his task, humbly admitting a personal lack of competence to do so. Instead, it was to be a time for taking a break, as the psalmist says, "away from the strife of tongues" (Ps.31:21), and to listen to the voice of the Lord of the Church. It was time well spent for me personally.

I've met with individuals who have been victimized by Church leaders, and I entered the retreat with my heart aching for the victims. My heart aches for the faithful. Righteous anger has surfaced, trust has been compromised, and faith in Christ's Body, the Church, severely fractured. My heart aches for our many, many clergy who continue to serve in our parishes today with such valiant faith in the face of confusion, anger, and pain. Their devotion to and sacrifice for the Church and their steadfast love for our parishioners provides us all with such comfort, hope and consolation. The Church of Ogdensburg is blessed with self-sacrificing pastors for which I am so grateful.

Father Cantalamessa observed that it's interesting that the word "hope" does not appear in Jesus' preaching. The Gospels report many of his sayings on faith and charity, but nothing on hope. After Easter, however, we witness a literal explosion of the notion and sentiment of hope in the teaching of the apostles. Hope takes its place beside faith and charity as one of the three theological virtues.

Our hope comes from the resurrection of Christ. We are a resurrection people, the Church born of hope. By resurrecting Jesus, the Father not only gave us "proof positive," but he also gave us living hope. The resurrection is not just a premise on which the truth of Christianity is based, it is also a power that unleashes and nourishes hope. While we believe in the resurrection of the body, we also need a resurrection of the heart. Our Retreat Director reminded us of the strong reason on which to base

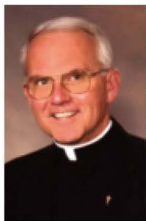
our hope today. He cited Matthew 7:24-25. The house built on rock is the Church and the rock upon which it is built is Christ. He said that the fiercest winds are not those that lash the house from the outside, but those that cause a tempest within. But not even they can bring down the house. Be not afraid!

With much passion and in good faith, as you can imagine, many have shared with me their solutions to the problems in the Church today. I try to listen carefully and bring to prayer what I hear. Let us all continue to pray for victim/survivors of clergy sex abuse. I am grateful for the prayerful support that I have received. We remain vigilant and determined that our efforts will

never wane in providing a safe environment for all.

Father Cantalamessa reminded us of a passage from the prophet Haggai: "Now be strong, Zerubbabel...be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, high priest, Be strong all you people of the land and work! For I am with you... my spirit remains in your midst; do not fear!" (Hag.2:4-5) - prophetic words for this moment in time.

Let us all stay with Jesus and give witness as a Resurrection people with confident hope and joy. Thank you for your prayerful support. We remember that Jesus is in the boat with us as these turbulent waters lash upon us. Take courage, says the Lord, I am with you! AMEN.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

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Finding faith in a fortress

Inmates receive Sacraments of Initiation

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

DANNEMORA – “I’ve made some bad decisions, but I have a wife and son. It was time to better myself as a man and better my faith.”

Those were the words of Abner Alvarez, an inmate at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. Alvarez was one of four inmates who received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion from Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the Church of St. Dismas, the Good Thief, the church built behind the prison walls. Another 10 inmates were confirmed, as well.

Alvarez, serving a 25-years to life sentence, said he first became interested in the Catholic Church after talking to Deacon Frank Bushey, the prison’s chaplain.

“I was working with Deacon Bushey, cleaning the

offices,” Alvarez said. “He would talk to me about my family. He would talk to me about faith. It just made me think about it more.”

Inmate Pedro Abad received the sacrament of Confirmation at the prison church, as well. He said he was baptized as a child, but was never confirmed, instead trying several different faith traditions over the years.

“This has been good for me,” said Abad, who is serving an eight- to 25-year sentence. “There are a lot of temptations to make bad choices here. I’m trying to get where I’m constantly thinking, ‘what would Jesus do?’ This is about trying to be a better man.”

The sacraments were administered by Bishop LaValley in a Mass held in the only Catholic Church in the United States built behind prison walls, with

inmates, clad in green uniforms, serving as lectors and musicians. One of the readings was read in Spanish, one in English.

In his homily, Bishop LaValley focused on “vision.”

“We all struggle with vision at some point,” said Bishop LaValley. “But our God has a vision for us. He has a plan for us. If we live that plan, we’ll know nothing but happiness in this life and the next. That’s God’s vision for you and me.”

Bishop LaValley noted that we all struggle with our sinfulness, even as we try to follow God’s plan.

“We stumble. We commit sins. We get in trouble,” Bishop LaValley said. “Sometimes we get caught, sometimes we don’t, but we’re all sinners.”

It’s in those moments that we rely on God’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



The Church of St. Dismas, the Good Thief, located within the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, is the only known church structure built within a prison facility in the U.S.

The church behind the walls

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

DANNEMORA – Driving along state Route 374, the main route through the town, it’s nearly impossible to ignore the long, imposing wall of the third oldest prison in New York, Clinton Correctional Facility. But from that southern wall of the facility, it’s impossible to know that the complex houses the only known Catholic Church built behind prison walls in the United States, possibly in the world.

The Church St. Dismas, the Good Thief, was constructed between 1939 and 1941. Construction of the church, named for the “good thief” who was crucified with Christ and asked to be remembered in paradise, was spearheaded by Father Ambrose Hyland, then chaplain at the facility, who was inspired to undertake the project after receiving a vision in a dream.

After clearing legal and administrative hurdles to obtain approval to build the facility, Father Hyland was tasked with gathering the materials and tradesman needed for construction.

Construction materials were obtained from local buildings that were abandoned or in disrepair, and from stones collected in the area. Other materials were donated, including red oak for pews that was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Deacon Frank Bushey pose with Clinton Correctional Facility inmates. Recently, the 14 inmates received Sacraments of Initiation.

Church inside prison walls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

donated by mobster Charles "Lucky" Luciano, a former inmate at the facility.

Two angel carvings, said to be rescued from Ferdinand Magellan's ship that sank in the 1500s, were donated by descendants of the Magellan family.

Much of the labor to build the church was performed by inmates, trained in the trades by correctional officers, volunteers and other inmates who came to the facility with those skills.

An inmate, incarcerated

for forgery, is said to have created the stained-glass windows, which also double as Stations of the Cross, after learning the trade from artisans sent to the prison to aid in the project. The inmate, Carmelo Soraci, is said to have used the faces of other inmate volunteers as the inspiration for the faces in the windows.

Soraci's work is said to have helped him secure an early release.

"It's really a beautiful church," said Deacon Frank Bushey, who serves as a chaplain at Clinton

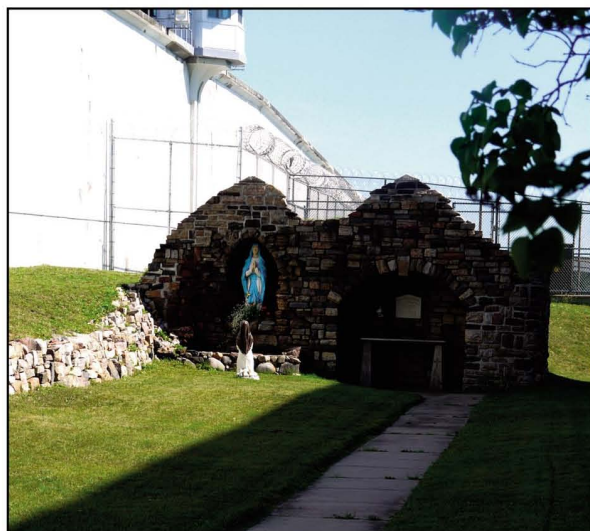
Correctional Facility. "And the vast majority of the population will never see it."

On the grounds around the church, inmates constructed a Grotto to Our Lady, a reproduction of the Grotto in Lourdes.

The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

The prison is currently maintained by an inmate crew, under the supervision of correctional staff.

"It's the best job in the prison," said one inmate on the crew. "We get to do something important."



(Above) A recreation of the Grotto to Our Lady at Lourdes sits below a watchtower just outside St. Dismas, The Good Thief, the church built inside Clinton Correctional Facility. (Below) Stained glass Stations of the Cross were created by an inmate during church construction. Other than Jesus and women, the faces of other individuals depicted in the windows are said to be representations of other inmates incarcerated during construction.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley pours the water of Baptism on an inmate at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. Fourteen inmates received sacraments at the prison in a recent ceremony.

Inmates receive sacraments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

grace and mercy, as well as the companions who help us along the journey, Bishop LaValley said.

Bishop LaValley prayed the inmates were open to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowl-

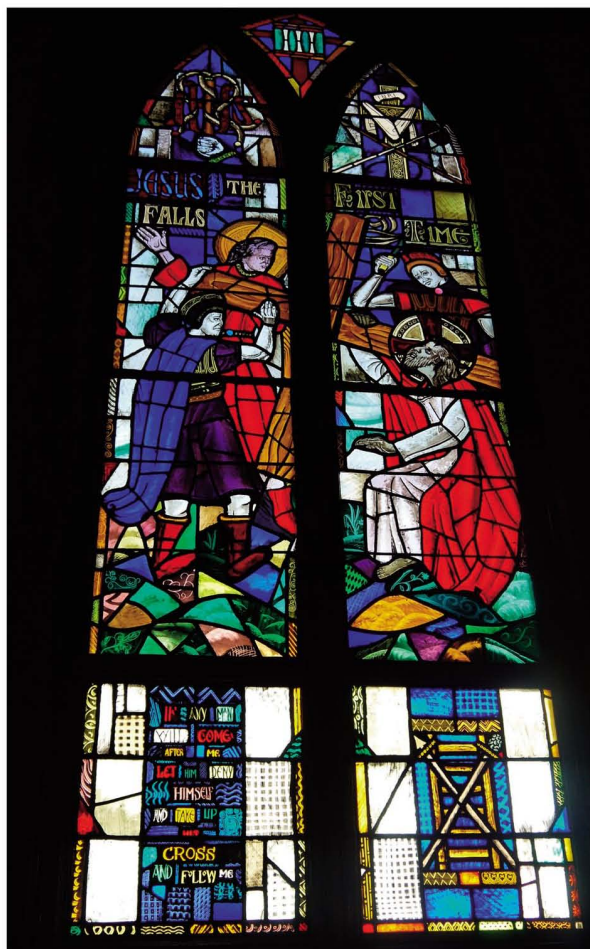
edge, piety, and fear of the Lord – and would receive those gifts and use them.

"Maybe the sacraments are glasses God gives us to help our vision," he said.

Deacon Bushey said seeing inmates work on their faith makes his work in

the facility worthwhile.

"Seeing inmates grow in their conversion experience, making positive change, and seeing the impact on their lives and their families is rewarding," he said. "Their receiving the sacraments is a new beginning for them."



Pro-lifers: N.Y. bill could make being pro-life 'a crime'

By Emily Benson
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Officials at the New York State Catholic Conference are calling the Reproductive Health Act "worse than we thought it would be."

"It foresees a time in New York where it's a crime to be pro-life," said Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities and the Catholic Action Network for the conference, which is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops.

The measure, introduced in the Legislature the week of Jan. 7, will expand access to abortion in the state, despite being promoted as simply codifying Roe v. Wade. It not only increases access to abortion across the board, including late-term abortions, but also goes beyond Roe, which left some limits in place.

The Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, is known as S. 240 in the state Senate and A. 21 in the state Assembly.

"The RHA is a great blow to the pro-life community," said Renee Morgiewicz, coordinator of Respect Life Ministry and parish services and for the Albany Diocese. "Many people in New York state have successfully held off the legislation for 12 years."

In the past, a bipartisan Legislature has helped keep the RHA at bay. With regard to life issues, so far, "the Republican Party has helped a lot with" supporting the pro-life agenda, said Morgiewicz. Now, with a Democratic majority in the state Senate, many pro-life issues are anticipated to take a big hit — particularly abortion.

"The fact that we've held this off for 12 years gives me great comfort," Gallagher told The Evangelist, newspaper of the Albany Diocese. "It means we've saved some human lives, and we saved women from anguish."

The measure is expected to pass within the first 30 days of the legislative session, as promised by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Dennis Poust, director of communications for the New York State Catholic Conference, said the numbers needed to prevent the bill from passing "just aren't there."

"The Assembly is overwhelmingly Democrat, and the governor is the one who has been proposing it. (Senate Democrats) ran on this and were swept into office, so they're not going to not pass it," he explained.

The bill refers to abortion as a "fundamental human right," which is cause for concern, said Gallagher. Because of the

strong language, the bill could be used to block religious organizations from advocating for life, or prevent doctors from abstaining from performing abortions on religious or moral grounds.

"A fundamental right' is a right that could supersede everything, even the right of conscience and religious freedom," said Morgiewicz.

The RHA also repeals the current state requirement that only a licensed physician can perform an abortion and repeals the current law that states third-trimester abortions can only be performed in cases where the mother's life is in danger.

Physicians and other health care practitioners in neighboring states that still hold strict laws on late-term abortions, such as Pennsylvania, could see this bill as "a green light" to come to the state for work, said Gallagher.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

Rest in Peace

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

- Jan. 16** — Msgr. James Alexander Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M.Conv., 1996
Jan. 17 — Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009
Jan. 18 — Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980
Jan. 19 — Rev. Benjamin Desroches O.M.I., 1908; Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974
Jan. 20 — Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Ponture, 1940
Jan. 21 — Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001
Jan. 22 — Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

- Upcoming sessions:
Jan. 16 — 3:30 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur
Jan. 24 — 7:30 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall at SUNY Potsdam
 Jan. 26 — 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Church, Port Henry

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-
 anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; 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

Environmental Stewardship

Did you ever wonder...?

As we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord this past Sunday, did you ever wonder about the quality of the water in the Jordan River in Jesus' time? The place of water as a symbol of life is both physical and spiritual. It not only cleanses us, refreshes us, renews us but we cannot live without it!

Throughout Scripture, beginning with the very dawn of creation we read that God's Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness.

In Exodus, God leads Israel to liberation from the slavery of Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea.

Isaiah, like Christ, invites all to drink the water of life. "Come, all you who thirst, come to the waters" (Isaiah 55:1).

The Bible speaks of living waters, of becoming a fountain of living water, of longing for running water, and of justice flowing as a mighty river.

Yet the Passionist priest, Thomas Berry, asks "How can anyone speak about the 'waters of life' if these waters can no longer sustain life? . . . if water is polluted it can neither be drunk nor used for baptism. Both in its physical reality and its psychic symbolism it is a source not of life but of death."

One in six people, most of whom live in Asia, Africa or Latin America, have no access to clean drinking water. Children die every day from diseases associated with a lack of clean water and sanitation.

Access to clean water would prevent 70 percent of water-related diseases. Even in our own country we witness the challenge of providing clean water to all people.

Look in your kitchen cabinet, garage or garden shed and see what chemicals are in your household cleaning supplies and lawn/garden care that can pollute our water.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Law pumps \$430 million into anti-human trafficking efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Nationwide efforts to confront human trafficking received a boost in the new year as President Donald Trump signed a bill reauthorizing federal expenditures for prevention and assistance programs across the federal government. The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act allows \$430 million in federal funds for trafficking prevention and education, victim protection and stronger government prosecution of traffickers through 2022. The president of the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking welcomed the Jan. 8 signing of the law, for which it had advocated with members of Congress. "This comprehensive bill allocates funding for a number of projects that address the acute need for increasing awareness across a variety of sectors, prevention efforts and services for victims of both commercial sex and forced labor trafficking," said Sister Anne Victory, a member of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, told Catholic News Service.

Nicaraguans face challenges heading to World Youth Day

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Many will make sacrifices to attend the upcoming World Youth Day in Panama in late January, but few compare to the challenges facing young Catholics in nearby Nicaragua as the country deals with political and economic upheaval, some of it involving violent clashes with government forces that have plagued the Central American nation since last year. "Some of the young Nicaraguans heading to (World Youth Day) have made extraordinary economic sacrifices, selling things, begging institutions for help, because it's a unique opportunity," said Israel Gonzalez Espinoza, a Nicaraguan journalist for Religion Digital, a Spanish-language online news site that focuses on the Catholic Church. The Jan. 22-27 gathering in Panama City will be the first time the event, first instituted in 1985, will be held in Central America and likely the only opportunity for many of the region's young adults and teens to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis. Past World Youth Day gatherings have taken place in Argentina, Spain, Poland, Brazil, the United States and other countries that have been cost-prohibitive to Central American youth, many who are now excited about their physical proximity to the upcoming celebration.

Life is a gift not meant to be manipulated, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Generously caring for the sick and the marginalized is the best way to combat a culture of waste and indifference that seeks to control and manipulate life, Pope Francis said. In his message for the World Day of the Sick, celebrated Feb. 11, the pope said that life is "a gift from God" that is "best suited to challenging today's individualism and social fragmentation. Precisely because it is a gift, human life cannot be reduced to a personal possession or private property, especially in the light of medical and biotechnological advances that could tempt us to manipulate the 'tree of life,'" the pope wrote in his message. The main Catholic celebration of the World Day of the Sick 2019 was scheduled for Kolkata, India, where Mother Teresa – who was canonized in 2016 – began her ministry serving the poor and the sick. St. Teresa of Kolkata, the pope said, "is a model of charity" whose service to the sick and the marginalized "remains for us today an eloquent witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor."

A global response to abuse: Work already underway

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – By summoning leaders of the world's bishops' conferences and top representatives of religious orders to the Vatican in February to address the abuse crisis and the protection of minors, Pope Francis is sending the message that the need for safeguarding is a global issue.

Even though media attention and public fallout for the church's failings have focused on a small group of nations, abuse experts and victims know that does not mean the rest of the world is immune from the scandal of abuse or can delay taking action to ensure the safety of all its members.

While Catholic leaders in some countries might not recognize it as a global issue, Vatican offices that receive abuse allegations have a "clear idea about what is the situation now because allegations come from all parts of the world," said Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, president of the Center for the Protection of Minors at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a member of the organizing committee for the February meeting.

Because the Catholic Church mandates that all credible allegations of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy must be sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, "we have one office that has to deal with all of this so, for the time being, we know what are the allegations that come from different parts of the world," he said.

Allegations coming in from the English- and German-speaking countries that have been the center of the abuse scandal for decades "have diminished considerably" because of the safeguarding measures that have been put in place, he told Catholic News Service in early January.

But in those countries where abuse has not been talked about in society and in the church until recently, he said, allegations are just beginning to surface.

The doctrinal congregation has never released statistics on the geographical distribution of the clerical sexual abuse cases reported to it; in the past, the congregation has published the total number of cases reported and the total number of priests expelled from the priesthood because of abuse.

The last figures published by the con-

gregation were for cases submitted to it in 2015. It said 518 cases involving "graviora delicta" ("more grave crimes") were submitted in 2015; the majority of those cases dealt with the sexual abuse of minors, including the possession of child pornography, but the category of "graviora delicta" also includes serious offenses against the sacraments.

What is not known, however, is the actual extent of abuse throughout society, Father Zollner said.

"There are no clear and no scientifically verified statistics for the prevalence of sexual abuse in societies worldwide. There are only estimates that range from 7 percent to 25 percent of all young people in a given society and, in some countries, it may be even much worse," he said.

However, because abuse is a global phenomenon, he said, the church – as a global network with people and institutions in every corner of the world – is perfectly positioned to be part of the solution.

In fact, while the February summit is being designed to bring church leadership together in solidarity, humility and dialogue and to strengthen their commitment to serving the most wounded and vulnerable, a very wide and global grassroots effort in safeguarding has been underway for years.

The Pontifical Gregorian University, the German Archdiocese of Munich and Freising and others established the Center for Child Protection in 2012.

"At the very beginning of the CCP, when we had only the e-learning program, the idea was to spread" its online studies in multiple languages and make them accessible "to the whole world," he said.

The center also reached out to other educational and academic institutions so that coursework in safeguarding would become part of the "normal curricula" for those studying psychology, social sciences, teaching or theology, said Father Zollner, who is also academic vice rector of the Gregorian University and dean of its Institute of Psychology.

The center has since developed a global alliance of organizations – starting with some pontifical and Catholic universities – who are committed to working with local experts and exchanging concrete information.

AT THE MOVIES

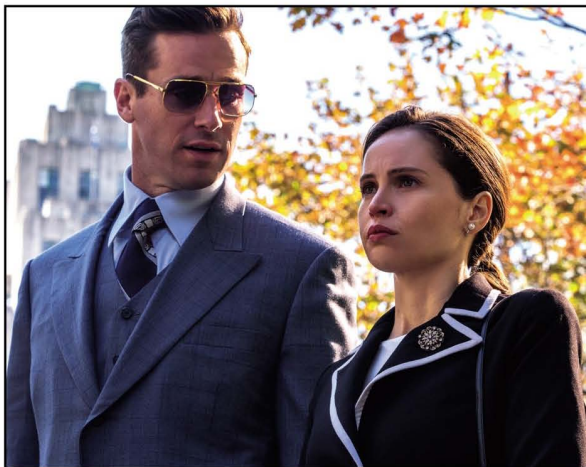
ON THE BASIS OF SEX

NEWYORK (CNS)— From "On the Basis of Sex" (Focus) one learns that even though a tax case may be destined to serve as a landmark for equal treatment under the law – as well as a breakthrough for future Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Felicity Jones) – it's nearly impossible to keep stodginess at bay.

When a film's dramatic highlight is not the big federal appeals court drama at the end, but rather the preceding moot-court scene as the lawyers prepare, it had better have some compelling dialogue and performances. This film does not.

However, director Mimi Leder and screenwriter Daniel Stiepleman (Ginsburg's nephew) have ameliorated these deficiencies somewhat through discussions of legal morality and government lawyers harumphing about "radical social change." For a tax-law drama, it's adequate.

Midway through, Mel Wulf (Justin Theroux), the



CNS PHOTO/FOCUS

Armie Hammer and Felicity Jones star in a scene from the movie "On the Basis of Sex."

legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, snaps at Ginsburg, "Morality does not win the day, look around you!" Later, as she prepares her arguments – the delivery of which she eventually shared with her husband, Martin, played by Armie Hammer – Mel exhibits his own latent chauvinism by inquiring, "Would it kill you to smile?"

Moral courage does, of

course, prevail, and the film is an unapologetically heroic narrative correct in its historical details even when the dialogue lurches into wooden cliches, lacking only a college fight song to pump up emotion at its conclusion. There are no elements definitively precluding mature adolescents, although they're likely to regard the film more as a homework assignment than a piece of

entertainment.

Ginsburg, who is shown on the receiving end of withering male condescension at Harvard Law School and later at the ACLU, where she worked as counsel after finding that no law firms would hire her, is also portrayed as an immaculate wife and mother. She nurses Martin through a cancer scare in law school and also attends his classes as well as her own, later raising a son and a daughter.

Her breakthrough case was 1972's *Moritz v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, in which a Colorado man, Charles E. Moritz (Chris Mulkey), appealed a Tax Court ruling that he was not entitled to a deduction for expenses for the care of his invalid mother.

Government lawyers took the position that Moritz, because he was an unmarried single man, couldn't take the deduction because it was limited to a woman, whether widowed or divorced, or a husband whose wife was incapacitated. Inequality

on the basis of sex was enshrined in all manner of laws at the time, and these were still the days when a wife could only get a credit card in her husband's name.

By taking on the case of a man denied equal protection under the law, Ginsburg didn't have to wade into the thicket of equal rights for women and could advance her cause through incremental rulings.

The story of her role in the case, retold many times in different venues, continues to inspire. This version of it, however, may feel a bit like cramming for a final exam.

The film contains a scene of marital sensuality, at least one use of profanity, a couple of milder oaths, a single rough and several crude 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.

ALSO SHOWING

The Favourite

Catholic News Services

This costume comedy-drama, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, purports to tell the true story of a royal love triangle involving 18th-century British monarch Queen Anne (Olivia Colman) and two of the women in her life: Lady Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough (Rachel Weisz), and Sarah's ambitious cousin, Abigail Hill (Emma Stone).

Playing fast and loose with the facts, and assuming the close friendships recorded by history were actually passionate lesbian romances, the film ramps up the sex, vulgarity and scheming in a perverse spin on the 1950 classic "All

About Eve" as Sarah, a veritable puppeteer telling the sovereign what to say and do, is challenged by Abigail, a devious woman who has fallen on hard times and whose veneer of innocence masks her determination to restore her station in society, whatever the cost. Strong sexual content, including homosexual activity, full nudity and masturbation, adult themes, occasional profane and rough language.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Returning to Ordinary Time with a miracle

With last Sunday's celebration of Jesus' baptism by John, the Christmas season is now complete. We now have five Sundays of "ordinary time."

Today's Gospel is all about Jesus' first miracle, his changing of water into wine at a wedding. What was Jesus doing at a wedding? Quite probably the bride and groom were friends or relatives of Mary and Joseph. The village of Cana wasn't that far from Nazareth.

Jesus had already cho-

sen his disciples and was about to show them His "glory," as John mentions.

Someone obviously slipped up on the supply of wine for the seven-day celebration, and Jesus' mother is sympathetic with the newlyweds for the embarrassment this will cause them. When she mentions this to Jesus, he seems quite indifferent.

Some scholars see in the text of his reply what is actually a question, "Has my hour come?" In a flash, both Jesus and



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

January 20

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Mary discern a new relationship between them. It is now Jesus' turn to give the orders! In any case, as soon as Mary tells the waiters, "Do whatever he asks," Jesus asserts full authority, and performs a miracle that dramatically relieves the situation!

At the same time, in the changing of water into wine, the church sees tremendous spiritual

meaning. The fullness of Jesus' "hour" will occur on the Cross, when He will provide the wine of salvation to all people.

For the present, however, his disciples witness the glory foretold in today's first reading by Isaiah. This is written at the time of Israel's release from captivity in Babylon. They have made up for their former infidelity, and Isaiah proclaims that "nations shall behold your vindication and all the kings your glory." Of course, they have to wait a few hundred years for that to happen.

The second reading today from Paul's first let-

ter to the Corinthians states that the Holy Spirit has distributed to all those baptized in Jesus many gifts. Some have received the gift of wisdom, others the gift of faith, still others have received the gift of healing. Why? So that all of us who proclaim to be followers of Jesus may show forth the glory of the Messiah, and so give to others the reason to believe in their salvation through Christ.

Christmas may be over, but the Epiphany, or showing forth of Jesus to the world, has just begun for us in the new year.

Marking a new year for the church

The following editorial, provided by Catholic News Services, was authored and originally presented by Our Sunday Visitor, a weekly Catholic publication based in Huntington, Indiana. It was written by the editorial board.

Even in a divided church, one can find a high degree of unified support for the idea that 2019 shouldn't be a year of "business as usual" for the Catholic Church. In fact, most would probably say that this isn't even an option. The revelations related to clergy sexual abuse that resurged in 2018 – and that are very likely to continue for the foreseeable future – point to the need for deep cultural renewal in the church.

This week we hold up the values necessary to ensure that the church finds renewal in the New Year and beyond. Such a

church must be:

Responsive: For the progress made in 2018 to continue and deepen, the church must be ever more responsive as it faces allegations from survivors and calls from people – both laypeople in the pews and society at large – to be better. This responsiveness should replace a culture of treating the needs and rights of non-ordained people as second-tier concerns or afterthoughts.

Transparent: Transparency needs to replace a culture of secrecy in the life of the church. The value of "avoiding scandal" as it traditionally has been understood and applied in abuse cases has outlived its once-perceived value. As the church reckons with all of the historical cases of abuse and administrative malfeasance that have come and will come to light, it must find a way to make processes more

transparent so that individuals at least have the assurance that a complaint has been registered, heard and is making its way through a juridical process.

Accountable: A more responsive and transparent church will be one on its way to being more accountable to all of God's people. Beneath much of people's pain and outrage amidst the horrors we have seen this last year has been the reality that the players involved were seemingly accountable to no one.

The beauty of these transitions is that they will bear fruit also in areas of the church's life that have nothing to do with clergy sexual abuse of minors. Even in 2018, we saw flashes of a church that is responsive to people's cries when its leaders fall short in other ways. We have seen laypeople no longer willing to accept a

"stony" response as a default reaction from authorities regarding lapses in pastoral care.

In a 2017 interview with Our Sunday Visitor, Teresa Kettelkamp, former head of the U.S. bishops' Child and Youth Protection office and now a full member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, spoke rather prophetically – months before the #MeToo movement and almost a year before the Archbishop McCarrick scandal – about why the church's abuse safeguards must extend beyond just children and beyond sexual misconduct.

"I want the church to be safe for me. I want the church to be safe for the elderly and the vulnerable," Kettelkamp said. "Treating people with respect, treating people with love and compassion, treating people as Jesus would want you to treat

them – that's all part of the package."

A church that vests itself in responsiveness, transparency and accountability will be able to meet the needs not only of the Body of Christ as a whole but of a world that desperately needs the Gospel.

The views presented in this guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For a New or Used Car

Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

CHEVROLET

CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – The Knights of Columbus will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: Feb. 3

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free

FISHERS CLUB

Plattsburgh – The Lakesides Fishers Club, a group for high school juniors and older men who are discerning their vocations, will meet.

Date: Feb. 3 & 17, March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21, May 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Upper Room

Features: Join for discernment, evening prayer & dinner.

Contact: Father Douglas Lucia, dlucia@rcdony.org, or Father Howard Venette, hvenette@gmail.com, or just drop in.

CLOTHES, SHOES DONATIONS

Plattsburgh – Drop unwanted clothes, shoes, sheets, blankets, bedspreads, towels, curtains and stuffed animals in our BLUE drop box.

Place: Seton Catholic

Features: Seton receive 5 cents per pound of donations. You can also donate cans and bottles in our redemption box.

JEFFERSON

PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Watertown – A day of prayer and penance to be held called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children."

Date: Jan. 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

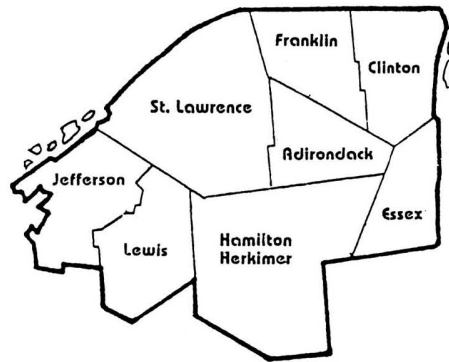
Features: Hour of prayer conducted by Deacon Kevin Mastellon. Please join us as we pray for an end to all forms of violence and legal protection for the sanctity of all human life, particularly those who are most vulnerable, the unborn, disabled and the elderly.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Watertown – Special presentation to be held about Human Trafficking.

Date: Jan. 27

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30



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.

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Hospitality Center
Speakers: Salka Valerio, Case Worker at Crime Victim Assistance Center, Binghamton and a Victim of Trafficking; Victoria Recore, Parent of a Trafficked Victim, Watertown

Features: For all who are concerned with the safety of our youth. Event is free and open to the public.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: Jan. 31

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

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8, Children, \$4.50; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Indian River Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

Date: Feb. 2

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

WINTER GALA

Carthage – 15th Annual winter gala to be held for Augustinian Academy.

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Elk's Club

Cost: \$40 per person or \$70 per couple

Features: Silent Auction, dinner and dancing.

Contact: Call the school for tickets at 315-493-1301. www.bit.ly/CAA-Gala

LEWIS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Jan. 17 and Feb. 21

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet for Souls, and benediction. If inclement weather, service will be cancelled and not rescheduled.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To pray for vocations and world peace, all are invited to join us in morning prayer, Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration.

ST. LAWRENCE

CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS

Massena – 13 Week Study program to be held about Catholicism: The Pivotal

Players.

Date: Stats Jan. 13

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 or 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Facilitated by Father Scott Belina, St. Peter's Parish will offer a beautifully produced 13-week series presented by Bishop Robert Barron exploring the lives of saints, scholars, artists and mystics.

Contact: Parish Office at 315-769-2469

BLESSED IS SHE WORKSHOP

Norwood – Blessed is she workshop to be held for any woman interested in learning more about faith.

Date: Jan. 27

Time: Noon

Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall

Features: "Woman, Know Thyself-Life Lessons from St. Edith Stein" Workshop. Learn about the life of St. Edith Stein and the lessons she has to teach us as Catholic women. Light snacks will be served.

Contact: For more information, please contact Sara LaPoint at 315-212-7565 (call/text) or narrow56@gmail.com.

GALA

Gouverneur – Save the date for the St. James Gala.

Date: Feb. 9

Features: Join us for a taste of "The Sweet Life" in rich Tuscan style. The Italian themed dinner will be presented by chef Joe Pistolesi and family.

Contact: Tickets will be available Jan. 1 from any Gala Gal or by calling 315-287-0130

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DAY OF PRAYER

Day of prayer and fasting to be held for legal protection of unborn children.

Date: Jan. 22

Features: In all the Dioceses of the United States, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. "As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer and fasting.

Contact: Resources are available here: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer->

andworship/ resources/january-22-day-of-prayer-leaderresources.cfm

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce groups to be held for 12 weeks.

Schedule: Jan. 22 at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown and Jan. 24 at St. Peter's Parish in Massena

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Features: The Surviving Divorce Program offers support and healing for people who are separated or divorced.

Contact: Contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org. To register go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorce-support-group.html>

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Norfolk – Save the date for a day long women's retreat.

Date: May 4

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: \$20, includes lunch

Features: Presenter will be Edwina Gateley on the topic of "Soul Sisters: Women called to connect, bond and heal in a broken world."

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT

Ottawa – The Annual New Evangelization Summit will take place in Ottawa.

Date: May 4, 2019.

Cost: Free

Features: The speakers for this year will be Father James Mallon, Cardinal Gerald C. Lacroix, Michael Dopp, Father John Bielawski, Michelle Thompson and Michelle Moran.

Registration will not officially open until February 2019, but Office of the New Evangelization would like to reserve a block of seats for participants from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. In a change from previous years, this year the New Evangelization Summit will be a one-day event.

Contact: If you are at all interested in attending this one-day summit, please contact Marika Donders, Director of the New Evangelization at mdonders@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 so we can keep you updated.



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@rcdomy.org

Hope for all in 2019

2019 has arrived. We are over two weeks into the new year already. Truly by now, it is understandable that many of you have made resolutions, plans and changes in your lives. The world continues to be in state of uncertain unrest. There continues to be war, a persistence of incivility, refugee crisis and global economic strife. Christ calls us to a mission of prayer and sacrifice. Leaders are calling on us for a dialogue of peace. As we respond to the calls for prayer and peace, the word hope can become our guidebook and roadmap in the days and months ahead.

As people of faith and children of Christ, we have no doubt in the word "hope." Hope and faith can go hand in hand. It is our calling to have both.

As we see the pain of hopelessness in so many, we see human fragility. Our media, both social and on the television, portray a world that needs our help, that needs our hope, that needs our prayers. It merits a response. The world view of life at times offers us places where it might seem hope can find no home. How do we as Catholics respond to this call? Hope and faith.

A major part of our faith as we support the missions is the discovery that the more impossible hope appears to be, human resilience shines through. Our hope and support of the missions becomes the place where light shines in the darkness and deprivation. This year, by decree of Pope Francis, we will call on the world to be ready. Ready not only for hope and faith and joy. But we are going to be calling on the world to extraordinary missionaries. There is more to come on the light-filled and joyful event.

Hope is the very life of God. It is great comfort and consolation to know that God hopes. God hopes eternally and passionately for the whole world. God hopes lovingly for each and every single human being. God's hope is in our prayers for peace. He believes that we do good deeds to bring about peace in the hearts of individuals and to bring joy to the world.

We are two weeks into the New year. It is my hope that we will find the peace and moreover the civility that does exist in the heart of each of us.

I pray that through a universal missionary spirit that the human race will turn to God for their salvation. Let us pray and hope for peace, love, tranquility and above all, forgiveness. We should strive for forgiveness. We need to find and achieve a remission of sin that blocks our true relationship with God. Let us all pray for hope. God is good and our world is so great. We have so much to be hopeful for. Indeed, we have the love of God and the hope for a new day.

OBITUARIES

Altona — Lorraine D. (Rabideau) LaFountain, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2019 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton — Darwin A. Dunn, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton — Hazel Pearl Durant, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

Hogansburg — Bruce Johnson, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2019 at St. Regis Church.

Hopkinton — Donna F. (Bronchetti) Adams, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2019 at Holy Cross Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Parishville.

Houseville — Theresa (Proulx) Rosiczkowski, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2019 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Lyon Mountain — Rita L. (Durocher) Kourofsky, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 4, 2019 at St. Bernard's Church.

Malone — Debra L. (Ashlaw) Demarse, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2019 at Notre Dame Church.

Malone — Shirley M. (Perry) Mitchell, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Shirley M. (Brown) Daggett, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2019 at the Donaldson Funeral Home burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Norma Louise Jock, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2019 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesansne.

Morrisonville — Bernard A. Barber, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville — Chauncey M. Dragoon, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Carl D. Hobbs, 92; Mass

of Christian burial Jan. 9, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh — Audrey M. (Bedard) Manor, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam — Sara A. Jandreau, 39; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in West Stockholm Cemetery.

Waddington — Armedia L. (Jenkins) Clookey, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2019 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown — Ronald E. Booth, 65; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2019 at the Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

Watertown — Agnes Elizabeth Flynn Keegan, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Barbara (Dyer) Corron, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Bishop: Secure border and treat migrants humanely

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Securing borders and humane treatment of those fleeing persecution and seeking a better life "are not mutually exclusive," the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration said.

"The United States can ensure both and must do so without instilling fear or sowing hatred," Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, said in statement.

He called on President Donald Trump and leaders of Congress to come up with a solution that addresses the border, ends the partial government shutdown and at the same time "protects the sanctity of human life" by recognizing the dignity of all people regardless of their

immigration status and those federal employees suffering a loss of pay because of the shutdown, now well into its third week.

"We will continue to advocate for immigration reform to advance the common good and address these issues," Bishop Vasquez said.

He urged Trump and congressional lawmakers, led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and Senate Minority leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, to come together to come up with a solution.

Trump has said he won't agree to any measure to reopen the government unless it has the funding he wants. Pelosi and

Schumer said they will not put forward any bill that would include such funding.

In his statement, Bishop Vasquez highlighted what Pope Francis often says about migrants, that they "are not statistics, but persons with feelings that need ongoing protection."

"From our work serving immigrant and refugees along the U.S.-Mexico border, in the interior of the United States and throughout the world, we know this to be true," he said. "We urge lawmakers to look beyond rhetoric and remember the human dignity that God our Father has given each and every one of us — simply because we are all his children."

DOVS celebrate vocation efforts with luncheon

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

NORWOOD—Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) gathered Jan. 9 with priests, deacons and religious sisters from around the diocese for the group's Epiphany Luncheon.

Diocesan Vocations Coordinator Cathy Russell said the event is intended to thank those individuals who are living their vocations in service to the faithful.

"Our invitation today is a small token of gratitude," she said. "May God continue to bless each of you in many countless ways that you so faithfully live out your vocation."

The event included social time over hors d'oeuvres, a luncheon and a presentation by Father Douglas J. Lucia, vocations director for the diocese, as well as a greeting from Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Grace was said by the DOVS' chaplain, Father John L. Downs.

Father Lucia started by reviewing "the state of vocations" for the diocese, specifically as it relates to those discerning vocations to the priesthood.

He said the diocese currently has ten seminarians, spread out between Mount St. Mary Seminary in Maryland, Christ the King Seminary in Western New York, and Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio.



Father John L. Downs, better known as "Father Jack," leads Grace before lunch at the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society's Epiphany Luncheon.

Father Lucia said he felt the work of the DOVS coincides with a meditation he read in The Word Among Us that reflected upon the Gospel for Friday, Jan. 4, as John the Baptist introduced Andrew and Peter to Jesus with "just a word, a suggestion, a nudge."

"Those first few paragraphs (of the meditation) describe what DOVS really all about - helping other people encounter Jesus; bringing them to Jesus," Father Lucia said.

Father Lucia went on to

describe how he recently attended a statewide discernment retreat with men from the diocese.

"Our whole purpose was to invite them to come be with the Lord," Father Lucia said, noting the retreat also gave men discerning a vocation to the priesthood the opportunity to interact with current seminarians.

The retreat included an overnight period of silence, as well as opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration.

"The next morning, they all talked about having that privilege of just being introduced to Jesus and just being allowed to be with him," Father Lucia said. "That's what we want to continue to do in our diocese."

Father Lucia said the diocese is looking to potentially add a summer



Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society gathered with priests, deacons and religious sisters from around the diocese for the group's annual Epiphany Luncheon on Jan. 9.

discernment retreat and additional Fishers Club and Operation Miriam opportunities.

Father Lucia concluded by thanking the priests, deacons, religious and DOVS members for continuing to introduce people to Jesus.

Bishop LaValley echoed those sentiments, reflecting on the DOVS' connection to the message at the Bishops' retreat held in early January.

"The retreat director, Preacher to the Papal Household, asked the bishops to reflect upon the image of the shepherd - how the shepherd goes after the one lost; the one astray," he said. "He made a very telling insight when he said, you know, more and more today, there's the one that remains and the 99 who stray. We're challenged us to be fishers of men - not just the folks who nurture the one who stays. We need to have a big net."

Bishop LaValley said we, as Christians, are called to reach out to people from all walks of life.

"We cannot allow our-

selves to be totally exclusive of others who may see the world different from us," he said. "We need to understand, we are all made in God's image and likeness."

Bishop LaValley said the DOVS are doing that work "in the trenches."

"You're letting folks know that Christ has found a home in you, and nothing is the same after," he said. "We continue to nurture our own relationships with Jesus, and we are unafraid to give witness to that in our parishes, the supermarket, the mall, or wherever we find ourselves."

Bishop LaValley said he's grateful for that work.

"Just be aware of the importance of your witness and how much your bishop values and appreciates your participation in this ministry," he said. "It's important, and it's much appreciated. We're always looking for more members, but we have a super core here. God is good. Let's convince through our lives and invite through our attitudes those 99 who are astray

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