

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Marchers take to the streets of Plattsburgh for life | PAGE 3

N.Y. bishops express sadness over abortion act | PAGE 4

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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 23, 2019

Bishop clarifies stance on victims act

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FULL STORY, PAGE 4

MARCHING FOR LIFE



Diocese of Ogdensburg youth Isabella Rondon, Makayla Weber, Grace Aubertine, Theresa VanWormer, Tori Mallette, Olivia Acostamadiedo, Shacoria Jackson and Malia Byard were among the over 100,000 who attended the March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday.

VOCATIONS RETREAT



Paul and Samantha Poulin discuss marriage as a vocation with diocesan middle school students at a fall vocations retreat held at Camp Guggenheim. The youth learned about vocations and discernment, hearing from a priest, religious sisters, a married couple and an engaged couple.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

Pope: Lord's Prayer is reaching out for love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – To pray well, people need to have the heart of a child – a child who feels safe and loved in a father's tender embrace, Pope Francis said.

If people have become estranged from God, feel lonely, abandoned or have realized their mistakes and are paralyzed by guilt, "we can still find the strength to pray" by starting with the word, "Father," pronounced with the tenderness of a child, he said.

No matter what problems or feelings a person is experiencing or the mistakes someone has made, God "will not hide his face. He will not close himself up in silence. Say, 'Father,' and he will answer," the pope said Jan. 16 during his weekly general audience.

After greeting the thousands of faithful gathered in the Paul VI audience hall, the pope continued his series of talks on the Lord's Prayer, reflecting on the Aramaic term, "Abba,"

which Jesus uses to address God, the father.

"It is rare Aramaic expressions do not get translated into Greek in the New Testament," which shows how special, important and nuanced "Abba" is in reflecting the radical and new relationship God has with his people, the pope said.

St. Paul, he said, wrote to the Romans that they were now "children of God, for you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you

received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'"

Jesus teaches his disciples that "Christians can no longer consider God a tyrant to be feared," but instead feel a sense of trust growing in their hearts in which they can "speak to the creator, calling him 'Father,'" the pope said.

The term "Abba," the pope said, "is something much more intimate and moving than simply calling God, 'father.'" It is an

endearing term, somewhat like "dad," "daddy" or "papa."

Even though the Lord's Prayer has been translated using the more formal term, "Father," "we are invited to say, 'papa,' to have a rapport with God like a child with his or her papa."

Whatever term used, it is meant to inspire and foster a feeling of love and warmth, he said, like a child would feel in the full embrace of a tender father.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It's brave to stand against a culture

I was a young child, probably 6 or 7, when my paternal grandmother took my sisters and I – three girls within a two-year age range (I'm a twin, our sister is two years older than us) – to the March for Life in the nation's capital.

My grandmother was either brave or crazy to travel on a bus with three young girls for ten hours and try to monitor our movements in a

crowd of that size.

If she was crazy, I'd like to think she was the best kind of crazy.

I hadn't thought about that experience in years. I thought of it this week as I saw the youth, young adults, chaplains and chaperones from our diocese posting photos and videos of their March for Life experience on social media Friday and Saturday.

Darcy L.
Fargo

Our diocesan marchers, as well as those from around the nation who gathered in Washington, DC, and in cities, villages and towns around the U.S. united their voices on behalf of those who have no voice to seek an end to the killing of innocents. They did this amid a culture that has embraced that killing and suggests they're anti-woman or anti-choice. They did this as our own state is likely to allow more health practitioners to provide abortions and re-

move restrictions on late-term abortions.

Like my grandmother, these marchers are the best kind of crazy. It takes boldness and bravery to speak against a culture.

We have an opportunity to add our voices to theirs by showing support for the Respect Life collection this weekend. Our support helps youth and young adults attend the march, and it helps fund Gabriel Projects and other efforts to support life around the diocese.

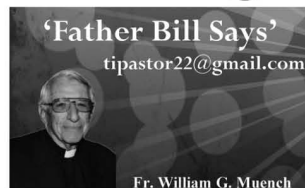
Sacraments bring us blessing, support

Our Catholic Church liturgical year ended the Christmas Season with the celebration of the meaningful feast in honor of the Baptism of the Lord. On that Sunday, the Gospel reading reminded us of the words of John the Baptist, who said Jesus would come with Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, and that all who received this Baptism of Jesus must live well as baptized people. This Sunday is a celebration of the Baptism that all Catholics receive.

On this year's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I watched a television coverage of Pope Francis leading a Mass and a celebration of Baptism. On that day, he baptized nearly one hundred babies in the Sistine Chapel. It was certainly his way of highlighting the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism.

St. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus as our Messiah who will baptize in the Holy Spirit and fire. Baptism blesses and celebrates a new birth. This is truly being born again in the Lord sacramentally.

Sacraments are the life of our Catholic faith. Through our sacraments, we are



Fr. William G. Muench

united in love and faith with our God at each moment of life. The sacraments of our church bring blessing and support to our life as disciples of Jesus. Let us take a moment to remember our other sacraments.

Confirmation: our sacrament that celebrates our decision to live well as disciples of Jesus. In Confirmation, we choose to live as Jesus taught us, and we find support and blessing to meet all of life's challenges.

Penance: the sacrament that celebrates God's forgiving love and helps us to meet God's challenges so that we can change all that will make our lives what they should be. In this sacrament we find God's blessing for our times of conversion.

Holy Eucharist: our sacrament that celebrates life – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In the reception of this sacrament, we find new life and love through our union with the

Lord, just as Jesus united himself with his apostles at the Last Supper.

Marriage and Ordination: these sacraments bless and support those entering in the vocations of marriage and priesthood and gives the Lord's constant support to live out all challenges in these vocations.

Anointing of the Sick a sacrament that bring the church's blessing and anointing of the blessed oil to support and strengthen with the power of the Lord for all seriously ill, especially those close to death.

Catholic sacraments are special rituals – rich with meaning and sometimes symbolism – to guide us, to teach us and to show us the way, bringing the power and love of our God in a special way into our lives and at every time of life. Each sacrament challenges us to live well as followers of Jesus.

Our sacraments use the things of this world. The primary symbol of Baptism is water – water that celebrates the new life that comes in Baptism and challenges us to recognize our place in creation. Water is the most precious substance on our

planet; without water, no life. No other planet has water – and so no life. We are the blessed people in God's creation. We are the whole show. We are the heart and soul of creation. We are saved – a holiness celebrated in Baptism. Our life must be meaningful; we are baptized.

One other symbol to mention to you in Baptism is the formal presentation of a person's name. That name, that gift from our parents, separates us completely from all other people. I want to share with you a story that seems to fit in here. This is a fifty-year-old story for me. I have been telling this story ever since it happened. I was a young priest standing on the steps of St. Andrew's Church here in town, and a young boy (I wonder where he is now) came riding by on his bike. I shouted, "Hi, Champ." I remember him looking back at me and he said, "My name is John." He wanted me to realize how special he was.

We are a sacramental church. Our sacraments are our prayers and our life. The sacraments unite us to the Lord through our Catholic Church.



SHAWN RYAN/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Freezing temperatures and icy sidewalks didn't stop the March for Life in Plattsburgh on Jan. 13.

Marchers take to the streets of Plattsburgh for Life

By Shawn Ryan
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – A hardy handful of the faithful braved temperatures that just barely cracked double digits, taking to the Plattsburgh streets to march in the annual March For Life on Jan. 13.

The marchers left from the Blessed John XXIII Newman Center and traveled wind-swept, ice covered sidewalks to St. John's Church, where they met up with dozens more who had come for the annual Benediction in support of the Pro-Life movement. The event, which featured songs and prayers, was led by Deacon Jack M. Lukasiewicz, Chairman of Champlain Valley Right to Life, at Our Lady of Victory Church.

In his keynote talk, Lukasiewicz focused on the uniqueness of each life, and how that uniqueness starts at day one.



SHAWN RYAN/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Deacon Jack M. Lukasiewicz leads a prayer service and Benediction as part of March for Life at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh.

"Pro-life is pro-science," said Lukasiewicz. "Life begins at fertilization; at day one. These are scientific facts. Our uniqueness and individualities begins at day one."

Deacon Lukasiewicz went on to explain why he's so passionate about the issue.

"There have been 60 million unborn babies since Rowe versus Wade; 60 million songs of love and life that will never be

sung. We were made to be fruitful and multiply. Instead we subtract, divide and fractionalize. That is why I March for Life. I've made this my mission."

After the Benediction and closing song led by the St. John's Choir, those in attendance met at the parish center for refreshments, and a much-needed reprieve before heading back out to brave the frigid North Country weather once again.

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Bishop clarifies position on victims act

Bishop Terry R. LaValley would like to set the record straight on his position on the Child Victims Act. "There is a lot of misunderstanding about where the New York State bishops stand on the various versions of the Child Victims Act," said Bishop LaValley. "Over the last decade, the New York State Catholic Conference, which represents the bishops of New York, worked with politicians on both sides of the aisle to propose the elimination of the criminal statute of limitations for the sexual abuse of minors. Additionally, we bishops have supported raising the statute of limitations for civil lawsuits in cases involving the sexual abuse of a minor," said Bishop LaValley.

"The widely reported notion that the Catholic Church has opposed all provisions contained in the various versions of the Child Victims Act is simply not accurate," said

Bishop LaValley. Recently Cardinal Timothy Dolan wrote about the Child Victims Act in an op-ed piece in the Daily News. He noted that the New York bishops feel it is important to make the Child Victims Act focus on healing and helping survivors of child sexual abuse. Elimination of the criminal statutes of limitations and the conditions precedent of notices of claim for civil claims against public entities are a

big step in helping survivors, and the bishops have supported and continue to support these measures. The bishops have also supported requiring background checks and safe environment training as part of the Act. "We are doing these things in the Church already," said Bishop LaValley.

It is true, there have

been some provisions in the proposed legislation that the bishop's have opposed. The first is the inclusion of a "window" that would revive claims that are currently barred by the statute of limitations. Opposition to the revival of claims has been based on the fact that after the passage of time it can be difficult or impossible for an institution that employed an accused abuser to get to the truth, and it is hard to achieve justice in such circumstances.

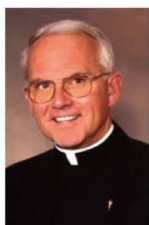
"Litigation is not easy on the survivors or the accused, especially after the passage of decades," said Bishop LaValley. "The eight dioceses of New York have all undertaken reconciliation and compensation programs to help victims heal." State-wide, these programs have paid out more than \$200 million

dollars to more than 1,000 victims, with some cases going back 60 years. "The compensation programs have worked well," said Bishop LaValley. "In our diocese we had 39 victims participate and all of them accepted the compensation offered. Many reported that the program brought them healing and peace. The programs were not adversarial like litigation is. It is a much better approach."

The bishops also opposed the fact that most proposed versions of the Child Victims Act do not include all victims. This remains the case. "If the law is going to include a window to revive claims, it should revive all claims," Bishop LaValley explained. The bishops point out that under Gov. Cuomo's current proposal, lifting the statute of limitations will allow time barred claims to be brought against private organizations, but not against public or govern-

mental organizations. "The proposed legislation we have seen in the past did not retroactively remove the requirement of a notice of claim. Under those circumstances, a victim abused by a teacher in a private school could bring a claim, but a student abused by a teacher in a public school could not," said Bishop LaValley. "We have to ensure that any legislation provides equal justice for all victims."

"Child sexual abuse is a terrible crime. The bishops of New York have taken great steps to eliminate this evil from the Church over the past 20 years, and we have seen documented success," said Bishop LaValley. "We have reached out to victims to offer healing and compensation. We have shown great concern to victims. We will support any legislation that protects young people, gives them justice, and includes all victims."



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

N.Y. bishops express sadness over abortion bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — A proposed abortion law for New York state that would allow more health practitioners to provide abortion and remove all state restrictions on late-term abortions "is not progress" as lawmakers argue, said New York's Catholic bishops.

"The so-called 'Reproductive Health Act' will expand our state's already radically permissive law," they said in a statement released Jan. 17. "With an abortion rate that is already double the national average, New York law is moving in the wrong direction."

They said "words are in-

sufficient to describe the profound sadness we feel at the contemplated passage" of the measure. "We mourn the unborn infants who will lose their lives, and the many mothers and fathers who will suffer remorse and heartbreak as a result," they said.

"We renew our pledge to offer the resources and services of our charitable agencies and health services to any woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, to support her in bearing her infant, raising her family or placing her child for adoption," the bishops said. "There are life-affirming choices available, and we aim to

make them more widely known and accessible."

The Albany-based New York State Catholic Conference, which is the public policy arm of the bishops, released the statement on behalf of: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany; Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn; Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo; Bishop Terry R. LaValley of Ogdensburg; Bishop Salvatore R. Matano of Rochester; Bishop John O. Barres of Rockville Centre; Bishop Robert J. Cunningham of Syracuse; and the state's auxiliary and retired bishops.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is Catholic, and legislative leaders "hail this new abortion law as progress. This is not progress," the bishops said. "Progress will be achieved when our laws and our culture once again value and respect each unrepeatable gift of human life, from the first moment of creation to natural death. Would that not make us truly the most enlightened and progressive state in the nation?"

Introduced in the Legislature the week of Jan. 7, the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, is known as S. 240 in the state Senate and A. 21 in the state Assem-

bly. It is expected to pass within the first 30 days of the legislative session, as promised by 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 told The Evangelist, Albany's diocesan newspaper, in a recent interview.

AT THE MARCH FOR LIFE



COLLEEN MINER/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) IHC students Heather Luffman, Lauren Chamberlain, Marialena Mouaikel and Dominic Duah conduct an interview with Fox News correspondent Rachel Campos-Duffy at the March for Life in Washington, DC. (Right) Youth traveling with the diocesan Youth Buses for Life attended the Life is Very Good Mass and rally as part of the March for Life festivities.

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www.rcdony.org/pro-life

Environmental Stewardship

Human trafficking and environmental refugees

As Catholics we know January as Pro-Life month. This month in the U.S. has also been designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Did you know that there are more slaves now in the world than when we freed the slaves in this country in 1860s? Some of the effects of the change in climate, i.e. more frequent tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, rising sea levels, droughts increase the number of people at risk of being trafficked for sex or labor. In June 2014, the number of refugees worldwide exceeded 50 million children, women and men. Half of these refugees are children who get separated from their families during disasters. Today analysts predict that this crisis in the making will affect 150-200 million men, women and children by 2050, or roughly one in every 45 persons on earth.

What makes this situation even worse from a moral and ethical perspective is that it is the poorest countries, those least responsible for greenhouse emissions causing climate change, that are bearing the greatest burden and are the first to deal with forced migration. Moreover, as is the case in most of the poorest countries, those living in rural areas who depend on climate-sensitive resources such as local water supplies and farming for their basic livelihoods are particularly vulnerable to climate change. (Environmental Protection Agency)*

As Catholics we are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. Two ways that one could respond to this situation are to pray for refugees and to advocate for faith-based principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they affect those who are poor and vulnerable.

*See: "Human Trafficking and Environmental Refugees" Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking web site

Vatican releases guidelines to help church fight human trafficking

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican has created a set of pastoral guidelines to inspire and improve the church's work in addressing the crime of human trafficking and the care of its victims worldwide.

The Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development released its "Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking" Jan. 17 at a Vatican news conference.

"Pope Francis' insistent teaching on human trafficking provides the foundation for the present pastoral orientations which draw also from the longstanding practical experience of many international Catholic NGOs working in the field and from the observations of

representatives of bishops' conferences," the text said.

"While approved by the Holy Father, the orientations do not pretend to exhaust the church's teaching on human trafficking; rather, they provide a series of key considerations that may be useful to Catholics and others in their pastoral ministry, in planning and practical engagement, in advocacy and dialogue," it said.

The Migrants and Refugees Section also released a separate publication, "Lights on the Ways of Hope," which compiles Pope Francis' teachings on migrants, refugees and human trafficking.

"Its purpose is similar to that of the 'Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church,' to serve one and all as an instrument for the moral and pastoral

discernment of the complex events" concerning the movements of people today, and as "a guide to inspire" people to look to the future with hope, the book's introduction said.

The nearly 500-page volume collects more than 300 complete or excerpted speeches, messages and reflections by the pope on the three themes.

Additionally, the collection is available online at <https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/collection/> with a robust search engine to help people who are looking to study more in-depth what the pope has said, Scalabrinian Father Fabio Baggio, the section's undersecretary, said at the news conference.

While the printed volume compiles Pope Francis' teachings from 2013 to the end of 2017 in Italian and English, the online version will offer other languages and be updated with more recent talks by Pope Francis as well as the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II on migrants, refugees and human trafficking, said Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, the section's other undersecretary.

While the collected teachings offer a more academic service, the pastoral guidelines on human trafficking have the specific aim of inspiring action, aiding current efforts and reaching the long-term goal "to prevent and ultimately dismantle this most evil and sinful enterprise of deception, entrapment, domination and exploitation," Father Czerny said.

The International Labor Organization estimates there are more than 40

million victims of human trafficking around the world. It estimates 81 percent of victims are trapped in forced labor, 25 percent are children and 75 percent are women and girls. It also estimates that the trafficking of human beings for forced labor or sexual exploitation generates \$150 billion a year, making it the third-largest crime industry in the world behind drugs and arms trafficking.

The complex and global nature of human trafficking requires a global and multidisciplinary response, the guidelines said.

"The booklet will help the church play its important role in this struggle," Father Czerny said, also announcing his office will host a three-day conference in April at the Vatican to discuss implementing the guidelines.

The orientations are "offered to Catholic dioceses, parishes and religious congregations, schools and universities, Catholic and other organizations of civil society and any group willing to respond," he said.

"They are for planning and evaluating practical pastoral engagement as well as advocacy and dialogue," adding that many of the points "should be read as proposals for policy" for governments.

"It is up to citizens to make it clear to their state that this is something that is going on within our borders" and requires action by the state, which is ultimately responsible for protecting the human rights and security of those within its borders, Father Czerny told reporters.

Protecting God's Children

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

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**, Terrianne 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

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 23 – Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

Jan. 24 – Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924

Jan. 25 – Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

Jan. 26 – Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thameling, O.F.M.Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002

Jan. 27 – Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009

Jan. 28 – Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004

Jan. 29 – Msgr. James T. Lyng, 1965

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Marchers urged to fight for life with 'compassion, hope'

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Those who stand up for the dignity of life in all its stages and want to see this respect for all life enshrined once again in U.S. law have a friend in the Pence family and the Trump administration, Vice President Mike Pence told the March for Life crowd on the National Mall Jan. 18. Pence and second lady Karen Pence were a surprise addition to the roster of speakers at the rally, and after his remarks, the vice president introduced a videotaped message by President Donald Trump, which also was unexpected. "We're the Pences and we're pro-life," the vice president said to the cheering crowd. "We gather here because we stand for life and believe as our Founding Fathers did that life born and unborn is endowed with certain unalienable rights, and the first of those is life," Pence said. In his message, Trump said the pro-life movement is "founded on love and grounded in the nobility and dignity of every human life. I will always defend the first right in our Declaration of Independence: the right to life." Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, welcomed the crowd and thanked them for coming once again to march to end abortion, what she called "the greatest human rights abuse of our time." She asked the crowd if they will keep marching to fight abortion, to march for the "poorest of the poor" and those who cannot march for themselves until "we no longer need to march" and abortion "is unthinkable." She received a resounding "yes" to each question.

Report: Number of children separated at border is unknown

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A report published Jan. 17 says the number of immigrant children separated from their parents at the border last year is unknown and the number given out by government officials at the end of 2018, saying that 2,737 children were separated, is not accurate. The number may be much higher. The separations officially reported were those that took place between July and November 2018, when then-U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced what he called a zero tolerance policy, which meant that undocumented migrant parents caught crossing the border with their children would risk being separated from them. After some lawsuits were filed and much public outcry, the policy was reversed. But the report from the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services, says children had been separated from parents or guardians long before then and the Department of Homeland Security which implemented the policy, even saw an uptick in separations in 2017. Some children may also have been separated after the policy officially ended. Several Catholic bishops last year spoke out against the separations. "Refugee children belong to their parents, not to the government or other institution. To steal children from their parents is a grave sin, immoral (and) evil," said San Antonio's Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller on June 14 via Twitter. "Their lives have already been extremely difficult. Why do we (the U.S.) torture them even more, treating them as criminals?" he continued.

Diverse crowd gathers at DC march to defend life

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The ritual sights of the annual March for Life never seem to change.

Tens of thousands congregate on the National Mall on a brisk winter morning. Many of them have arrived after hours on the road as part of bus caravans.

They listen to speeches and then march up to the U.S. Supreme Court to mark the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

The speeches and the marchers each year call for respect for all life and an end to abortion, but there's nothing monolithic about the marchers. In fact, there's great texture there and a diversity of faith traditions.

Alexander Kvenvolden and wife Aleah, at the march for the second year, had come all the way from Seattle by themselves. Despite the damp chill and the remains of a snowfall on the ground, Alexander was in khaki shorts. "I like shorts all the time," the software developer explained.

They'd both been active in Students for Life while in college. "I'm also super-stoked about (rally speakers) Ben Shapiro and Abby Johnson (founder of *And Then There Were None*)," Alexander said.

Ahead of his remarks to the rally, Shapiro, a commentator and editor-in-chief of *The Daily Wire*, did a pre-rally podcast from the stage. He took a call from Vice President Mike Pence to appreciative whoops from the crowd. Later, Pence and his wife, Karen, made a surprise appearance at the rally.

"It's an extraordinarily

important event," Pence said of the march. "Forty-six years ago this month, the Supreme Court turned (away from) the inalienable right to life."

He also said he couldn't be "more proud than to be the vice president of the most pro-life president in history, President Donald Trump."

Before Pence called in, Shapiro took a question submitted to him online on whether it would have been right to have killed an infant Adolf Hitler, as if that alone would have prevented the Holocaust.

"And the truth is," Shapiro said, "that no pro-life person on earth would kill baby Hitler, because baby Hitler wasn't Hitler, adult Hitler was Hitler." He said instead, the idea would presumably be to move the baby Hitler "into a better house where he would not grow up to be Hitler, right? That's the idea."

In the crowd of marchers, Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, was well represented by about 400 students. It was one of the larger groups – they'd had taken a five-hour bus caravan to get to the nation's capital. Sophomore Abigail Kehoe was marching for the second time.

What brought her back? "The babies," she replied. She's part of a group that sometimes prays in front of an abortion clinic in nearby Pittsburgh.

Kent and Karen Powell, were attending for the first year and brought their 8-year-old daughter, Channing. "We've seen it happen, but never had a chance to come," Kent told Catholic News Serv-

ice. Their church is a member of Charis Fellowship, a network of places of worship formerly known as the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

The couple used to participate in the annual Life Chain surrounding abortion clinics on the Sunday before the Supreme Court begins its term in October. "It's the least we can do for life," Kent said.

Colorado Christian University, an interdenominational institution in Lakewood, Colorado, sent more than 30 marchers.

"It's just an amazing experience, and I want to put action where my words are," said recent graduate Kaity Cleveringa, attending the march for her second year. "It's a good place to start." She and senior Maddisen Baumann said they volunteer at the Alternative Pregnancy Center in Denver.

The Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, was represented by about 200 marchers. Henry Keller, a home-schooled teen, said: "I've always been attracted to this huge group of people who just want to stand up for life. We can get there and spread the word to the world."

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Midlothian, Virginia, sent 45 people. It was the first year for Mike Clapper.

"You know, going to church and hearing about it, I just decided I'm coming," he said. "It's an opportunity to express our beliefs."

The Dominican House of Studies in Washington was represented by nearly all the 46 students and 23 priests there.

AT THE MOVIES

THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING

NEW YORK (CNS) – The Arthurian legend gets an inventive updating in "The Kid Who Would Be King" (Fox), a thrilling adventure that casts schoolchildren as latter-day Knights of the Round Table, destined to save the world.

NEW YORK (CNS) – The Arthurian legend gets an inventive updating in "The Kid Who Would Be King" (Fox), a thrilling adventure that casts schoolchildren as latter-day Knights of the Round Table, destined to save the world.

Borrowing heavily from the Harry Potter canon, with a dash of J.R.R. Tolkien and Disney's "The Sword in the Stone" (1963) thrown in, writer-director Joe Cornish serves up that treasured Hollywood rarity: an entertaining, family-friendly film that skillfully blends in strong messages – in this case, about truth, justice and caring for others.

Not to be confused with the 1975 Kipling adaptation "The Man Who Would Be King," this movie is set in modern-day Britain. It's a land wracked by divisions, anxiety and political uncertainty (Brexit, anyone)?



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Louis Ashbourne Serkis stars in a scene from the movie "The Kid Who Would Be King."

Twelve-year-old Alex (Louis Ashbourne Serkis) has but one goal: to get through the school day without himself or his nerdy best friend, Bedders (Dean Chaumoo), being bullied by classmates. No such luck: after Alex stands up to two toughs, Lance (Tom Taylor) and Kaye (Rhianna Dorris), they give chase, determined to humiliate him.

Alex escapes through a hole in the fence surrounding a building site.

There he's amazed to find a shiny sword sticking up in a pile of rubble. He grasps the handle and pulls out the blade, unaware that the mythical Excalibur is now in his grasp, making him the new "king."

Fabled wizard Merlin promptly arrives, a shape-shifter played alternatively as a fellow schoolboy (Angus Imrie) and a grizzled old man (Patrick Stewart). Merlin warns Alex that his suc-

cess with the storied weapon has awakened the wicked enchantress Morgana le Fay (Rebecca Ferguson) in her subterranean lair – where she was imprisoned eons ago by her half-brother, King Arthur.

In a mere four days, a solar eclipse will offer Morgana the chance to re-enter the world of the living. Alex has little time to assume the crown, recruit knights and raise an army.

"I'm supposed to stop that? That's ridiculous – I'm 12!" he tells Merlin.

Destiny will not be ig-

nored, however, and under Merlin's tutelage Alex begins by enlisting Bedders. He also reconciles with his enemies, hoping to benefit from Lance and Kaye's brawn as well as their popularity. It's no surprise that the names of the new band turn out to correspond to those of Arthur's knights: Lance is Sir Lancelot, Kaye is Sir Kay, and Bedders is Sir Bedivere.

Our company of misfits embarks on an epic quest that takes them from London to Stonehenge and on to Arthur's birthplace, the coastal village of Tintagel in Cornwall. Then it's back to school where they must convince the entire student body to don armor and join the battle against Morgana's zombie warriors (whose appearance may frighten younger viewers).

"If we fight together, evil doesn't stand a chance," Alex declares, validating Merlin's observation that "there is an old soul in every child."

The film contains potentially scary fantasy violence and two mild oaths. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



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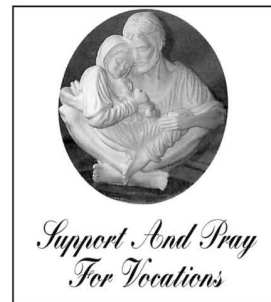
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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Sunday readings give message of hope

As we approach the month of February, we must pray earnestly for the leadership of the Catholic Church who will gather in Rome to attack the serious problem of sexual misbehavior on the part of certain bishops and priests. It needs some radical changes. Only the Holy Spirit can bring real trust back to many who have left our houses of worship.

Fortunately, there is a treasure of hope in this Sunday's readings, begin-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

ning with Nehemiah, appointed by King Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, which lay in ruins following the exile. The spirits of the people also needed rebuilding, so Ezra, the priest, dusts off the neglected scrolls of the law, and calls all the people together, even children who are old enough to understand.

From morning to night, Ezra reads to them the Law. Most had neglected its precepts for years. As they hear it read and ex-

January 27

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

plained by Ezra, they begin to weep tears of joy and of sorrow.

After recommitting their lives to the Lord, they express their joy with days of feasting.

Today's Gospel describes an even greater reason for hope. As Jesus formally begins his mission on earth, he starts with Capernaum in Galilee. There, in the syn-

agogue on a Sabbath, he reads to the people from the passage in Isaiah which proclaims the coming messianic age.

In a voice filled with the fire of the Spirit, he announces to them Isaiah's prophecy of a coming messiah who will bring relief to the poor, liberty for captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed.

Then, handing the scroll to an attendant, he proclaims to all present, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

These words are the core of Jesus' message to

both the people of His day and of our times! Talk about a reason to hope!

In today's second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians, we find a blueprint for acting on the two readings we have heard. "As a body is one though it has many parts...so also Christ... You are Christ's Body, and individually parts of it."

St. Paul tells us that some parts are more important than others, but each part depends on the other parts. What a great truth for us to digest! As the poet John Donne wrote centuries ago: "No man is an island!"

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATION

Every Knee Shall Bow podcast

The following is the first installment in a blog featured on the Diocese of Ogdensburg Office of Evangelization's website. The blog will be updated weekly. The North Country Catholic will also run selections from this blog as space allows. To see the online edition, visit <https://www.rcdony.org/evangelization/blog.html>

By Marika Donders

Director for the Office of the New Evangelization

Every Knee Shall Bow is a new podcast from Ascension Press. This podcast started on Dec. 5 and is a weekly podcast on how to get past the buzzwords of the new evangelization and actually begin evangelizing.

Many of us have been to workshops where we learned the theories about becoming intentional or missionary dis-

ciples of Christ with mandates to go out and make disciples, to share our faith, to be Christ Led, Christ Fed and Hope Filled. But practically speaking, how do we actually go about doing these things. Where do we start? What is the first small step, and then the next, and the next ...

This podcast, presented by Michael Gormley and Dave VanVickle, gives you, from their own experience, basic steps you can take each week to spread the gospel where ever you find yourself.

If you find sharing your faith awkward, if you avoid having to answer questions about your faith, if you think you just don't know enough and want to leave the evangelizing to the "professionals" like priest, nuns and parish staffs, this podcast will give you tools and practical small



steps to become a missionary disciple.

What I like about this podcast is that it stretches you just a tiny little bit to tip your toe into the water, but never tries to push you beyond where you are ready to go. The first couple of episodes you don't even have to talk to anyone! And every episode gives you five practical take-aways that you can work on that week.

The first episode "Be Unashamed of the Gospel," explains what the podcast is all about and introduces the hosts.

The second episode helps you prepare your Christian Testimony, then there is an episode that talks about conversion.

The hosts tell stories, some things that worked and some things that didn't. There was a short Christmas message for the next episode, and the latest episode speaks about the kerygma, or initial proclamation.

Some ideas for how to use this podcast:

Of course, like all podcasts, you can simply listen and learn on your own, but I would recommend finding a friend or two (or three), listening to the podcasts on your own, but then getting together and discussing. Try some of the practical tips and share what you did, and how it worked. I would recommend not just jumping in at the latest episode, but, since

this is a brand new podcast with very few past episodes, go back to be beginning of the series.

If you have listened to this podcast, have comments, or have ideas for other resources you would like reviewed, email the Diocesan New Evangelization Office at mdonders@rcdony.org.



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ADIRONDACK

CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

Saranac Lake — A Catholic Men's Group meets on the first Saturdays of the month for a time of fellowship, prayer, and discussion.

Time: 8 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Bernard's Chapel

Features: Mass followed by coffee and refreshment, some discussion and prayer.

Contact: Father Mark Reilly (518-891-4616)

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 will meet and discuss priesthood discernment.

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. High school junior men and older are welcome.

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

DONATION CENTER

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.

FRANKLIN

HEARTS ON FIRE

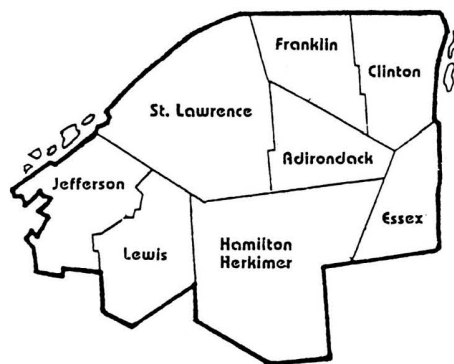
Malone — Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.

Schedule: 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks & Fellowship

Place: Notre Dame Church

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls — First Saturday Devotion



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.

and Holy Hour to be held.

Date: First Saturday of each month.

Time: Immediately following the 4:30 anticipated Mass.

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions, and refreshments are provided in the Church Hall.

Contact: 518-856-9656

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

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthsides 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/CAAGala

LEWIS

LEWIS EUCHARISTIC 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.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville — Divine Mercy Devotions to be held.

Date: Feb. 3

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

LEWIS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville — Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: 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.

ST. LAWRENCE

CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS

Massena — 13 Week Study program to be held about Catholicism: The Pivotal Players.

Date: Starts Jan. 22

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 in Watertown, Massena and Gouverneur.

Schedule: Jan. 22 at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown and Jan. 24 at St. Peter's Parish in Massena; Feb. 21 at St. James Church, Gouverneur

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

Features: The Surviving Divorce

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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

Respect life: it is our mission

*May we show by our words and actions
that every human life
is cherished and chosen;*

*May we build a culture of life
by embracing our mission
as messengers of God's love;*

No two stanzas have ever summed up the Mission of the Pontifical Mission Societies more concisely.

Respecting all life is a part of us. Take a moment and look around to enjoy God's beauty and remember our Creator. Remember the power of life. Remember why we are here. Remember that all life matters. Remember that sometimes we must all work together to preserve life. It all starts with respect for life.

How privileged we are, through the Pontifical Mission Societies, to be witnesses of the Lord's grace giving forth great fruits in the young mission churches: schools opening, a new diocese, a wing of new students in the seminary, a new mission medical center. In our world of often not-so-good news, we can forget the great works being done in our midst every day. As the Body of Christ, we are connected to those works through a spiritual union, the real union that is the church.

As Christ's body, connected as "one family in mission," we reach out then to support the growth, the new life in the Missions and help priests, religious and lay catechists bring hope to those in need. By reaching out to support this growth of new life in the Missions, we are showing the world that we respect life.

The Pontifical Mission Societies are recognized as the principal instrument for educating the faithful to an awareness of the church's universal mission and for encouraging their support, in prayer and sacrifice. Respect life. It's easy to do. All life – both here, far, the unborn, the sick and dying. May God bless us all as we honor such a basic precept of respect.

www.rcdony.org/mission

Remember to pray the World Mission Rosary.

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Marie T. (Greer) Macaulay, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Brownville – Elizabeth R. (Scully) Richter, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Church, Adams.

Canton – Francis Paul Murphy, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Jean Barton Heady, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Lucy C. Reff, 23; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Mary Lou (Sharlow) Bashaw, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Howard P. Brelia, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Placid – David W. Call Sr., 63; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

Lisbon – Robert J. Binion, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2019 at Ss. Philip and James Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Lisbon – Durwood "Bud" Grant, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2019 at Ss. Philip and James Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Gardens.

Lowville – Thomas H. Nortz, 92; Memorial Services Jan. 18, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Leon H. Reape, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Madrid – Emilio P. Agresti, 64; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2019 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Malone – Paul A. Gratton, 58; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2019 at the Brusos-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in Old St. Mary's Cemetery, Ft. Covington.

Malone – Mary P. Rolley, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2019 at the Brusos-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in

Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Joanne M. (Lamica) Snyder, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2019 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home.; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

Ogdensburg – Margaret W. (Mickens) Montgomery, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Ronald P. Frennery, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Ann Elizabeth Neverett, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Louis of France Cemetery, Sciota.

Port Henry – Marion O. Hickey, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

St. Regis Falls – Betty E. Goodrow, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2019 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

West Chazy – Virginia M. (Powers) Luck, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

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 DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Women's discernment groups are forming in three areas of the diocese.

Date: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7

Place: Potsdam, St. Mary's Rectory 5 p.m. to 7; Plattsburgh, Newman Center 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Watertown, Hearthside Room at SSI Mother House 5 p.m. to 7

Features: Come pray and discuss

with other women how to know what God has in mind for you. Dinner will be provided.

Contact: Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920. Registration is requested by emailing Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

A Lenten retreat for grades 6-12 to be held in Gouverneur and Ticonderoga.

Schedule: March 2 at St. James, Gouverneur from 12 p.m. to 5; March 9 at St. Mary's, Ticonderoga from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Features: Each retreat will be comprised of a unique blend of activities, DYC led workshops, Penance service with Reconciliation, and closing Mass. Registration deadline is Feb. 27

Contact: To register visit www.rcdony.org/youth and select "Lenten Retreats." Please contact Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry at tsemeraro@rcdony.org or by calling 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

YOUTH RALLY
Massena – 2019 Youth Rally to be held.

YOUTH RALLY

Massena – 2019 Youth Rally to be held.

Date: April 6

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Trinity Catholic School, Massena

Cost: \$25 (Lunch is included)

Speakers: Kevin Dowd will be the Keynote Speaker and Marihon Alzuhairi will be presenting.

Features: Prayer and Reflection, Mass, Adoration, Climb the Scripture Wall, Glow Ball Fun and Arts and Crafts. Swag bags with surprises will be given out as well.

Middle school retreat focuses on vocations

SARANAC LAKE – The rainy fall weather could not dampen the enthusiasm of 116 middle school students from our Catholic schools and parish religious education programs who gathered at Camp Guggenheim for a vocation retreat.

Jointly sponsored by the diocesan youth department and the vocations office, the retreat was an opportunity for the students to ponder the question, “What is God calling me to do?”

The theme for this year’s retreat was from the prophet Jeremiah, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future...”

The day began with active icebreakers and opening prayer, led by diocesan youth director, Tom Semeraro.

After that, Sister Suanne, a Sister of St. Joseph who ministers in Ticonderoga, spoke about how we know what God is calling us to be.

From there, students broke into small groups for workshops that talked about the importance of prayer, recognizing our talents and gifts, and listening to what others say about us.

“One of the nice things about today is that students get to meet students from other schools,” said diocesan Vocations Coordinator Cathy Russell, one of the



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives a homily to middle school students gathered for a vocations retreat in the fall. (Below) Participants in the vocations retreat were grouped with students from other schools in small groups and for ice breakers.



event’s coordinators. “We split students up, so they can have this opportunity.”

A lunch of pizza, salad, cookies and water was provided with the help of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS).

After lunch, students were given the opportunity to hear from a variety of people who shared their vocation journeys. Father Bryan D. Stitt discussed priesthood, Sister Suanne talked about con-

secrated life, and questions about marriage were fielded by Paul and Samantha Poulin, and John McBride and Ellen Rose Miner, who were recently engaged.

After brief introductions, the students were able to ask questions of the panelists.

The day ended with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Middle school students from around the diocese gathered this fall at Guggenheim for a vocation retreat. Here are their thoughts on the event:

“I had a lot of fun meeting new kids and I loved lunch. You taught me during the meeting with the panel that my vocation when I get older is to get married.” – **Jenny O’Neill**

“It was lots of fun. I learned that it’s important to listen to God for the calling of your vocation. I also liked the Mass with the bishop.” – **Camryn Parrish**

“Thank you for letting us come to your wonderful camp! One thing I learned was that God will lead you to where ever you belong. The really fun part about the trip was volley ball – everyone was so hyper!” – **Brooklyn Huestis**

“I learned that when God speaks to us, he leads us to something important called our vocation. A vocation is something that is important to God like getting married or being a priest or a nun.” – **Carter Thatcher**


“One thing I learned is that you don’t have to be Catholic to worship God. God is with me even though I’m not baptized. Another thing I learned is that Camp Guggenheim is so good of a camp that the bishop goes there!” – **Kaelyn Hurlburt**

“It’s sad that it’s my last year because I wish I could go back next year. One thing that I learned is to listen to God very carefully, so he can tell you your vocation one day. One fun thing I did there was play volleyball with all my friends and some kids that I didn’t even know. I had so much fun there!” – **Kennedy McKeown**

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