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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 35

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 30, 2019

## YOUTH MARCHING FOR LIFE



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Two busloads of youth, chaplains and chaperones traveled from locations around the diocese to participate in the Youth Buses for Life trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC. See the full story on Page 12.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



Students at Holy Family School in Malone display craft projects they created with their classmates and teacher.

See scenes from Catholic schools around the diocese as the *North Country Catholic* marks Catholic Schools Week.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3-5 & 7

# Be 'influencers' for God, pope urges at youth day

PANAMA CITY (CNS) —Although Mary would not be considered an "influencer," like many social media personalities, she still became the most influential woman in history by trusting "in the love and promises of God, the only force capable of making all things new," Pope Francis told young people at the World Youth Day prayer vigil Jan. 26.

"Are you willing to be an

'influencer' like Mary, who dared to say, 'Let it be done?'" he asked. "Only love makes us more human and fulfilled; everything else is a pleasant but useless placebo."

Despite sweltering temperatures in Panama City, hundreds of thousands of young men and women made their way to St. John Paul II Park on the penultimate day of World Youth Day. They brought sleep-

ing bags and tents, prepared to spend the night at the field — praying the rosary, making new friends — before celebrating Mass with Pope Francis at 8 a.m. Jan. 27. The pope did not spend the night, but returned later in the evening to the apostolic nunciature.

Arriving in his popemobile, Pope Francis made his way through a sea of colorful flags and banners

people waved excitedly.

After the pope took his place on the stage, young adults from Panama and the Palestinian territories gave their experiences of finding faith and hope amid doubt, sickness and addiction.

Erika de Bucktron, a 42-year-old mother of four from Panama, spoke of the fear and difficulties she faced when doctors said her pregnancy was at

high risk after diagnosing her unborn daughter with Down syndrome.

Throughout her pregnancy, she said, she and her husband abandoned themselves in God's hands and, after the birth of their daughter, decided "to love her with all our hearts, without making any difference with our other children, who also welcomed her with so much love."

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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Editorial Office:**  
622 Washington Street,  
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catholic.org

**Entered at the  
Post Office:**  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 and  
additional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

**Subscription:**  
For one year:  
In-Diocese Rate: \$27  
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication should be addressed to PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication. Paper is printed each Monday; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

**POSTMASTER:**  
Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## It's about educating the whole person

God has blessed me with more gifts than I deserve, but artistic ability is not one of them. I can barely draw a stick figure, let alone create great works of art.

Yet, in a momentary lapse in judgment, I agreed to join a friend for a workshop in clay mug making this past weekend. It turns out, clay is not my forté. I struggled to get my clay slab thin and even without tearing it. I struggled to get the pattern I wanted imprinted correctly. I struggled attaching the handle.

A couple years ago, I joined a few friends for a "paint and sip." We enjoyed

sipping wine while following along with an instructor to create paintings. Like my mug-making experience, my finished "work of art" confirmed what I already knew: I'm better at sipping than painting.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

Both the paint and sip and the clay class were sources of stress for me. Why? Because I hate failing publicly. I hate when my weaknesses are on display.

Why would I agree to participate in a class I knew would be a source of stress? It's good for me to get outside my comfort zone. It's good for me to learn new skills. It's

even good for me to fail publicly (though preferably not too frequently).

It's Catholic Schools Week. While my sisters and I attended public school, my niece, Emma, attends one of the fantastic Catholic schools in our diocese.

Emma, age 11, is extremely shy. Until recently, she wouldn't speak in front of several members of our family, let alone strangers.

Emma's Catholic school has embraced her. She excels in the small-class environment, where her shyness doesn't allow her to be overlooked. She has been given numerous opportunities to participate in group enrichment activities, including crafts, music and robotics.

She has been encouraged and given the support and skills needed to perform in plays and school events.

Emma's Catholic school has embraced her whole person – her brain, her spirit, and her quirky and amazing personality. She's encouraged to step outside her comfort zone bravely and with support. And she's loved, even if she fails publicly (which she has yet to do – this kid is amazing).

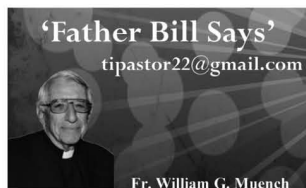
This ability to educate the whole person – mind, body, spirit – is what makes our Catholic schools outstanding. It's why we celebrate them.

It's also why Emma likely won't be afraid of art workshops when she's my age.

## Stay close to the saints in your lives

This past week has been a time of travel and visiting for me, so there's not a great deal to share with you. However, I must tell you about my airport adventure. On my trip, I had to make a transfer in Atlanta. That airport proved to be a mad house for me. I had a very short time to find the gate for the next flight. I made it but had to move like a jack rabbit. It all began when I tried to assist the gentleman ahead of me as we were leaving the plane. I tried not to be anxious – he was such a nice guy. Anyway I hit the passage way running (well, I must admit I don't run much anymore). Then it was up and down escalators, two stops on the rail line and another long passage. When I arrived at the gate, the fellow at the desk looked up and announced "William?" I had made the flight. If they had known what I just went through, folks would have applauded.

I saw a lot of the Atlanta



Airport. When I mentioned my adventure to a friend later, they informed me that many say, "the road to purgatory goes through the Atlanta Airport." By the way, miracles of miracles, my luggage made the plane.

Since I have been here, I have become a regular at the parish Church, St. Thomas More. It is an active parish with a great liturgy. I attended Mass on the holiday in honor of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. The pastor here gave a powerful homily honoring Dr. King and the work he accomplished for justice and civil rights. This particular priest has been raised Baptist in Alabama and had experienced a great deal of this movement. Later, he found

his vocation after becoming a convert to Catholicism.

Today, the Feast Day was in honor of St. Marianne Cope. You may know of her story. She was a Sister of St. Francis in Syracuse, and the hospital has a shrine in her honor. Let me take a moment to describe her story.

In 1840, St. Marianne's family came to this country from Germany. They settled in Utica, New York, where she attended grade school. She decided to drop of school and work in a factory to help support her family. Then in 1862, St. Marianne entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse. She would become the Superior of her congregation. In 1870, she became the Supervisor of St. Joseph's Hospital, which was the only hospital in Syracuse, caring for the sick regardless of race or religion. Then in 1883, St. Marianne and six of her Sisters traveled to work in a mission in Hawaii, caring for lepers. St. Mari-

anne remained there 35 years until her death.

Through St. Marianne and the Sisters' efforts, they improved the conditions of the patients, housing and care. They founded a school for girls on Molokai. Later, she also took over the boys' home and school that had been founded by Father Damien.

I encourage you to visit the shrine to Sister Marianne at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse.

We, Catholics love our saints, and they become an important part of our lives. They are our models. I have often written about many of my mentors who I am certain are saints but are not canonized. I consider them my saints. I pray to them often and find a great deal of inspiration from the way they lived their lives. I also use them often as examples in my preaching. I hope you have a long list of saints, even those not yet canonized. Stay close to them.



LETTER TO CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

**Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSI**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Dear Catholic School Students,**

Some of you will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week the last week of January; others will celebrate later in February and some will enjoy this special week in March. Whenever your school chooses to observe Catholic Schools Week you will have the opportunity to participate in special events that are not only enjoyable, challenging and fun but also focus on what makes your school special.

Recently I read a story (cf. Word Among Us, January 2019 Issue) that I would like to share with you. It is about a traveler and three stonecutters working in a quarry. Each was busy cutting a block of stone. The traveler asked the first stonecutter what he was doing. The stonecutter replied, "I am cutting a stone." The traveler asked the second stonecutter the same question. He answered, "I am cutting this block of stone to make sure that its dimensions are uniform, so that it will fit exactly in its place in the wall." The traveler thought the second answer was better than the first answer but he still was not satisfied. He asked the third stonecutter who also appeared to be the happiest of the three. "What are you doing?" The man answered, "I am building a cathedral."

Sometimes like the first two stonecutters we focus on what is right before us and fail to see the big picture and the long-term results of what we are doing

or why we are doing it. Each stonecutter was working on a block of stone but only one saw his work as part of a massive cathedral – only one saw the ultimate reason he was laboring over the stone.

Catholic Schools Week is a great opportunity to look at the big picture and the purpose of your Catholic school education. Catholic schools help to form minds and hearts. They provide the knowledge and skills necessary for you to live as a helpful member of your family, parish, community, state and nation. They teach and reinforce habits that respect others, reach out to those in need, practice collaboration and cooperation, avoid violence and injustice and promote peace and understanding. They offer instruction in math, science, reading and writing, grammar and spelling, use of technology, social studies, art and music! I am sure you agree that school is a busy place. There is much to do, to experience and to learn.

A Catholic school however, provides something very special. A few days before Christmas, some Kindergarteners from Trinity Catholic School, Massena and 8th Graders from Augustinian Academy, Carthage, were invited to the Bishop's house for hot chocolate and cookies. Trinity and Augustinian students made the decorations for the Bishop's Christmas tree this year and Bishop LaValley invited them to visit him, see his home and of course the Christmas Tree.

While the Bishop was

talking to the 8th graders, I had a chance to visit with the Kindergarteners. I asked them, "What makes your school special?" Every hand went up and without a moment's hesitation I heard a young boy with a wide grin exclaim, "Jesus. Jesus makes our school special!" Not to be outdone another voice added, "We learn about Jesus and how to act like Him."

Did you notice that something was missing in the subjects I listed above? I hope so because something very important was not listed. Religion, instruction in our faith is a very important part of every day in a Catholic school. This instruction helps you to discover that our faith, though it includes what we believe and the requirements of our faith, is summed up in a person – Jesus Christ. As the Kindergartener said, "Jesus is what makes our school special!" In your Catholic school you learn to read and write; participate in math, science, social studies, art, technology and music classes; learn a foreign language; participate in sports programs and other extracurricular activities – all of this and "something more."

Christ is the foundation of your school. "Something more" is not small class sizes, quality academic programs, successful athletic teams, or a safe, secure and orderly environment for learning. As good as these elements are, they do not define a Catholic school. Your school's "something more" is a person, Jesus Christ, who leads you into the future so you can be good citizens of this

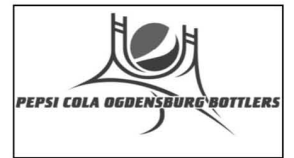
world and eventually a citizen of heaven.

The third stonecutter realized that when he was cutting the stone, he was preparing it for its ultimate purpose, to take its place as part of a cathedral. A Catholic school education prepares you for something beyond good grades, athletic accomplishment and good test scores. It prepares you to fulfill the reason God made you – to know, love and serve Him, to be happy in this life and someday happy forever with Him in heaven. A Catholic education prepares you to live in society as good citizens, to make Jesus known by your words and actions and one day to be citizens of heaven.

During Catholic Schools

Week take some time to thank those who make your school the special place it is. Thank your parents for choosing a Catholic school for you, often at a financial sacrifice. Thank your principal, teachers, staff and volunteers. Thank your pastor for his support of the school. And be sure to thank Bishop LaValley for making his annual visit to your school and all the other ways in which he supports our Catholic Schools.

Enjoy Catholic Schools Week!



## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)



### FEBRUARY

2019

The Passion of our Lord

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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
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STUDENT SCENES

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



Augustinian Academy enjoyed it's largest attended Veterans Day Luncheon on November 9. Active Duty Service members, Retirees and Veterans from Fort Drum and the Carthage community shared a meal with the students as we all gave thanks for their service. Jonathan Flores, a soldier stationed at Fort Drum enjoyed lunch with his daughter Jenise and her classmates, Carter Burr, Kelly Carey, Elek Nyitray, Zakkary Larue and Clare and Juliet Michel.



Trinity Catholic has introduced new extra-curricular activities to its program this year, including a year-round Robotics Club. Here, Kaleb Hughes, Ryan Hunt, Evan Bovay, September Page and Bella Slate enjoy Robotics Club.



Seton Catholic second grader Evelyn Palma recently dressed her class's mascot, Froggy, as St. Nicholas, complete with a homemade miter, one of her mom's sweaters and a family rosary. All of Mrs. Jensen's second graders have the opportunity to transform Froggy into a saint.



Students at Holy Family School in Malone enjoy a dance on the school's new gym floor as part of a recent celebration.



## JOB OPENING

### Pastoral Associate for newly linked parishes

Are you a person blessed with a deep love of the Catholic Church, looking for a career where you could enrich a parish community by providing outreach and evangelization for Catholic families? Would you like the chance to share your strong faith by supporting the spiritual, social and developmental needs of young people? These are only two of the opportunities that are part of the position of Pastoral Associate for the linked parishes of St. Andrews, Norwood; Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond, Norfolk & Raymondville; and St. Patrick's, Brasher Falls. These parishes are located in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York.

For inquiries and a complete job description contact the Search Committee at: parish@twcny.rr.com

The deadline for applications is March 20, 2019.

God has blessed each and everyone of us with the "Light", the gift that enables us to be the best that we can be.  
The time is now.  
It's time to RISE UP!

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 6TH**  
**9:30 TO 5:00**

## 2019 YOUTH RALLY

# Rise Up

"Rise up and shine for your light has come"

Isaiah 60

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Presenter

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(Lunch is included!)

To Register visit: [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org)

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Jan. 31** – 8 a.m. – Catholic Schools Week Celebration with Mass at Holy Family in Watertown  
**Feb. 1** – 10:15 a.m. – Catholic Schools Week celebration at Spratt in Ogdensburg

Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 2** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 3** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Feb. 4** – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 5** – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home

**Feb. 6** – 10 a.m. – Board of Bishops meeting at Cardinal Cooke Catholic Center in New York City

## 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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)

- Join the conversation!

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CHEVROLET

## Rest in Peace

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

**Jan. 30** – Rev. John T. Sullivan, 1884; Rev. Eusebius Schlingmann, O.F.M., 1937

**Jan. 31** – Rev. B. J. O'Connell, O.S.A, 1925; Rev. James S. McGowan, 1961; Rev. Timothy M. Ladden, 2003

**Feb. 1** – Rev. John B. Doonan, 1949; Msgr. George T. Donnelly, 1968; Rev. Edward M. Delaney, 1977; Rev. Robert L. Cotter, 2015

**Feb. 2** – Rev. William Bennett, O.M.I., 1887; Rev. Amadeus Viger, O.S.A., 1915; Rev. George E. Racette, 1961; Rev. Gilbert O. Boisvert, 2017

**Feb. 4** – Rev. Joseph Redington, 1892; Rev. Edmund Walsh, 1925; Msgr. Michael R. Burns, 1932; Rev. Alexander Klauer, 1935; Rev. Henry McArdle, O.S.A., 1969; Rev. Francis Maurus Kearns, 1990

**Feb. 5** – Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Coseo, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005

## 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;

[terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terriannyanulavich@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

## 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](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**Jan. 31** – 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

**Feb. 25** – 5 p.m., St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake

## Environmental Stewardship

### Be part of the solution

Last week we reflected on the rising number of environmental refugees fleeing their homes due to increased floods, droughts, violent storms and/or erosion of valuable farmland caused by changing climate around the world. During a recent presentation in Plattsburgh, nearly 300 people heard Bill McKibben speak of the urgent need for each of us to do our part in reversing the devastating effects of global warming. McKibben, author and speaker, has traveled the world advocating for the 350.org program in more than 188 countries. Aimed at reducing the use of fossil fuels and other causes of global warming, several 350.org groups are present in our own North Country.

The mission of 350.org states: "Climate change is not just an environmental issue, or a social justice issue, or an economic issue – it's all of those at once. It's one of the biggest challenges humanity has ever faced, and we are going to have to work together to solve it."

What does the light of our faith bring to this challenge? In Genesis 2:15 we are called to be good stewards of the earth. Gospel / Justice calls to us to care for the poor.

In Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Care for our Common Home*, he sees these two "cries" as interconnected as one. #49 He urgently appeals, "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. #14

What can I do as a person of faith to respond to this urgent challenge? Some suggestions: (1) Read *Laudato Si: On Caring for our Common Home*, (online from USCCB or free copy available from Dynamic Catholic Publication). (2) Google: [www.GlobalCatholicClimateMovement.org](http://www.GlobalCatholicClimateMovement.org), and 350.org. In the next weeks we will be looking at a recent comprehensive plan developed by top scientists around the world on ways that you and I can help reverse global warming. Make a commitment to be part of the solution!



# CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Maelynn Dusharm, a student at St. James School in Gouverneur, spends time praying before the Blessed Sacrament.



Seton Catholic students Yuanji "Jason" Han, Jiahong "Jason" Wan, Lea De-Jordy, Sophie Von Bargaen, Jake Glicksman, Foster Ovios, Thomas Murray, Luke Moore and Aaron Bouchard celebrate before their physics field trip on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018. During their experiment they tracked the effects of acceleration on their balloons' movements.



Hudson Laguador, a student at Trinity Catholic School in Massena, strikes a prayerful pose during the Junior-Kindergarten to First grade Christmas program in December.



Kindergarteners Alex Mendez-Sands, Jace Brozzo and helper/school Secretary Kim Denesha hang up a bird feeder the students made at St. James School in Gouverneur.



(Above) Students at St. Mary's school in Canton spread Christmas cheer, packing bags of baby gifts collected for our "Baby Shower for Jesus." The whole school pitched in to donate new baby items, and the fifth and sixth grade students delivered the gifts to Catholic Charities in Ogdensburg to be distributed to families in need. The students also sang Christmas carols to the staff at Catholic Charities to brighten their day. Pictured are, from left, Matt Gainey, Mathew LaPage, Sophia Tartaglia and Gavin Schryver. (Left) Mateo Breen, a fifth grader, gave his little sister, Jemmalyn Francis, a book he wrote as a Christmas gift. Fifth and sixth graders wrote a book for their kindergarten reading buddies.





## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Jesus, Jeremiah driven by love of the Father

Many of us “older” folk remember how an important part of our Sundays was gathering around the radio to listen to Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen’s weekly broadcasts on “The Catholic Hour.” Later on, he became the most popular TV personality of the ‘50s and ‘60s with his “Life is Worth Living” weekly telecast.

With his deep resonant voice and piercing eyes, he mesmerized millions of people, both Catholic and non-Catholic. People crowded into bars and public places, as well as in their own living rooms to listen to his warnings about



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Godless communism in Europe and the dangers of its infiltrating all parts of America.

Later as Archbishop Sheen, he headed the Office for the Propagation of the Faith, raising millions of dollars for missions throughout the world. Only Billy Graham could match this fearless modern-day prophet. As such, he was vilified, envied, and persecuted. This came from outside the Church, but also from within.

Today’s first reading is about God’s choice of Jeremiah, one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. “Before I

February 3

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 12:3-13:13  
Luke 4:21-30

formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.”

Jeremiah, knowing how badly people treated prophets, protested, but to no avail. God tells him to stand up and be a man, promising that “...I am with you to deliver you...”

After he spent his life battling false religions and the cowardly fear of weak political leaders, he is finally stoned to death in Egypt!

Jeremiah is often compared to Jesus, since both were consumed with love for the Father, zeal for the truth, and both suffered death because of that truth.

The Gospel today demonstrates how Jesus, from the very beginning of his ministry in his hometown of Nazareth, suffered rejection from the very villagers he had grown up with!

Here, it all boiled down to envious remarks like, “Who does he think he is?” “We know his family and his relatives!” “Where does he get all of this?”

As Jesus’ fame grew, so too did the opposition from religious leaders who feared for their standing among the people. The words of the

prophets will always anger and upset those who will not face their own sinfulness.

The power that drove both Jeremiah and Jesus to persevere to the end was their fire of love for the Father and for His Glory. Today’s second reading describes that love. It is the classic text from St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians: “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous...” At our baptism, the priest anointed us with Holy Chrism to be “prophet, priest, and king.”

We, too, need a burning love for the Truth for our ministry as prophets.

Are we willing to pay just a portion of the price that it takes to love as Jeremiah and Jesus did?

## An abortion expansion in New York

Losing is hard. No one likes to lose. I imagine that’s why kids today are taught that everyone’s a winner. Losing hurts.

On January 22, 2019, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Democratic-controlled New York State Legislature passed the so-called “Reproductive Health Act” (RHA). They said it was merely an “update” to our law, that it simply “codified” Roe into New York statutes. Governor Andrew Cuomo touted it as progress for women, immediately signed it into law, and celebrated it with a party at the Executive Mansion.

This loss hurts so much it stings.

The RHA is no simple codification of Roe vs. Wade. While it’s difficult to comprehend how New York’s abortion law could

be made even more expansive than it already is, this law does it. It will:

- Empower non-doctors to perform abortions.
- Allow abortions for any reason throughout a woman’s pregnancy.
- Remove all criminal penalties for abortion, even if it is contrary to the mother’s choice.
- Remove our state’s protections for infants accidentally born alive in the course of an abortion.

Since the day that former Governor Eliot Spitzer first introduced it in 2007, we have fought this abortion expansion scheme with everything we have. And for 12 years – twelve years! – we have

kept the bill away from the Governor’s desk.

Parishes collected postcards and parishioners signed petitions. Citizens took time off from their jobs to come to Albany to educate their lawmakers. We held a candlelight vigil outside the Capitol and prayed. We organized a physicians’ press conference and lobby day. We held rallies and conducted seminars. Thousands upon thousands of New Yorkers wrote letters and sent e-mails.

We even got the legislature to break up the 10-point package that had been cleverly assembled by the Governor into a “women’s agenda.” Nine of those ten bills – all

positive improvements for women – were enacted into law in 2015. But not the abortion expansion bill; that one we stopped.

So do not weep. The fact that we have prevented the enactment of this law for the last dozen years means we have undoubtedly saved innocent human lives and spared mothers enduring heartbreak and pain.

God does not call us to be successful. He asks us only to be faithful. We have kept the faith; we have fought the good fight. We must leave the results to Him.

And we must continue not only to counter the culture, but to convert it. The latest data from the federal government indicates we are succeeding on this front: abortion

numbers continue to decrease. The US Centers for Disease Control say the abortion rates for women of all ages has plunged over the last decade. That is due, in no small part, to the efforts of countless pro-life people who are witnessing, educating, offering alternatives, providing compassion, and building the Culture of Life. Inch by inch, row by row, the Lord will bless the seeds we sow, until one day, abortion will simply be unthinkable.

Yes, the loss is crushing, and the new abortion law in New York State will likely be the most permissive one in the country. But keep your eyes on the prize: a world in which no young woman ever feels the need to use it.



Kathleen  
Gallagher



## AT THE MOVIES

## IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK

NEW YORK (CNS) – "If Beale Street Could Talk" (Annapurna) is a faithful, evocative and reverent adaptation of James Baldwin's 1974 novel about a struggling young African-American couple, with many of the attendant weaknesses such as careful film realizations can bring with them.

For starters, much of the dialogue, scripted by director Barry Jenkins, is more recited than spoken – close to realistic, but falling into some foggy region usually occupied by historical epics and clunky performances of Shakespeare.

Jenkins likewise conveys the inner anguish of the characters with long, exceedingly slow close-ups of pained faces. Com-

bined with the voice-over narration of Tish Rivers (KiKi Layne), the overall effect is rigid fealty to Baldwin, and it's a bit of a slog to sit through.

Baldwin wrote with the clearest of unsparing eyes about the national racial divide and the lack of justice resulting from it, as well as the raw hostility African-Americans face in a world constructed around white prejudices. He centered this story on an idealized duo who are deeply in love, but rather than plunging them into inescapable suffering, he gave them a glimmer of hope.

Families remain intact, and their ideas about moral behavior are strong through the worst of circumstances. Everyone has

a task to perform, and they stay grounded in the effort.

Tish, who is 19, is engaged to Alonzo "Fonny" Hunt (Stephan James), a handsome 22-year-old sculptor who lives in a decrepit basement apartment in Harlem. In scenes shown in flashback, she becomes pregnant at around the same time a racist policeman, Officer Bell (Ed Skrein), frames Fonny for the rape of Victoria Rogers (Emily Rios), a Puerto Rican woman.

Everyone understands that this tragedy can't just be turned around, even when Tish's mother, Sharon (Regina King), travels to Puerto Rico on an emotional mission to get Victoria to drop her accusation.

Fonny has a priggish, Bible-quoting, unnamed mom (Aunjanue Ellis), who lectures about immorality, but his father, Frank (Michael Beach), who slaps her in a rage – a moment that probably registers as much more unpleasant now than it might have in 1974 – has no time to waste in making judgments. A baby's impending arrival is to be celebrated, and likewise, Fonny's incarceration is to be fought by all means available.

There's even a prophet of doom in Fonny's friend Daniel Carty (Brian Tyree Henry), himself framed for a crime he didn't commit, who turns from joviality to raw fear as he hints about the degradations and hopelessness of

two years in prison.

Abiding love and family ties carry the day here, in spite of an unfair legal system that attempts to deny black men, particularly, any semblance of humanity. Joy finds a way to co-exist with gloom and won't let itself be buried under any set of circumstances.

The film contains two nonmarital sexual encounters, brief upper female nudity, momentary domestic abuse, a few racial slurs and fleeting rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

## RESOURCE RECOMMENDATION:

## Message for World Communications Day

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

Today's resource is a timely one: it is the annual message for World Communications Day, which is always released on the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, who is the patron saint of journalists.

Every year, there is a message about the modern means of communica-

tion. The message for 2019, released on January 24, is the 53rd such message. It can be read on the Vatican website.

Are you concerned about social media, about fake news, cyberbullying, the fact that people, perhaps you yourself, can't seem to put phones away and have face-to-face conversations? Are you worried that technology is replacing real community? The latest message for World Communications day addresses all these things and gives us food for thought of how we may better use communications technology to support human community rather than replace it.

There are wonderful op-

portunities to share God's love and use technology for evangelization, but it can never replace the in-person, face-to-face conversations that build true and lasting relationships.

**Ideas for using this resource:**

I would recommend taking this short message to prayer. Reflect on how you use media, where you receive your news, and how your own use of technology either supports the building up of community

or isolates you from forming deeper relationships. Having reflected on your use of the various media you consume, invite a friend for coffee and share your insights. Another idea would be to discuss the content of the message with your family around your dinner table.

And if you want to learn more: read the previous years' messages. We live in

the time of a communications revolution which is rapidly changing our culture similar to the way the industrial revolution changed our culture in the past.

It is a good thing to hit the pause button every once in a while and check to see whether we are consuming the media, or whether the media is consuming us.



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## ADIRONDACK

## RUMMAGE SALE

Lake Placid – Rummage Sale to be held.

**Date:** March 9

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** There is something for everyone. Come shop the treasures and find those items for bargain prices. Donations are now being accepted at the school for the sale.

**Contact:** Please call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771.

## 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

## ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

Altona – An all-you-can-eat breakfast will be held.

**Date:** Feb. 3

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Church Hall, 524 Devils Den Road

**Features:** Pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, ham, home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and biscuits, fruit, homemade Danishes, juice, milk and coffee. Take-outs are available.

**Cost:** Adults, \$9.50; children ages 6-12, \$5; free for ages 5 and under.

## 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.

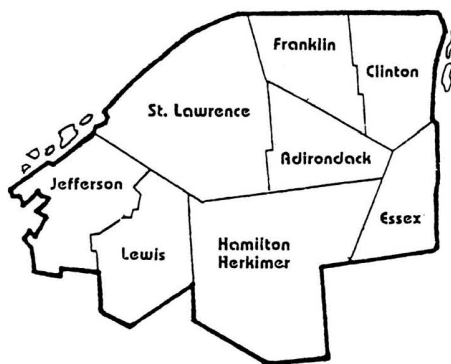
**Contact:** Father Douglas Lucia, dluacia@rcdony.org, or Father Howard Venette, hvenette@gmail.com, or just drop in.

## FRANKLIN

## HEARTS ON FIRE

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

**Schedule:** 7 p.m., Praise & Worship



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.

Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks & Fellowship

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

## DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion 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

## 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 &amp; 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

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Carthage – Augustinian Academy to host Trivia Night.

**Date:** Feb. 2

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 9

**Place:** Augustinian Academy

**Cost:** \$40 per team

**Features:** Light snacks served, prizes to winning teams. For adults and teens ages 16 and up.

**Contact:** smargrey@augustinianacademy.org

## 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

## TI CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

Clayton – The Thousand Islands Catholic Men's Group is a group of Catholic men who meet on a regular basis to discuss their experiences as Catholic men in

today's society.

**Date:** Second Saturday of every month

**Time:** 9 a.m.

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

**Features:** Come join us, whether you've been to a meeting before or not.

**Contact:** For further information contact Scott Beeles at 315-686-1303 or Gene Kleinhans at 315-482-3981.

## 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

## 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 Pistolessi and family.

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

## STEAK OR HADDOCK DINNER

Ogdensburg – Knights of Columbus Council #258 to have a dinner with the option of BBQ strip steak or haddock filet.

**Date:** Feb. 22

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

**Place:** K of C Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$11; Seniors and Children, \$10

**Contact:** 315-393-7990 for more information and to buy tickets.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## SURVIVING DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce groups to be held for 12 weeks in Watertown, Massena and Gouverneur.

**Schedule:** Starting Feb. 21 at St. James Church, Gouverneur; programs in Watertown and Massena are underway.

**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 DISCERNMENT GROUP

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, Hearsides Room at SSJ 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:** Journey begins with the sacrament of Reconciliation. Each re-





## 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

# Honoring Catholic Schools Week: Celebrate the Youth

We celebrate National Catholic Schools Week January 27 to February 2, 2019 with the theme, "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

We are reminded that Catholic schools exist to strive toward academic excellence and high moral standards. This year's theme emphasizes leadership and service as the path to success and the catalyst to learning and growth.

Since 1974, Catholic Schools Week has been an annual event in the schools' calendar.

Each year, schools and parishes together will host activities that highlight the educational and communal successes of the schools in their communities.

Schools serve students just as the church serves the community, by providing a safe place to learn, explore and grow their Faith in Christ.

The Missionary Childhood Association helps to assist students in the developing lands by providing financial assistance that provides the necessary tools to schools and the educators who live and work there. The good deeds of our amazing Catholic school students here help to benefit students so very far away.

MCA gives a pathway for students to learn, serve, lead and succeed and practice the skills, experiences and grace that they learn each day in school.

Let us celebrate our Catholic Schools each day and recognize the good deeds and kind actions they take to make the world a better place.

Thanks to all who promote the Missionary Childhood Association through prayer and financial sacrifices to assist students in developing countries.

May God bless all who are celebrating Catholic Schools Week with renewed faith.

MCA thanks you and so does the Mission Office.

We encourage all to celebrate our youth and support their endeavors.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Daniel J. Bushey, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 2019 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Parish Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Nancy May Senecal, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

**Chazy** – Joan (Ackey) Sears, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Ingraham Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Ralph H. "Bub" Hall, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church.

**Hogansburg** – Mary Ellen Jackson,

64; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 2019 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Dawn (McNierney) Latourelle, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 2019 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Malone** – Orra Anthony Langdon, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2019 at Notre Dame Church.

**Massena** – Mary Sue (Marskell) Feltz, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 24, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Colleen R. O'Donnell, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2019 at

Phillips Memorial Home.

**Morrisonville** – Pearl L. (Rabideau) LePage, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Wanita M. "Peanut" Drake-Pray, 67; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2019 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Port Henry** – Andrew R. Breeyear, 31; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 26, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Elizabeth "Betty" (Fleetham) Oakes, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 24, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

treat will be comprised of a unique blend of activities, DYC led workshops, Penance service with Reconciliation, and closing Mass. Snacks and drinks included. Registration deadline is Feb. 27

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

### 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

**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. Free Swag bags with surprises will be given out as well.

### 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

#### IGNITE MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – The 11th Annual IGNITE Conference to be held.

**Date:** March 30

**Place:** The SRC Arena is located on the campus of Onondaga Community College

**Features:** There will be 3 tremendous speakers that will challenge all who attend. An amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you.

**Contact:** You can register for the IGNITE 2019 Catholic Men's Conference online at [www.ignitecatholicmen.org](http://www.ignitecatholicmen.org).

#### 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. 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, obtain tickets online starting Feb. 1 at [newevangelization.ca](http://newevangelization.ca). Please contact Marika Donders, Director of the New Evangelization at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 to indicate that you plan to attend, what parish/town you're leaving from, and whether or not you have room in your vehicle for others who may want to carpool. If you are uncomfortable using the online registration, please contact Marika Donders for assistance.

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# Teen: Attending March is 'life-changing'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Washington, DC — Though weather cut their trip short, at least one diocesan teen who participated in the Youth Buses for Life said the trip was still a great experience.

"It's not the first time our trip was shortened by weather," said James Burke, 17, of Ticonderoga. "We were exhausted from the March. We didn't mind missing the sightseeing."

Burke said this was his third year participating in the Youth Buses for Life. This year, two bus loads of teens and chaperones made the trek from spots around the diocese to the nation's capital to participate in the annual March for life.

"The first two years, I had friends go with me," he said. "I went by myself this year, but once you've done it, you get to where you know all the people. So, I knew most of the people who went."

Burke said his favorite part of the March was hearing the speakers who presented to the gathered crowd, estimated at over 100,000 strong.

"The speakers were



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**James Burke of Ticonderoga and Father Martin E. Cline attended the March for Life in Washington, DC along with the diocesan Youth Buses for Life. Burke navigated the lengthy March despite having a sprained ankle.**

amazing," he said. "One of the speakers, I don't remember her name, but she was a Democrat, did a good job talking about how she puts her faith before politics and believes they should end abortion. I thought she did a very good job."

"And seeing Ben Shapiro was a dream come true. I totally forgot he was going to be there. It was cool

seeing a big celebrity there."

Burke noted he's a fan of Shapiro, a political commentator, writer and lawyer.

The Ticonderoga High School senior said he interviewed other March participants as part of a project he's completing for his school.

"I interviewed 16 people — mostly from our diocese,

but I also talked to a few random people from DC," Burke said. "Everyone talked about how much fun they had, how much they enjoyed the March, and how cool it was to just sit around and talk with the priests who came with us."

Burke, who is considering Americorps for next year, said he's thrilled to see youth getting involved

in politics in general and the pro-life movement specifically.

"You see the bigger world," he said. "You see how you can be part of it. It's a great thing. It shows how we can be involved, too."

The teen said he knows his pro-life stance is not always popular with his contemporaries, but that doesn't bother him.

"This is what we march for: we all march to end abortion and end laws like what New York just passed," he said. "We need to keep getting more people and spreading the message. I love how the March seems to get bigger every year, and it's almost all young faces. We need that."

He encouraged any youth who is even remotely considering attending next year's event to take the leap.

"It's life-changing," he said. "If you've never been there, and you have any desire at all, go. It's eye opening. My first year, I thought it was going to be a bust. I had the best time ever. Even though I'm hoping to do Americorps next year, I'm still hoping to do the March."

## World Day for Consecrated Life

By USCCB

Feb. 2 (celebrated in Parishes Feb. 2-3) is World Day for Consecrated Life.

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life.

This celebration is at-

tached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world.

So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred

to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day.

May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

### IN BRIEF

#### PARISH SEEKS CASSOCKS & SURPLICES


St Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington hopes to outfit altar servers in black and white cassock/surplice. The parish is seeking used cassocks/surplices in good condition and various sizes.

Any parish who has unused garments is urged to contact Kathleen Lauzon at 518-358-2107 or text 518-332-8347.

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