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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 38

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 20, 2019

## Pope: No room for individualism in prayer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Prayer is not just a private and intimate dialogue between a person and God, but rather an opportunity for Christians to bring the needs of others before the Lord, Pope Francis said.

"There is no room for individualism in the dialogue with God," the pope said Feb. 13 during his weekly general audience. "There is no display of one's own problems as if

we were the only ones in the world who suffer. There is no prayer raised to God that is not the prayer of a community of brothers and sisters."

Arriving at the Paul VI audience hall, the pope was welcomed by the sound of a children's choir singing a song based on his own teaching of the three words that are important for family life: "please," "thank you" and

"sorry."

Walking down the center aisle of the hall, the pope greeted the joyful pilgrims who held out their hands to greet him, have their religious objects blessed or their babies kissed.

Continuing his series of talks on the "Our Father," the pope focused his reflection on Jesus' instructions on how to pray, which he said was a secret

act that is "visible only to God."

Prayer, the pope said, "avoids falsehood; with God, it is impossible to pretend. It is impossible! In front of God, there is no trick that has power. This is how God knows us: naked in our conscience. And it isn't possible to pretend."

While prayer is an intimate act, akin to the "exchange of glances

between two people who love each other," Pope Francis said that true Christians also carry in their hearts their loved ones and those who suffer.

The pope highlighted the "impressive absence" of the word "I" throughout the text of the "Our Father," even though, he said, it is a word "that everyone holds in high esteem."

## McCarrick removed from priesthood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has confirmed the removal from the priesthood of Theodore E. McCarrick, the 88-year-old former cardinal and archbishop of Washington.

The Vatican announced the decision Feb. 16, saying he was found guilty of "solicitation in the sacrament of confession and sins against the Sixth Commandment with minors and with adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power."

A panel of the Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith found him guilty Jan. 11, the Vatican said. McCarrick appealed the decision, but the appeal was rejected Feb. 13 by the congregation itself.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

## OLYMPIC ENCOUNTER



Students from St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake recently spent a day at the Olympic Sliding Complex in Lake Placid to watch a World Cup Skeleton competition. The students met skeleton, bobsled and luge athletes and ate lunch inside a bobsled. Among the athletes they met was Chris Mazdzer (back row, center), a Saranac Lake native who won a silver medal in luge in the 2018 Olympics.

## TALKING TRAFFICKING



Victoria Recore of Watertown, mother of a trafficking survivor, speaks at a Feb. 9 presentation organized by the Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee and the Alliance for Better Communities of Watertown. Recore and trafficking survivor Salka Valerio described their experiences to approximately 60 people gathered at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Same story, different conclusions

"I have a rough jumping off point for a column for next week's edition. The base is, 'write me a lead that doesn't stink.' If I can pull it off and tie it to faith in the way my head is trying to, how would you feel about me writing about you?"

That's the text message I sent to my friend, Jonathan "Monkey" Monfiletto a couple weeks ago.

"I think it's great! What's your tie-in? I have an idea," was his reply.

Monkey's idea, the way he related "write me a lead that doesn't stink" to his faith journey, was completely different from mine.



**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

While that line made me think about the fact that we need to cooperate with God's grace and be willing to put in effort to improve, Monkey thought it was more indicative of God's unconditional love.

"While you rightfully expected me to write good leads for my stories, God

doesn't care about our leads. He only cares about our hearts," Monkey said.

The exact same line had completely different meanings to us as it relates to our faith journeys.

I've had this experience before. When I completed a series on Lectio Divina with a women's group, the members of the group would take vastly different messages from the same passage of Scripture. Despite how often I've experienced this, it still leaves me awestruck.

I believe God gives us the lessons we need based on

our circumstances.

While I didn't push him for more explanation, I'm guessing Monkey is at a point in his journey where he needs to hear that he is loved unconditionally, while I'm at a point where I need to be told that I need to be willing to cooperate with God's graces to improve.

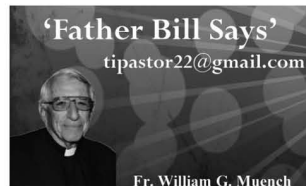
God has lessons He wants to teach all of us. Whether it be through Scripture, prayer, other people or reflecting on life experiences, He speaks to us where we are. We just have to be open and aware to hear Him.

## Reflections on creation

I begin again this week with a note of concern and a prayer for all of you back home who continue to wrestle with winter this year. I am keeping track of the news and weather up there and the temperature swings.

This week my attention has been centered on creation. The reason is that for the past few weeks, each day the first Scripture has been readings from the book of Genesis at the daily Mass. The first section of Genesis contains the stories of creation.

Nowadays, many – especially those who have studied high school science – find these stories unacceptable and also a reason to give up on God. Now I want you to know that I like these stories; I see them as magnificent stories of a people, attempting to understand their world and to emphasize their firm belief in God as their creator. Their stories were developed as they considered the world as they saw it. They were far from the understanding that we now have from space travel



and the Hubble telescope. These people wanted all who read this book of Genesis to understand that they believed with powerful faith in a creating God. And so their world is sacred, their part of the world is blessed, they are special, they are a loved people – God created all for them.

We all know the story that astronomy tells us happened in the formation of our universe. Modern science has given a unique view which is verified by scientific investigation. I decided to check in with the finest astronomer and scientist that I know. So I went back to YouTube to listen again to a talk given by a Jesuit, Father George Coyne. Father Coyne is a well-known astronomer. For a time, he was director of the Vatican Astronomical Center in Rome and director of the

Vatican Center in Tucson, Arizona. He has written and spoken often on this very question of his understanding of formation of the universe according to modern science and protests his belief in God as Creator of the Universe.

I remember going through the science of the formation of this universe of ours. I hope I still remember this properly. It was 13.8 billion years ago – the time of the Big Bang. This is the time it all began, and this universe continues to grow. As the time proceeded, galaxies were formed – an immense number of galaxies in this universe. These galaxies are where the stars are formed, and each galaxy contains thousands and thousands of stars. In one of these galaxies, the Milky Way, our galaxy, the conditions developed in such a way that around our star, our sun, a solar system was formed, a solar system of eight planets. One of these planets developed the proper conditions so that life came about. After several thou-

sand years, human life developed. And here we are.

Sometimes, when I go out to play golf, I think of this huge universe, with all these galaxies; and our galaxy with all its stars; and one of those stars with its solar system; and in that solar system, one planet with life – with human life; and here I am wondering where this golf ball will land.

Is there room for God? I can understand all of this scientific development that follows so carefully the laws of nature – nature has to react as it must. At the same time, as a person of faith, I believe that God is the creator – God created all things. I may not satisfy everyone as to where God fits in. But in faith I believe. For me, the only way the picture becomes complete is that God created it all.

Finally, are there other universes? Are there other solar systems? Are there other living beings out there in this immense universe? I don't know. But many are continuing to search – they have not found any others yet, but they are still looking.



PHOTO BY KRISTINA DEAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Victoria Recore, mother of a trafficking survivor, speaks as trafficking survivor Salka Valerio (right) listens. Recore and Valerio spoke Feb. 9 at a presentation organized by the Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee and the Alliance for Better Communities of Watertown.**

## Speakers discuss human trafficking in North Country

By Kristina Dean  
Staff Writer

WATERTOWN – By describing their experiences, a survivor of sex trafficking and a mother of a survivor warned approximately 60 people gathered at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse that trafficking is happening here and now.

"It's probably right in front of your face. If there's drugs here, there's definitely trafficking going on. It's hand-in-hand," said survivor and advocate Salka Valerio during the Feb. 9 presentation.

The event was organized by the Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee and the Alliance for Better Communities of Watertown.

Although anyone can be trafficked, sex traffickers seek at-risk children, especially runaways, those from broken homes, in foster care, or have addic-

tion problems, said Valerio, who was targeted and trafficked at age 14. Young people are groomed – often by someone they know – to gain their trust, then made promises of a job, a place to stay or a relationship, she explained.

"They are promised a job somewhere else, to live a better life. They get there and find they have to pay for room and board, transportation. Then, they (traffickers) take fees, they can't pay and they have to keep working. The kids are coerced, by blackmail or threat," she said.

"Sometimes the parents are on drugs, selling their kids to feed their habit. Sometimes it's a runaway who is couch surfing and having survival sex to have something to eat or a place to sleep," she said.

More than 1.6 million children run away from home, and one out of every five is lured into

trafficking within 24 hours, Valerio said.

Victoria Recore, parent of a trafficking survivor, became emotional while describing how her daughter was taken to a hotel in Watertown three years ago by a person she thought was a friend. Three men physically and sexually assaulted her. The girl was drugged, which necessitated her transportation to a hospital in Syracuse, said Ms. Recore, who explained that her daughter was "let go" by the men because she wouldn't stop fighting.

"It's something everyone needs to be aware of. There are so many girls out on the street looking for love, looking for attention," she said. "They (traffickers) gain their trust to take power over their victims. That's their main goal. It hurts my heart and my soul that this is such a big franchise all over the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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

# Human trafficking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

world. It's happening in our schools, our military. I would love to educate people all day on what the signs are. It's right under our noses."

Recore said she prayed for years to God, and she credits God with helping her daughter kick her addiction problem.

According to Ms. Valerio, some warning signs are sudden changes in clothing or appearance with no explainable source of income, carrying hotel room keys and/or lots of money, possessing more than one cell phone, running away from home multiple times, and the sudden presence of an older boyfriend.

Traffickers prey on individuals who have recently relocated, have an addiction, are runaways or homeless, have mental health concerns or are involved in the child welfare system. Forty-five percent of their victims are male.

Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, said trafficking is the second largest organized crime in the world. The sisters have offered a presentation on trafficking for the past five years during Human Trafficking Education month, coinciding with the Feb. 8 International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. Sister Bethany stressed it is important to recognize red flags, and to educate and protect children. Many people who attended were surprised trafficking existed in this area, and many wanted more edu-

cation and resources, and asked how to bring information into schools, she said.

As a child of immigrants from Honduras, Valerio said she "fell through the cracks" many times, from when school officials didn't recognize she couldn't speak English, to Child Protective Services workers who were unaware of her mother's abuse. As a depressed teen, she tried to take her own life several times and ran away from home. She was lured by a boyfriend into traveling to New York City to his "uncle's house," where she was told she was owned and paid for, then locked into a basement. The sexually inexperienced 14-year-old was sexually and physically assaulted many times until she agreed to prostitute herself. Eventually, when she was 15, she was able to get to a homeless shelter, where she discovered she was pregnant.

"I was falling through the cracks all the time. Luckily, I was resilient. I had strength. The thing that kept me going was I had to show my mom I could be somebody without her help. I had to prove to her I could become a better version of myself," Valerio said.

Valerio is a community organizer, educator, linguistics translator and outreach liaison for the Crime Victims Assistance Center in Binghamton. She earned an associate degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Broome College and speaks publicly about her life to shed light on trafficking.

## Know the signs of human trafficking

Knowing the indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying victims and helping them find the assistance. Keep in mind, not all indicators will be present in all situations. Some possible signs include if an individual:

- Is not free to leave or come and go at will
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations
- Is living and working on site
- Experiences verbal or physical abuse by their supervisor

- Is not given proper safety equipment
- Is not paid directly
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Shows signs of substance use or addiction
- Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, and/or fatigue
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of their own money, financial records, or bank account
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

\* Source: Polaris

To report suspected trafficking, call the national hotline at 888-3737-888 or text BEFREE to 233733.

## Womens' Retreat



Save the date .....

Presenter: Edwina Gateley

Edwina was born in Lancaster, England. She earned a teaching degree, a Master's in Theology from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and certification as an HIV counselor in Illinois.

In 1983, she worked on the streets of Chicago with the homeless and women of prostitution. She founded Genesis House—a house of hospitality and nurturing for women involved in prostitution. She has been publicly commended for her work and ministry by many groups, individuals, former Mayor of Chicago and former US President, Bill Clinton. She has been featured on CBS's "60 Minutes" and "48 Hours".

Edwina felt the call to invite others to offer their services in the developing world. After 18 month struggle to receive church support and endorsement, Edwina founded the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM) in response to a need for lay people to become more deeply involved in the mission life of the Church.

Edwina is currently writing, giving talks and leading retreats nationally and internationally.

### Topic

Soul Sisters: Women called to  
Connect, Bond and Heal in a  
Broken World

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9:00 am

Fr. Amyot Parish Center  
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## Environmental Stewardship

### A curse or a blessing?

Is plastic a blessing or a curse? Before you answer this question, why not look around your home and see what you find that is made of plastic?

Plastic has become an integral part of our daily lives from our appliances, cell phones, computers, vehicles, tools, toys, kitchen utensils, packaging to garbage bags, zip-lock bags, grocery bags, milk and beverage containers, and so on. In 1907, plastic made from fossil fuels was created. It became very useful during World War II. After the War was over, manufacturers looked for new ways to use plastics in civilian life. In 1953, the plastic used in grocery store plastic bags was produced.

In August 1955, LIFE magazine published an article entitled "Throwaway Living." The idea, it seems, was that humans had entered a kind of wanton Golden Age, when cleaning up after ourselves was just one quarter waste of time, and "tossing more and more of our used-once items into the trash was another sign of modernity's relentless ascendancy over the drudgery of the past."

As this "throwaway living" looks like a blessing, we have come to see that it can also be a curse to the earth. Today, a newer kind of plastic that is lighter, more moldable and non-bio-degradable is being used in one-time use items, i.e. bottles, bags, etc.. While attractive to the consumer, they can easily blow away into streets, landfills and waterways. When plastics land in our waterways, they eventually break down into micro-particles that pollute the waters that we drink and the fish that we eat.

So, is plastic a blessing or a curse? It seems that it can be both. While we can celebrate the ways that plastic has improved our lives, we need to pay attention to the ways that can also become a curse to God's garden that we have been called to care for. (Genesis 2:16) What are some ways that we can reduce our use of plastics?

## Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 20** – Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897

**Feb. 21** – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

**Feb. 22** – Rev. Edward Tortel, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H. J. Ryan, 1930

**Feb. 23** – Rev. Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., 1908; Rev. Edward Blanchard, 1922; Rev. André Payette, O.M.I., 1976

**Feb. 24** – Rev. George Belanger, 1932; Rev. William J. Murphy, C.S.C.O., 1959

**Feb. 25** – Rev. William Howard, 1888; Rev. P.J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1895; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912; Msgr. L. Kevin Conners, 1971

**Feb. 26** – Rev. Francis X. LaChance, 1916; Rev. John F. Wiley, 1984

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Feb. 20** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 21** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 22** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 23** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 24** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame in Ogdensburg

**Feb. 25** – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 26** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Feb. 27** – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

## 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).

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

**March 1** – 1 p.m., Diocesan Offices, Ogdensburg

## WELCOME, FATHER HOWARD



Students at St. Mary's School recently welcomed Father Howard Venette, newly assigned to Ticonderoga and Schroon Lake, to the school and community. Father Venette has been spending time with each of the classes and attending school functions. Here, he is pictured attending the Cake Walk at the school's carnival, part of its celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

# Scholarship available for Catholic higher education

Are you a Catholic High School Senior who currently resides in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is planning to attend a Catholic college or university in the fall?

The Mater Dei College Foundation is pleased to offer a Scholarship opportunity to qualifying students going on to study liberal arts and sciences at

a degree-granting Catholic college or university.

To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at [vmathews@rc-dony.org](mailto:vmathews@rc-dony.org). Application deadline is June 1, 2019.

The Mater Dei Foundation was born out of the Mater Dei College Foundation. When the two-year

Catholic college closed in 1999, it had an endowment fund, which previously provided college scholarships to qualifying students.

The Mater Dei Foundation now provides scholarships to for those pursuing Catholic higher education and provides support for Catholic education within the diocese.

## 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; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Catholic bishops, groups oppose Trump's call for national emergency to build wall

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic bishops near the U.S.-Mexico border, joined by other U.S. prelates, voiced opposition just after President Donald Trump's Feb. 15 declaration of a national emergency so he can order construction of a barrier along parts of the border between the two countries. "In our view, a border wall is first and foremost a symbol of division and animosity between two friendly countries. Furthermore, the wall would be an ineffective use of resources at a time of financial austerity; it would also would destroy parts of the environment, disrupt the livelihoods of ranchers and farmers, weaken cooperation and commerce between border communities, and, at least in one instance, undermine the right to the freedom of worship," said the statement released just after Trump, in a news conference, said he was going to sign a national emergency declaration to stave off a flow of drugs, human trafficking, gang members and illegal immigration coming across the southern border. The president later sign a spending bill that provides \$1.375 billion for fencing and other measures along the border — a fraction of the \$5.7 billion he had been asking from Congress for construction of the structure — he announced the national emergency that could grant him up to \$8 billion for his project. In a separate bishops' statement following Trump's announcement, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, said they were "deeply concerned about the president's action to fund the construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, which circumvents the clear intent of Congress to limit funding of a wall."

## U.S. pilgrims still feeling joy, renewal from attending World Youth Day

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pilgrims from the New York Archdiocese who attended the world-class retreat led by Pope Francis that was World Youth Day in Panama felt renewed in their faith journey and are still cherishing the moment as a joyful turning point they will always remember. "These are some really special young people. I know they won't leave what they encountered and learned behind in Panama, but will bring it with them to the Archdiocese of New York," said Mary Elise Zellmer, assistant director of the archdiocesan Office of Young Adult Outreach. She made the comments in an email to Catholic New York, the archdiocesan newspaper, after World Youth Day ended. Among the 44 young adult pilgrims and nine coordinators from the archdiocese who were in Panama for the Jan. 22-27 gathering. "Honestly, it was amazing. I can now hear the voice of God a lot clearer than I could before," said Josue Rosario Cruz, 24, who took part in the Way of the Cross led by Pope Francis the evening of Jan. 25. Members of a delegation that went to Panama from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, likewise pointed to a renewal of their faith from the experience as well as an openness to answer the Lord's call. The pilgrimage was marked by moments of "joy, excitement and peace," Anna Metzger, a Spanish teacher at Mercy Academy, told The Record, Louisville's archdiocesan newspaper.

# McCarrick found guilty, removed from priesthood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has confirmed the removal from the priesthood of Theodore E. McCarrick, the 88-year-old former cardinal and archbishop of Washington.

The Vatican announced the decision Feb. 16, saying he was found guilty of "solicitation in the sacrament of confession and sins against the Sixth Commandment with minors and with adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power."

A panel of the Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith found him guilty Jan. 11, the Vatican said. McCarrick appealed the decision, but the appeal was rejected Feb. 13 by the congregation itself. McCarrick was informed of the decision Feb. 15 and Pope Francis "recognized the definitive nature of this decision made in accord with law," making a further appeal impossible.

By ordering McCarrick's "dismissal from the clerical state," the decision means that McCarrick loses all rights and duties associated with being a priest, cannot present himself as a priest and is forbidden to celebrate the sacraments, except to grant absolution for sins to a person in imminent danger of death.

The only church penalty that is more severe is excommunication, which would have banned him from receiving the sacraments. The other possible punishment was to sentence him to a "life of prayer and penance," a penalty often imposed on elderly clerics; the penalty is sim-

ilar to house arrest and usually includes banning the person from public ministry, limiting his interactions with others and restricting his ability to leave the place he is assigned to live.

McCarrick's punishment is the toughest meted out to a cardinal by the Vatican in modern times.

McCarrick's initial suspension from ministry and removal from the College of Cardinals in 2018 came after a man alleged that McCarrick began sexually abusing him in 1971 when he was a 16-year-old altar server in New York; the Archdiocese of New York found the allegation "credible and substantiated" and turned the case over to the Vatican.

At that point, in June, then-Cardinal McCarrick said he would no longer exercise any public ministry "in obedience" to the Vatican, although he maintained he was innocent.

In late July, the pope accepted McCarrick's resignation from the College of Cardinals and ordered him to maintain "a life of prayer and penance" until the accusation that he had sexually abused a minor could be examined by a Vatican court.

In the weeks that followed the initial announcement, another man came forward claiming he was abused as a child by McCarrick, and several former seminarians spoke out about being sexually harassed by the cardinal at a beach house he had in New Jersey.

Since September, McCarrick has been living in

a Capuchin friary in rural Kansas.

The allegations against McCarrick, including what appeared to be years of sexual harassment of seminarians, also led to serious questions about who may have known about his activities and how he was able to rise to the level of cardinal.

At least two former seminarians reported the sexual misconduct of McCarrick to their local bishops as far back as the 1990s. The Archdiocese of Newark and the dioceses of Metuchen and Trenton made a settlement with one man in 2005, and the Diocese of Metuchen settled with the other man in 2007.

A spokeswoman for the Diocese of Metuchen told Catholic News Service in August that both settlements were reported to the Vatican nuncio in Washington. The two archbishops who held the position of nuncio in 2004 and 2006 have since died.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, who served as nuncio in Washington from 2011-2016, made headlines in mid-August when he called for Pope Francis to resign, claiming the pope had known of allegations against McCarrick and had lifted sanctions imposed on McCarrick by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI.

The former nuncio later clarified that Pope Benedict issued the sanctions "privately" perhaps "due to the fact that he (McCarrick) was already retired, maybe due to the fact that he (Pope Benedict) was thinking he was ready to obey."

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

**'Exceptions' and the undermining of moral law**

Whenever we make small exceptions to universal moral rules, we shouldn't be surprised that the rules themselves can be quickly undermined. Establishing an "exception" in one case makes people think they're due an exemption for their case as well. Certain norms of moral behavior, however, do not admit of any exceptions, and we risk undermining morality altogether if we don't recognize them. Moral norms governing the protection of human life are one such example.

A recent and lengthy article in *The Guardian* took a look at the practice of euthanasia in the Netherlands. It led off with this provocative title: "Death on demand: has euthanasia gone too far? Countries around the world are making it easier to choose the time and manner of your death. But doctors in the world's euthanasia capital are starting to worry about the consequences." The article points out:

"As the world's pioneer, the Netherlands has also discovered that although legalising euthanasia might resolve one ethical conundrum, it opens a can of others – most importantly, where the limits of the practice should be drawn. In the past few years a small but influential group of academics and jurists have raised the alarm over what is generally referred to, a little archly, as the 'slippery slope' – the idea that a measure introduced to provide relief to late-stage cancer patients has expanded to include people who might otherwise live for many years, from

sufferers of diseases such as muscular dystrophy to sexagenarians with dementia and even mentally ill young people."

The logic behind these concerns is clear. If we are willing to make an exception to the rule that direct killing of an innocent human being is always wrong, then it only becomes a matter of "haggling over the price." If killing by euthanasia can be

allowed for a deeply emotional reason, it can certainly be allowed for other reasons too, and soon for nearly any reason, making it difficult, if not impossible, to put the cat back into the proverbial "moral bag."

The almost instantaneous deployment of abortion-on-demand around the world several decades ago relied on very similar logic: first, grant a single exception, and in time virtually any instance begins to appear plausible and defensible. That exception, of course, was rape. By playing on the tragedy of sexual assault, abortion advocates managed to direct attention and blame towards the child, an innocent bystander, turning him or her, almost more than the rapist, into the culprit. After the child had been successfully targeted in situations of rape, he or she became generally targetable in other situations as well.

When it comes to abortion, the state of Louisiana in past years required some of the

most comprehensive reporting in the US, and their detailed records are a helpful resource for determining how frequent abortions for rape really

are. Abortionists were required to fill out a form entitled "Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy" (Form #PHS 16-ab) for every abortion. The form stated at the top: "Failure to complete and file this form is a crime." Item 9d on the form was entitled "Reason for Pregnancy Termination." Statistics compiled from these forms over a 14-year period reveal the reasons for 115,243 abortions in Louisiana during that time:

#### Reasons for Abortion in Louisiana between 1975 and 1988

- Mother's mental health – 114,231 (99.12 percent)
- Mother's physical health – 863 (0.75 percent)

- Fetal deformity – 103 (0.09 percent)
- Rape or incest – 46 (0.04 percent)

These data confirm other calculations indicating that, on average, about 550 women per year in the U.S. become pregnant as a result of rape. Assuming they all ended in abortion, this means that an average of 0.04 percent (one twenty-fifth of one percent) of all abortions have been performed for rape – or only one out of every 2,500! Yet for every one of the more than 50 countries that now have abortion on demand around the world, the initial step taken by pro-abortion forces was intense lobbying for abortion in the so-called 'hard cases' -- especially rape and incest. Once abortion advocates secured the availability of abortion for the 'hard cases' they went on to argue for abortion in any situation.

Even if one granted, for the sake of argument, that rape justified a

mother's decision to end her child's life, could that ever justify the other abortions that occur for non-rape related reasons? It is duplicitous to justify 2,499 deaths from the one assault, unjust and traumatic as it may have been. By granting the exception, the moral rule has been, in effect, eliminated, and the doors have been thrown open to the practice of abortion for any reason. Encouraging exceptions is the entry point into a broader repudiation of our moral duties towards each other, the first of which is the duty to respect the inviolability of each other's life.

—  
*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)*



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.



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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# We need God's grace to love our enemies

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you." I wonder how many of his Gentile listeners heard this for the first time, gave a disgusted snort and walked away?

Of course, if they knew their Scriptures, they would have realized that their great hero, the young shepherd-warrior, David, showed incredible love and forgiveness for his enemy, King Saul. Saul was filled with jealous hatred for David because he feared this popular hero would steal his crown and rule in his place. Saul and his men combed the desert for



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

David, seeking to kill him. But God intervened, placing the king and his soldiers in a deep sleep. David crept into the camp during the night, and seeing the king asleep, carefully removed the sword and water jar from near Saul's head and ran with them to a bluff above the camp. When the king was awakened with David's shouting, he realized that his life had been spared. He began to weep repentant tears and sought David's forgiveness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his hearers that they must forgive and love everyone, even their ene-

February 24

Seventh Sunday of  
Ordinary Time  
READINGS

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23  
1 Corinthians 15:45-49  
Luke 6:27-28

mies. Jesus knew what he was asking. Nothing is more difficult than to love those who hate us. It goes against the grain. Only God's grace can give us the strength to do this.

Jesus expands on this teaching with the "Golden Rule:" Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Note how different that teaching is from the Jewish Law that said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.") A great peacemaker of the

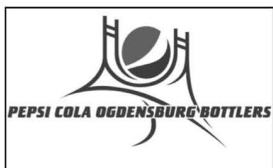
last century, Mahatma Gandhi, scorned that law, saying "If you follow that principle, then both you and your enemy will end up blind!".)

Jesus concluded his remarks with the shocking news that, on the last day, His Heavenly Father will dole out the same amount of mercy to us that we have shown to others in this life! He thereby made love a command. Who would want to take the chance of being damned because of a bad track record? After all, loving everyone, even when it's difficult, brings us salvation. No wonder that it is said that God doesn't put anyone in hell. We put ourselves there!

Where on earth can we find the strength to love

those who despise and hate us? Good psychologists tell us that we're both demon and dove. St. Paul tells us the same thing - we're part "natural man" and part "spiritual man." If we remain attached to the demons of selfishness and follow the "old" Adam, we'll never make it. If, rather, we allow the dove in us to flourish, then the spiritual power of Jesus, the "new" Adam, will help us shun hateful actions and grow in new ways of forgiveness and love.

New decisions to abandon our selfish ways and embrace a new gentleness in our ways of handling "enemies" are a great way to prepare ourselves for the exciting journey of Lent. It all begins a week from Wednesday.



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## A response to New York's RHA

To the editor,

As everyone in New York and across the country knows, NY is in the lead with its progressive agendas. Abortion is now legal until birth for any reason, "later term abortion" as coined by the "choice" crowd!

Abortion has been removed from the penal code, and an abortion caused by domestic violence is no longer a criminal act against the unborn baby! Physician assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives can now per-

form abortions!

Are you cheering yet?

And, get this, if a baby survives an abortion, there will be no care for this child who has miraculously made it alive outside of the womb; it will be left to die.

And cheer they did. Democrats acted as children in a candy shop as Gov. Cuomo signed off on this barbaric, outrageous bill! Makes a woman wonder why NY isn't introducing and passing bills to really help women.

Now, remove your

"abortion brain" and pay attention to the following: People I've talked to are outraged and they are using this energy to offer help to women who feel abandoned in a crisis pregnancy. We are ready with open, loving hearts to assist in any way.

Go to <https://www.rc-dony.org/pro-life.html>. Scroll down to "Pregnant? Need help?" Scroll further down and you will see a link to "13,000 Federally Qualified Health Centers."

Questioning a past "choice"? Scroll back up and register for a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat to begin the healing you deserve. Most of these services are free or reasonably affordable.

THERE IS HOPE! PEOPLE CARE! Now that's something to cheer about!! LOVE ALL LIFE! ALL LIFE IS

PRECIOUS ESPECIALLY YOURS! Call me I'll tell you about it 518-593-6024. Please do not be afraid, no situation you are in is impossible. We can assist you in making the life choice.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Belzile  
Willsboro

### 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)

## JOB OPENING

Full time Position of Facilities Manager at  
Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, NY.

For job description and information, contact:  
Msgr. Robert Aucoin at [msgraucoin@mac.com](mailto:msgraucoin@mac.com)



## AT THE MOVIES

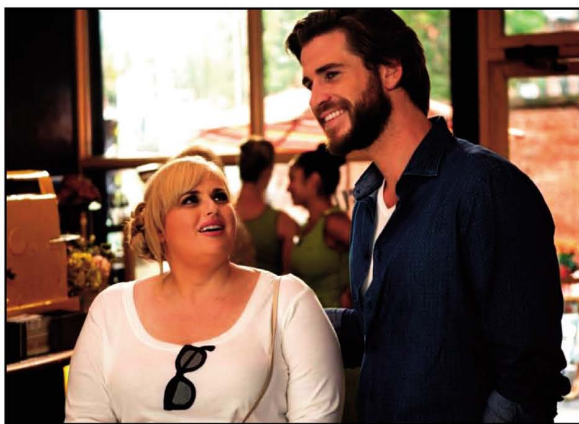
## ISN'T IT ROMANTIC

NEW YORK (CNS)—Funny thing about recent Hollywood comedies, many of them are anything but. Whether marred by a post-"Hang-over" desire to be outrageous or by actions or situations entirely unrelated to normal human behavior, they usually wind up being more tiresome than tickling.

So the sunny send-up "Isn't It Romantic" (Warner Bros.) comes as something of a relief. In satirizing the conventions of contemporary romantic comedies — while also, of course, providing a love story of its own — director Todd Strauss-Schulson's upbeat film delivers laughs aplenty. Which is not to say, however, that it's a family movie. Though the blue material is relatively minimal, this is, nonetheless, strictly grown-up fare.

Rebel Wilson brings verve to the role of Natalie, a lovelorn architect and cynical critic of what she considers the delusions perpetrated by the genre. After being mugged and, in trying to escape her assailant, sustaining a blow to the head, however, Natalie wakes up in a transformed version of her world, one filled with all the clichés of the pictures she disdains.

It comes as no surprise, then, that one of her potential clients, Blake (Liam Hemsworth), a dashing billionaire who had previously ignored Natalie now suddenly begins to court her assiduously. Similarly, Natalie's co-worker and best friend, down-to-earth Josh (Adam Devine), starts successfully punching above his weight by dating comely, elegant self-styled "yoga ambassador" Isabella (Priyanka Chopra



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Rebel Wilson and Liam Hemsworth star in a scene from the movie "Isn't It Romantic."

Jonas).

Natalie, when she's not too busy being exasperated by the rosy-hued events taking place around her, is smitten with Blake's good looks and lavish lifestyle. But she continues to feel drawn to Josh, despite the fact that she has turned down dates with him in the past and has managed to blind herself to the fact, quite apparent to the audience from the outset, that he has long been her secret admirer.

Thus the struggle is on between surface attraction and something much more substantial.

The essential message of "Isn't It Romantic," concerns the need to appreciate yourself before you can be open to receiving love. That's a valid enough lesson for emotionally fearful Natalie to learn. But, along the way, her educational adventure takes on topics best suited to mature viewers.

One frequent element of the movies being skewered, for instance, is the heroine's swishy gay friend who serves as her confidant and adviser.

Enter Natalie's neighbor, Donny (Brandon Scott Jones). Though Natalie had taken Donny for a ladies' man, in rom-com land he's so light in his loafers he's in danger of floating away.

There's not much of an agenda to this aspect of the story, though, beyond objecting to the excessively effeminate portrayal of such characters.

Another staple of ro-

mantic comedies is the discreet bedroom fade out — after which it's made apparent that the couple spent the night together. This becomes fodder for some amusing scenes between Natalie and Blake. But they're not ones, obviously, that Mom and Dad can enjoy with the kids in tow.

Along the same lines, Natalie is continually drowned out by other sounds whenever she attempts to use the F-word — a sly reference to the desire of many filmmakers to qualify for a PG-13 rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.

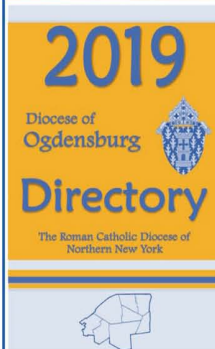
Though such motifs involve restraint, they paradoxically put "Isn't It Romantic" beyond the pale for youngsters — as, too, does a more wayward exchange between Natalie and Donny detailing what the former learned about Blake's anatomy by spying on him in the shower. That riff aside, though, most of the gags are no

more than a bit saucy and will easily be taken in stride by older moviegoers.

The film contains mature subject matter and humor, including numerous references to homosexuality and nonmarital sex, brief medical gore, a same-sex kiss, an irreverent joke, a few uses of profanity and a mild oath, at least one instance of rough language, occasional crude talk and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13; parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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The Official 2019 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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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

## FISHERS CLUB

Plattsburgh – The Lakesides Fishers Club will meet and discuss priesthood discernment.

**Date:** March 3 & 17, April 7

**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.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

**Date:** March 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

## LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

**Dates:** Mondays and Tuesdays

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Place:** Saint Frere Andre Chapel

**Features:** Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 7 PM on Tuesday of Holy Week.

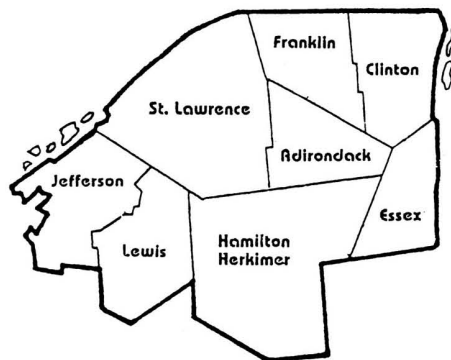
**Contact:** Parish Rectory: 518-563-1692

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

**Date:** Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6 to Palm Sunday, April 14

**Features:** Father Mickey Demo will lead a kick-off blessing March 6 at 10



The North County 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.

am a he vigil site You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the vigil site Planned Parenthood, 66 Brinkerhoff Street and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

**Contact:** If you'd like more information and especially if you'd like to volunteer to pray a he vigil site, please contact: Nancy Belzile, 518-593-6024, nancys\_56@hotmail.com; www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

## FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart parish to have their annual fish fry.

**Date:** March 15

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

**Place:** Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$11; Children 6-12, \$5; All take-outs are \$11

**Contact:** 518-846-7650 or email sacredheart@westelcom.com for more information.

## ESSEX

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's Church will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** Take-outs start at 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children under 12, \$5

## FRANKLIN

## LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Chasm Falls – Lenten Day of Recollection to be held by the Ogdensburg Cur-

sillo group.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

**Cost:** A donation of \$10/adult is suggested upon arrival

**Features:** Join Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Albert Hauser, Father Alan Shnob, Father Jack Downs and Father Andrew Amyot for a day of talks, prayer, personal witness, recollection and opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Contact:** Pre-register by mail, email or phone no later than March 15.

Kathyracette@gmail.com, kracette1a@gmail.com, 518-314-1505, 518-578-3056, Ken and Kathy Racette, 679 Cumberland Head Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner to be held to benefit Indian River Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** March 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

## RETREAT

Watertown – Please join us for "Charisms: Discovering the Gifts We All Have to Share" retreat.

**Date:** March 23

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

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Mother

House

**Features:** The cost of the workshop is minimal, free will donation at the door. Facilitator will be Marika Donders. Mass and workshops to be held.

**Contact:** Please register prior to March 23 by going to It's easy to register, just click on the link below: <http://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-layministers/clm-event-registration.htm> or call Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920.

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

**Date:** March 28

**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

## LEWIS

## 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

## 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

## BLESSED IS SHE WORKSHOP

Norwood – "Live Well: Self Care for Body and Soul" workshop and DIY perfume making to be held.

**Date:** March 10

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

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

**Features:** All women can come and learn about spiritual and physical self

care, then make your own essential oil perfume! Light snacks will be served but please bring a drink. There is no cost to attend

**Contact:** To reserve your materials for perfume making or for more information please contact Sara LaPoint at 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

## IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Star Lake – IHC Mystery Players to present in a very creative way the centuries old stations of the cross.

**Date:** March 22

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

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

**Features:** A very creative way, the centuries old stations. Meditation and contemplation on the death and resurrection of Jesus in the central mystery in the prayer life of the Catholic Church. We strongly encourage everyone to attend this unique and powerful prayer experience.

**Contact:** St. Hubert's at 315-848-3612 or st.huberts.church@gmail.com

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## SURVIVING DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce group to be held in Gouverneur.

**Schedule:** Feb. 21 at St. James Church

**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, Hearthside 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. Register by emailing Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org

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, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# Greetings from Father Chapin

Pope Francis has announced an extraordinary missionary month for October 2019. The purpose is to give new impetus to the missionary task of Benedict XV's 1919 letter "Maximum Illud." The aim is to foster an increased awareness of taking up again the renewed fervor of the missionary transformation of the church's life and pastoral activity. During the month of October and for sometimes prior, current mission stories will be shared in the North Country Catholic of how Pope Benedict's letter is being effective in developing countries today. It is fitting that Father Daniel Chapin should be writing about living conditions in Bolivia today, as he ministers with member of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

In an email, Father Chapin agreed to share his experience with readers who frequently inquire about his ministry. He was delighted to have family visit him in Bolivia and visit some of the places Father Chapin knew so well from assignments to Mollendo, Peru from 1976-86. The family visited Santa Cruz, La Paz, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. He enjoyed the time with his family at the Maryknoll Center House in Cochabamba. They regretted not being able to visit Arequipa and Mollendo.

Father Chapin is in transition as he will be moving over to the parish house at Our Lady of LaSalette sometime in February, where he will stay for the next 10 days, as the pastor is in Argentina at their annual assembly; he is on the council, so often has to make trips there.

Here are a few of Father Chapin's comments:

*I will be in the United States for a couple of months this coming summer. After three years, we benefit from 'furlough' time; I will be spending some time at Maryknoll in Ossining and some time on the road doing mission promotion for Maryknoll, most likely in the Northeast region; but I certainly plan on spending some good time in our diocese in the beloved North Country. I have many wonderful photos that I will bring with me.*

*Bolivia's president has just begun his 14th year in this position; he wants to continue and is running for reelection; primary elections were January 27th (first ever in Bolivia's history) and general elections are in October; it will be a year of election/political turmoil.*

*We are receiving much rain this season and that is a good thing. Greetings to all and we'll be in touch.*

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

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** — Donald E. Hosley, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2019 at St. Cecilia's Church.

**Bloomington** — Lawrence F. Kelly, 91; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2019 at St. Paul's Oratory; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** — Donald G. Douglas, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 14, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Canton** — Harry Chandler Barr, 68; Memorial Services Feb. 23, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Cape Vincent** — Philip R. Wiley, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 16, 2019 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

**Carthage** — Christopher Hugh Paragon, 52; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — Ronald A. Tourville, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Bellmont Center Cemetery.

**Croghan** — Elizabeth Demo, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 14, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** — Roger W. Favaro, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 11, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Heuvelton** — Hazel S. (Murray) Mead, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 15, 2019 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hill Crest Cemetery.

**Hopkinton** — Paul R. LaClair, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2019 at Church of the Holy Cross; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

**Keeseville** — Peter Lawrence Kelley, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 14, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

**Keeseville** - Marie Rita Perrotte, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** — Katherine B. (Back) Gagnier, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church;

burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Sandra A. (Sweet) Hauf, 78; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. John's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

**Raymondville** — Mary Ellen M. (Early) Bogdovitz, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 11, 2019 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Star Lake** — Elizabeth R. (Apodaca) Rauth, 82; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. Hubert's.

**Watertown** — Peter A. Augustine, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 13, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Angeline (Augliano) Sparacino, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 16, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Margaret "Peggy" Joan Backus Walts, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 9, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Evans Mills.

# Around the diocese

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### 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 retreat will be comprised of a unique blend of activities, DYC led workshops, 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, Indoor Snowball Blas, Glow Ball Fun and Arts and Crafts. Free Swag bags with surprises will be given out as well.

### NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

#### IGNITE MEN'S CONFERENCE

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

**Date:** March 30

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

**Features:** There will be three speakers who 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. Register at [www.newevangelization.ca](http://www.newevangelization.ca)

**Contact:** If you register for this one-day summit, please contact Marika Donders, Director of the New Evangelization at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 and indicate that you plan to attend, where you're traveling from and whether or not you'd consider offering a ride to other attendee(s).

## CELEBRATING THEIR SCHOOLS



Students from St. Bernard's School participated in the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival Parade, part of the village's annual Winter Carnival.



Students at Holy Family School in Malone celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Father Michael Jablonski.

## Funeral Mass to be held for auxiliary bishop

SYRACUSE—A Mass of Christian Burial for the Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello, retired Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Burial will follow at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery in Rome, New York.

Reception of the body will take place on Thursday, February 21 at 4 p.m. in The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m., at which time the vigil service will take place.

Bishop Costello died on Friday, February 15, 2019, at the age of 89. Bishop Costello served the people of the Diocese of Syracuse as a Roman Catholic priest for nearly 65 years and served as the auxiliary bishop for over 40 years.

A native of Camden, New York, Costello was the son of James and Ethel (Dupont) Costello. As an only child, he shared his vocation to the priesthood with his parents. His

father's response was, "If that is what you want to do, be a good one." That was his father's blessing and he lived up to that charge his entire life.

He graduated from St. Aloysius Academy in Rome, New York before continuing his studies at Niagara University, St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, Theological College in Washington, DC and Catholic University of America, School of Canon Law, in Washington, DC.

He was ordained a priest on June 5, 1954, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, D.D. He was appointed an assistant pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Syracuse where he served from 1954-1959. He served as a secretary in the Diocesan Tribunal for one year before being named superintendent of Catholic Schools from 1960-1975. In 1975, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Syracuse where he served until 1978. He was named vicar general of the diocese in 1978 and served in that

role until 2009.

Costello received many papal honors, including being named a papal chamberlain with a title of monsignor in 1965, elevated to honorary prelate in 1971 and Titular Bishop of Perdices and Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse in 1978. He was appointed by Pope Paul VI and ordained auxiliary bishop on March 13, 1978 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, choosing his Episcopal motto to be "As One Who Serves."

Bishop Costello served on many boards in the community and across the country, including Jubilee Homes, Le Moyne College, the then Syracuse Interreligious Council, WCNY, Loretto and more. He was very active on the national scene, belonging to many committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, including time as chairman of the Communications Committee.

Bishop Costello's legacy will most notably be being a man of deep faith and a man of the people. He had

no tolerance for any injustice. He was in the forefront of speaking against racism, poverty, inequality, violence and more. He marched in Selma, Alabama, with Dr. Martin Luther King, fought for employee rights, spoke against the death penalty, promoted the respect and dignity of all life, encouraged interfaith dialogue and equality for all. He very much believed that we are called to be peacemakers and he strived to live his life emulating that belief.

Bishop Costello will also be remembered for being a passionate preacher with a booming voice and being the man to get things done in the diocese and the greater community. He was a scholar who was consistently approachable to all.

Bishop Costello submitted his resignation as auxiliary bishop on his 75th birthday in 2004 and remained vicar general until 2009. In his retirement, he continued to serve the people of the diocese, confirming young people, offering spiritual direc-

tion and always taking a call from people in their time of need. He was a man who loved rooting for the Orange, both women and men. But most of all, Bishop Thomas Costello was a man who lived his faith each and every day, celebrated being a child of God and lived out every word of his motto, "As One Who Serves."

He is survived by cousins, Sister Ruth Cecilia Dowd, CSJ, Sister Helene Daniel Courtney, CSJ, Sister Celine John Courtney, CSJ and Anne and John Scott of Texas; as well as very close friends whose company he thoroughly enjoyed.

The Diocese of Syracuse is grateful for the tremendous care of Bishop Costello by St. Joseph's Hospital, Loretto and Francis House.

Contributions in his name can be made to the Light a Child's Future Fund, which provides tuition aid to Catholic school students in the diocese.

Share condolences at [www.BuranichFH.com](http://www.BuranichFH.com)