

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

'Exodus 90' helps men reduce distractions, focus on Christ | PAGE 5

Montreal Oratory to undergo renovation | PAGE 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 41

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 13, 2019

## It's time to renew or get a subscription

The annual subscription campaign for the *North Country Catholic* begins this weekend.

As Bishop Terry R. LaValley said, "our newspaper tells stories of how God is working in and through our neighbors. It shares the stories of the programs and efforts that are making a difference. It is my hope that you find some inspiration in those stories."

In this edition, you may find inspiration reading about men in our diocese reducing distractions and focusing on Christ with the Exodus 90 program, or in the hope and service of St. André Bessette Parish, which just opened a new office and food pantry.

FULL STORIES ON PAGES 4 & 5

## CELEBRATING A CENTENARIAN



PAMELA MCDOWELL/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently celebrated mass with Judy Ferguson, a 100-year-old parishioner of St. Francis Xavier in Redwood. Father Douglas G. Comstock, pastor of St. Francis Xavier, concelebrated the mass.**

## NEW OFFICE, NEW MINISTRY



Deacon Brent Charland, maintenance director of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, gives tours of the parish's new Good Samaritan Food Pantry, located downstairs at St. John Bosco Church. The food pantry, along with new parish offices, were blessed by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at an open house and potluck on March 3.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

# Lent is a time for less hypocrisy, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Lent is a time to ask for God's grace to chip away at hypocrisy, which is seen in the natural human attempt to appear "worthier than we are," Pope Francis said.

"I must appear to be what I am, and that is our work in Lent," the pope said March 8 during his early morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

Pope Francis' homily focused on the day's first reading from the begin-

ning of Isaiah 58. In the passage, the Lord scolds his people for boasting about their fasting while they take advantage of others and quarrel endlessly.

The reading says that what the Lord wants instead is for the people to free the oppressed, feed the hungry, house the homeless and cloth the naked.

The corporal works of mercy are the kind of fasting God wants most, he said. "When you share your

bread with someone who is hungry, invite into your home someone who doesn't have one or is a migrant, when you look for clothing for someone who is without – when you focus on that, you are truly fasting."

Lent, the pope said, is a time to practice humility and try to bring the reality of one's life closer to what he or she pretends to be.

Too often, he said, people feel they are righteous because they belong to

some association that does good or because they go to Mass every Sunday and are not like "those poor things who don't understand anything."

"They focus only on appearances and never recognize they are sinners, and if you tell them, 'But you're a sinner, too,' (they respond), 'Yes, we all are' and relativize everything," the pope said. "They also try to look like a face on a holy card – all appearance. But when there is this dif-

ference between reality and appearance, the Lord uses the adjective 'hypocrite.'"

During the Synod of Bishops on young people in October, he said, "perhaps the thing the young adults insisted on most was the hypocrisy of many Christians, beginning with us – 'the religious professionals.' Young people are struck by this. You might say, 'but they have their defects, too,' and it's true. But on this, they are right."

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Let me tell you a story...

Already a few minutes late for work, I sat in my car in the parking lot outside the office building with tears streaming down my face.

Nothing was wrong with me. Nothing bad was happening to the people closest to me. So why was I crying?

I was crying because of a story I was listening to on my car radio. In the story, a Bronx firefighter recounted his role in responding to the tragic death of two young children and his regrets about how he handled that loss (if you're curious,

Google "The Moth Bronx Burning").

I'll likely never meet that firefighter, but I felt a connection to him. His sadness and regret made hurt for him. Why? Because I know a bit of his story.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

Sharing stories creates bonds. When people share their narratives, their emotions and/or their thoughts, it allows others to identify with them or at least to understand them a bit better. It creates empathy.

Largely because of the size of our diocese, connections

can be difficult to establish. Parishioners of St. Mary's in Champlain may never cross paths with parishioners of St. Stephen's in Croghan.

So how can we connect?

We can share our stories. We're trying to do just that here in the pages of this newspaper.

It's our goal at the *North Country Catholic* to tell the stories of the people, organizations and communities of our diocese that are growing their relationships with the Lord and sharing those relationships with others. We want to tell the stories of the events and activities that are bringing people together.

It's our goal that these sto-

ries connect us, highlight what's working for others and inspire us.

But for this all to work, we need your help. We encourage all diocesan families to subscribe to the *NCC* and get these stories sent to their homes or email addresses. We also need your story ideas. While we have a handful of contributing writers spread around the diocese, we don't hit every area. We don't hear every idea. We count on you, our readers, to let us know when you hear a great story that should be shared.

And we thank you for your continued support of the *North Country Catholic*.

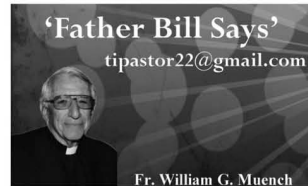
## Powerful lessons in familiar Gospels

The time of Lent is such a gift of our Savior. The Scripture readings at the daily Masses during Lent are the same every year, every Lent. They are old friends. They are powerful lessons in our faith. Yet, each year there is something new to be discovered in these familiar readings.

Here are some examples:

In the first week of Lent. On Monday, the Gospel reading from Matthew's Gospel is Jesus' parable about the end of all time. The story tells us that, at that time, the angels will separate the righteous from the others. This parable speaks about what will be the reason for how the righteous will be separated. The parable of Jesus will be a surprise for some.

The righteous are welcomed into God's Kingdom because they give food and drink to the needy, they welcomed strangers, they clothed the naked, they visited the imprisoned. Then Jesus declares his identification with the needy: "Amen, I



say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine you did for me."

Lent starts for us with the challenge of the acts of mercy.

On Tuesday of this first week, the Gospel reading describes Jesus teaching his disciples the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is a profound gift from the Lord. I have found in ministry that I am certain that whenever I would like people to join me in prayer, I can suggest the "Our Father." Even folks of other Christian churches are familiar with the Lord's Prayer, and they are always willing to join.

I think of many times I have been with a family at the hospital bed of a loved one. As we join in prayer, I know that they will join me in the Lord's Prayer.

The "Our Father" is such a power prayer. Jesus teaches the apostles to pray to God as a Father, as "Our Father." In this prayer that we all can say so quickly, we praise our God and seek his forgiveness and love. The Lord's Prayer has been an old friend, since we were children. When we need a prayer, we have the "Our Father."

Wednesday of the first week of Lent, Jesus reminds us of the story of Jonah from the Old Testament. Jonah is called by God to go to Nineveh to lead those people to conversion. At first, he refuses. He tries to run away from God. This is when he is picked up by the great fish. Then he is again called and accepts God's challenge to go to Nineveh. He preaches to the people for just one day, and they accept his call, and they are converted. When God has a mission for us, he will reach us. If God wants us to accomplish something, he will make it possible.

Thursday of the first week of Lent, the Gospel reading is

a section of the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus teaches we should not be afraid to ask, to seek, to knock. He will receive us, He will find us, He will open the door. This reading also includes the Golden Rule: "Do to others, whatever you would they do to you."

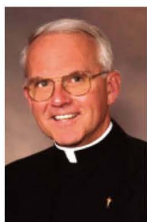
Friday of the first week of Lent, the Gospel reading is another section of the "Sermon on the Mount." This is the part where Jesus explains that there is more to the Commandment of "thou shalt not kill." We must avoid anger and hate. Jesus adds this challenge: "If you bring your gift to the altar, and then recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Jesus teaches us reconciliation is more important even than prayer and praise.

Such a week; a whole retreat in this first week of Lent. The Gospels of this one week are such a wonderful Lenten Program.

FOLLOW ME

# Sharing stories and keeping us connected

Since its founding in 1946, the North Country Catholic has been spreading the Good News of our faith and keeping us connected as a Church family in this expansive diocese. From Champlain to Constableville, Ogdensburg to Old Forge, Lake Placid to Lowville, the NCC shares stories of how our neighbors are living out their faith, information about events and programs, coverage of Church and world news, as well as reflections on scripture, prayer and current events.



**Bishop Terry R. LaValley**

called to spread the Good News and proclaim the Gospel. To do that, we first have to cultivate our relationships with Christ. We can't give away what we don't have. We must know Christ and be in relationship with Him to share Him with others.

The North Country Catholic shows us how the people, organizations and parishes that make up our diocese are cultivating and sharing relationships with the Lord. Our newspaper tells stories of how God is working in and through our neighbors. It

shares the stories of the programs and efforts that are making a difference. It is my hope that you find some inspiration in those stories. It is my hope that reading about a great idea in one part of the diocese will stir others to take similar action, possibly hundreds of miles away.

Certainly, we are living in challenging times. The NCC has been an effective way for me to communicate with Catholics around the diocese as we face

each challenge that comes our way with Christ as our guide. The North Country Catholic helps us strengthen our faith and enables our parish families to stay connected and support one another.

This weekend, the annual North Country Catholic subscription campaign begins. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to our paper. If you are a current subscriber, please renew your subscription in this week's

campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who don't currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the North Country Catholic into your home.

## Chrism Mass to be held April 11

All are welcome to join Bishop Terry R. LaValley for the annual Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Ogdensburg on April 11 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The liturgy will feature the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the diocese.

### IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2019: "Anna and Simeon"

Date	Place		Time
March 15	Sacred Heart	Massena	7:30 p.m.
March 17	St. Paul's	Black River	7:30 p.m.
March 22	St. Hubert's	Star Lake	7:30 p.m.
March 24	SSJ Motherhouse	Watertown	6:15 p.m.
March 29	Notre Dame	Ogdensburg	7:30 p.m.
March 31	Emmanuel	Watertown	7:30 p.m.
April 5	St. Mary's	Potsdam	7:30 p.m.
April 7	St. Cyril's	Alex Bay	7:30 p.m.
April 14	St. Anthony/Joseph	Herkimer	7:30 p.m.
April 15	Holy Trinity	Hudson	7:30 p.m.
April 16	St. Aloysius	Leonardtown, MD	7:30 p.m.
April 17	Fr. Andrew White School	Leonardtown, MD	10:00 a.m.
April 19	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 p.m.

[www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players](http://www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players)

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## Spring Retreat: May 31-June 2, Saranac Lake

Pre-registration required [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life)  
Diocese of Ogdensburg Respect Life office  
518-524-0774 (call or text) [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org)

# New office, new food pantry

Bishop blesses new facilities  
at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

MALONE— Now moved into a new parish office complex, St. André Bessette Parish in Malone is looking to be more involved in directly serving those in need in the community.

"During the diocesan pastoral planning process, Living Stones, we looked hard at the needs of the parish and the resources available," said Father Joseph W. Giroux, pastor of St. André Bessette Parish. "We discovered we had more space than we needed or could afford."

As a result, St. Joseph's Church in Malone was shuttered, and St. John Bosco Church became an Oratory. The parish's offices were then located at St. Joseph's, and Catholic Charities occupied space in the downstairs of St. John Bosco church.

"Catholic Charities needed more space," Father Giroux said. "And we wanted to relocate our offices."

The work to renovate the space was completed by Deacon Brent Charland, director of maintenance for the parish, and a crew of two others. Work started in December and was recently completed.

"Deacon Charland

knows our needs, and he does great work," said Andrew Duso, business manager for the parish. "He was able to complete the renovations while keeping up with existing maintenance needs and plowing, which hasn't been a small job this year."

Both Duso and Father Giroux noted the parish likely saved a significant amount of money with Deacon Charland completing the work.

"A new volunteer came in and saw the space for the first time. As she was looking around, she said, 'I think (Deacon Charland) saved us a million dollars,'" Father Giroux said.

## Feeding the hungry

In addition to creating new offices for parish staff, Deacon Charland was tasked with renovating space for The Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

"Feeding the hungry has been a ministry of our parish for a long time," Father Giroux said. "But previously, we essentially paid Catholic Charities to administer that program for us. The ministry was disconnected from the parish. It felt like we were paying someone else to do our charity for us. We want to be more hands on."

The food pantry is now



DARCY FARGO/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley blessed the new offices and food pantry at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone at an open house held March 3. Bishop LaValley was joined by Father Joseph W. Giroux, pastor of St. André's, and Deacon Brent Charland, who completed the renovations in his role as director of maintenance for the parish.**

open and providing non-perishable and perishable food items, as well as personal care and hygiene items to community residents in need.

"We based our model on what they're doing in Old Forge," said Deacon Charland. "Instead of giving out bags of pre-packed food items, we use a point system. Points are given based on family size, and each item in the food pantry has a point value. The families can pick which foods they want instead of getting whatever we give them. We feel like it gives them a bit more dignity, and the family gets food they know they can use."

The food pantry is open Monday from 1 to 3 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.; and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry is stocked with donations from local individuals and busi-

nesses, as well as food purchased from local businesses and a regional food bank.

Deacon Charland said the pantry served 116 residents in its first week in operations.

"There's a lot of need," he said.

Deacon Charland also noted another need related to the pantry.

"We started with a small number of volunteers, but we could use more," he said.

## Blessing and celebration

St. André Bessette Parish celebrated the new space with a blessing ceremony and potluck on March 3.

"Outside the structure looks the same, but there's been a beautiful transformation on the inside," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley.


Bishop LaValley referenced the Gospel of John, when Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

"He said to them, 'as I have done for you, you

should also do,'" Bishop LaValley said. "You've done a great job making this a really hospitable and welcoming place where you can extend Christ's love to others, so they, too, would know God is present and God is good."

Father Giroux said he hopes the new facility breathes new life into the parish and into the portion of Malone where its located.

"Our parish and other parishes across the North Country have experienced tough times," he said. "Hard decisions have been made, and many are experiencing a sense of loss. We're trying to set ourselves up in such a way that says, 'the Catholic Church is open, and we're here.' Our (parish) patron saint, André Bessette, was the door keeper of Montreal. In keeping with his example, we want people to feel welcome here and feel the love of Christ."



**Adult Children of Alcoholics**  
Weekly meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM  
St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh  
Upstairs Room

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

For more information on ACA, go to [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org)

# 'Exodus 90' helps men focus on Christ

By Amanda Conklin  
Contributing Writer

Two groups of men in the diocese are in the midst of a 90-day spiritual exercise centered around sacrifice and spiritual connection. They're participating in "Exodus 90."

Small groups of men in Saranac Lake and Canton/Potsdam started the Exodus 90 program on January 21 and will end on Easter Sunday. The group members meet weekly to discuss their experiences.

The program is an "extended Lent" of sorts. The men fast and abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. They abstain from alcohol, sugar, snacking in between meals, television, movies, and video games, and only use their phones and computers for work and prayer. They also commit to taking cold showers and exercising regularly, and they reserve time for a daily holy hour. The men are also encouraged to go to confession at least once a month and to check in with their "anchor," an accountability partner, daily. In addition, those participating are encouraged to attend at least one daily Mass a week.

The Exodus 90 program was started by Father Brian Doerr and seminarians at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 2013. The program was developed to assist in the formation of young priests, teaching them how to detach themselves from worldly distractions to wholly give of themselves to the ministry of the church. The program later expanded to include lay men.

Since its inception, over 15,000 men have registered for the Exodus 90



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tyler Bourgeois, John Miner, James Law, Paul Campeau, Dave Haywood and Zack Leader are among the Saranac Lake participants in "Exodus 90," a program meant to help the men eliminate distractions and focus on Christ and their ministries.

program.

The purpose of Exodus 90 is not penance, but to allow participants more freedom to connect with God and build fraternity.

While drawing on the experiences of early church fathers in the 3rd and 4th centuries, the program also draws on modern technology. Exodus 90 has an app, which provides 90 daily spiritual readings from the book of Exodus and corresponding meditations for the men completing the program.

Though only halfway through the program, those participating are already seeing improvements in their spiritual lives. Josh Parker, a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Canton, said he has seen great merit in following Exodus.

"I decided to do Exodus 90 because I was struggling to fully put Christ and the church first in my

life," Parker said. "I had fallen into the comfortable place of doing the spiritual and physical devotions that came most easily to me. I wanted to push beyond these to truly 'pick up my cross' and follow Christ to be a better disciple, parishioner, husband and father."

The program ultimately

brings more spiritual depth, however, it is not without its challenges.

"For me, the biggest challenge has been to totally give of myself to God," said Jimmy Law, a parishioner of St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake. "It is challenging to give up the vices of today's world, things like spending

money on material things, eating and snacking to excess, digital communication and media consumption, all the things that remove me from being close to God that become addictive and hard to break. Living the ascetic life has been very hard. Taking daily cold showers, fasting and abstaining, exercising, no snacking or desserts, soda etc. is hard but truly focuses me back to why I am doing Exodus 90 and actually becomes routine and provides a sense of purpose."

Leif Rozon, a parishioner of St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake, said he finds strength to commit to the program through the fraternity that has formed within Exodus 90.

"I've found great camaraderie within the group format," he said. "I'm not doing this alone. We share similar struggles and some of their thoughts and ideas have helped put my own into perspective. They're praying for me and I am praying for them. This has been a huge blessing."

For more information, or to start a group in your area, visit [www.exodus90.com](http://www.exodus90.com)



Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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## Environmental Stewardship

Cooperating  
with creation

Pope Francis' Lenten theme this year is, "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rom 8:19).

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticle of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. Laudato Si', 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

In light of this theme, Lent offers us a new opportunity to examine our lifestyles. In his Lenten reflection, Pope Francis puts fasting, praying and almsgiving in a creation care frame. It might be good for all of us to reflect on this:

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us.

Suggestion for Prayer: when praying for the protection and care of "human life," why not substitute for "all life?" This week, find a concrete way to protect and care of all life, including all creatures that "waits with eagerness for the revealing of the children of God."

# Funeral held for Rachel A. Jablonksi

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Rachel A. Jablonksi on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Dolgeville. The Mass was celebrated by Rachel's son, Father Michael J. Jablonksi, and Deacon Jim Bower.

Mrs. Jablonksi, 78, of

Oppenheim, New York passed away on Monday, March 4, 2019 at Little Falls Hospital with her loving family by her side, following several months of health complications.

She was born on February 10, 1941 in East St. Louis, Illinois and was the daughter of the late, Fernando and Rose Mary (Salazar) Sanchez. Rachel attended Holy Rosary School, Fairmont City, Illinois, and East Side High School in East St. Louis, Illinois.

On November 27, 1965, Rachel was united in holy matrimony to Joseph S.

Jablonksi at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Caseyville, IL. The couple has shared 53 years together in which they raised their three children in a loving home.

Before moving to the Town of Oppenheim in 1973, Rachel worked for her family's restaurant called The Club Durango in Collinsville, IL where she was a waitress, cook, and her mother's right hand in the daily operations of running the family business. She would even entertain; often singing with the local musician. At one time, she also worked for International Shoe in St. Louis, MO.

Rachel and her family relocated to the Town of Oppenheim, NY after purchasing a dairy farm; Jablonksi Family Dairy located on County Highway 108 in Inghams Mills. She cared for and nurtured four generations of family on the farm with her loving hands and her candid and vivacious sense of humor. She owned and operated the farm with her husband, Joe for 32 years until their retirement in 2005.

She was a devout Catholic and was a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Dolgeville, New York. Rachel enjoyed cooking and baking all

homemade food. She mastered the art of all of her family's Mexican and Polish dishes. She enjoyed all types of music, shopping, and jewelry. Her most precious time was that spent in the comfort of her loving family.

Rachel is survived by her beloved husband, Joseph S. Jablonksi; her loving children, Carolyn Marie Chavez, and her companion, Ken Plummer, Stephen J. Jablonksi and his wife, Wendy of Oppenheim, NY, and Father Michael J. Jablonksi of Malone, NY; five beloved grandchildren, Marcelino D. Chavez and his fiancée, Alexis Powell of Dolgeville, NY, Celina V. Chavez of Dolgeville, NY, Marisa E. Chavez of Gloversville, NY, Stephen J. Jablonksi, Jr. and Jennifer L. Jablonksi of Oppenheim, NY; one cherished great-grandson, Marcelino D. Chavez, IV; two sisters, Guadalupe Sanchez-Thompson of Dale City, VA and Elizabeth Sanchez Setzer of Fairview, Heights, IL; brothers and sisters in law; Stanley F. Jablonksi and his wife, Kathleen of Johnstown, NY, Donna Jablonksi of Fort Johnson, NY, Karen Quist and her husband, Harry Quist III of Fort Johnson, NY; many nieces, nephews; special family friends, George and Pauline Souza, the Carona family, Micheline Becker, and Lydia Ponte.

She was predeceased by three brothers-in-law, Clarence Thompson, Norman Setzer and Thomas J. Jablonksi.

Interment will be held at a graveside service in the spring in Rural Park Cemetery, Ingham's Mills, New York.

Please consider memorial contributions for St. Joseph's Church, 31 N. Helmer Dolgeville, New York 13329.

## Rest in Peace

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

**March 13** – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouelette, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

**March 14** – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

**March 15** – Rev. Charles J. McMorrow, 1898; Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984

**March 16** – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

**March 17** – Rev. Michael Froc, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Francis X. Parisian, 1955

**March 18** – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

**March 19** – Rev. Andronique Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009

## 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;

terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com  
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**March 13** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 15** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 16** – 11 a.m. – Mass and celebration of Saint Joseph's Day followed by dinner at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

**March 17** – 8:30 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Kevin McEwan as Pastor of The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh  
11 a.m. – Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh followed by the Knights of Columbus Annual Bishop's Burse luncheon

**March 20** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council 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).

Upcoming sessions:

**March 22** – 5 p.m., St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake

**March 25** – 5 p.m., Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown  
March 27 – 2:30 p.m., St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

## 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!

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

**Speakers: World health depends on way food is made, eaten**  
**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – The food people pick at the supermarket and cook in their kitchens can make a huge difference in helping address the global problems of hunger, obesity and climate change, a number of speakers said at a Vatican conference on sustainable development. But helping the planet and human health will need more than a change in behavior, said Vandana Shiva, a quantum physicist and Hindu activist. "It is about a consciousness shift: How do we live in this world? What is the food we eat? Is my eating helping the bees, butterfly and the farmer? Or is my eating part of the extinction of the bees and the extinction of the farmers?" she said. The trend in modern industrial agriculture is to get to a point where farming can be done without local, independent farmers, she said. "If you do farming without farmers, you will have food production without care, it will be toxic food and, even if it is plant-based, toxic food will still make you very ill," she said.

## Irish nun receives Women of Courage Award

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Spreading the Gospel in a place where hate or love are doled out based on tribal membership is a hard task but, since 2008, Sister Orla Treacy of the Irish Loreto Sisters has risen to the occasion. On March 7, the day before International Women's Day, she was recognized again for her efforts. Sister Treacy was presented with an International Women of Courage Award by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her work in Rumbek, South Sudan. The State Department citation for her award said she "continues to work in faith, striving for a world in which girls are not forced into marriage, are allowed to complete their education, and can pursue their dreams." The ceremony, in its 12th year, recognizes women from countries across the world who work for peace and justice in places where it is most needed. Women are nominated for the honor by U.S. ambassadors, and this year included awardees from Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Peru, Montenegro, Jordan, Egypt, Djibouti, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Sister Treacy was nominated by the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See for her work alongside other Loreto Sisters, who now run an expanding and comprehensive mission in a region that finds itself at the painful intersection of intense tribal conflict and seemingly insurmountable gender inequality.

## Drought-hit Guatemalans to be aided by CRS Rice Bowls

**HOUSTON (CNS)** – These past three years of drought in Central America have destroyed crops of corn and beans, leaving families starving and causing Guatemala to declare a true state of emergency, said Catholic Relief Services officials. These families are among the "poorest of the poor" who are helped by U.S. parishes participating in CRS' Lenten Rice Bowl campaign, said Monica Rodriguez, project manager of CRS' SEGAMIL, a program in Guatemala that trains women how to earn funds and provide nutritious food for their children. SEGAMIL is the Spanish acronym for Food Security Focused on the First Thousand Days. The annual campaign run by CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, raises awareness and funds to combat hunger and poverty. Schoolchildren, parishioners and families are encouraged to put savings from their Lenten fasting into a cardboard "rice bowl." "This project really makes a difference. We are partners in change," said Rodriguez,



Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Sister Eileen White, Sister Diane Bardol and Sister Mary Elizabeth Looby are embarking on mission trips in March. Sister Eileen and Sister Diane will travel to El Paso, Texas for two weeks of service at Annunciation House, a temporary shelter for men, women and children seeking asylum in the U.S., while Sister Mary Elizabeth, an Ogdensburg native, will spend a month in Ghana, West Africa at Nazareth Home for God's Children, an orphanage for abandoned children.

## Grey Nuns go on mission

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.**—Three Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, including one with ties to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will leave their home in Philadelphia this month to journey across the country and across the ocean to bring assistance, comfort and compassion to those in need.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Looby, an Ogdensburg native, will travel to Ghana, West Africa, while Sister Diane Bardol and Sister Eileen White will travel to El Paso, Texas.

Sister Mary Elizabeth will join a small congregation of Ghanaian Catholic sisters at Nazareth Home for God's Children in the small village of Sang in northwest Ghana. The orphanage is a refuge for "spirit children," children who have been abandoned

by their families because of their physical or mental disabilities or because of cultural superstitions about the day of their birth.

Sister Mary Elizabeth was invited to take part in this medical mission by a former colleague.

"We will stay in Sang for two weeks, accompanying dental and audiology outreach teams who come in to service the children and the neighboring villagers. I will be working with the young Ghanaian sisters serving there, giving them a spiritual retreat and some classes on religious life. I hope to be working at the school with the children as well."

She sees her journey to Africa as a way of continuing the spiritual and advocacy history of the Grey Nuns, whose ministry to the poor and the marginalized began in the 1700s in Montreal, Canada.

"In 18th century Montreal, people said: 'The Grey Nuns never refuse to

serve.' I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve, far away from Montreal and from my home in Philadelphia. I hope to return, enriched and inspired by a very meaningful experience."

Sister Diane and Sister Eileen will volunteer at Annunciation House in El Paso, which provides temporary hospitality, advocacy and education for men, women and children arriving at the U. S. southern border, seeking asylum from the violence of their home countries, especially Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The sisters are ready and willing to roll up their sleeves and do whatever work is assigned to them.

They will be joining more than 200 members of religious communities who are volunteering at border towns, assisting – in various ways – people seeking asylum or trying to connect with relatives who already live in the U.S.



*The North Country Catholic* is grateful for the financial support it receives from its extraordinary patrons, sustaining patrons, special patrons and patrons.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge those people who supported the mission of the Catholic Press in 2018 with a gift of \$250, \$100, \$50 or \$35. Thank you for the continued generosity.

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# Priest count declined for first time in decade

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The percentage of Catholics in the world has remained steady, while the number of priests has decreased for the first time in almost a decade, according to Vatican statistics.

Meanwhile, the numbers of bishops, permanent deacons, lay missionaries and catechists have all increased, it said.

At the end of 2017, the worldwide Catholic population exceeded 1.3 billion, which continued to be about 17.7 percent of the world's population, said a statement published March 6 by the Vatican press office.

The statement reported a handful of the statistics in the Statistical Yearbook of the Church, which reported worldwide church

figures as of Dec. 31, 2017. The press office also announced the publication of the 2019 "Anuario Pontificio," a volume containing information about every Vatican office, as well as every diocese and religious order in the world.

According to the statistical yearbook, the number of Catholics increased in every continent. But while that growth in Africa and the Americas kept pace with their respective region's population growth, Asia showed a 1.5 percent increase in the number of Catholics while the region's population grew less than 1 percent.

At the end of 2017, most of the world's Catholics (48.5 percent) were living in the Ameri-

cas, followed by Europe with 21.8 percent, Africa with 17.8 percent, 11.1 percent in Asia and 0.8 percent in Oceania.

The yearbook showed the number of bishops in the world continued its steady increase over the past six years, going from 5,133 in 2012 to 5,389 in 2017.

For the first time in since 2010, the Vatican statement said, the total number of priests – diocesan and religious order – around the world decreased, going from 414,969 in 2016 to 414,582 in 2017. Ordinations of diocesan priests continued to decline slowly from 6,577 in 2012 to 5,815 in 2017.

The number of brothers in religious orders continued a steady increase only

in Africa, as Asia continued a recent downturn that began in 2016. The number of religious brothers worldwide was down to 51,535 in 2017 from 52,625 in 2016.

The number of women in religious orders showed an ongoing downward trend of about a 1.6 percent decrease each year worldwide since 2013, the yearbook showed. The slight increases in Africa and Asia weren't enough to offset the reductions in Europe, the Americas and Oceania. Catholic women's orders went from having more than 792,000 members in 2001 to just over 648,910 women at the end of 2017.

The number of candidates for the priesthood – both diocesan seminari-

ans and members of religious orders – showed a continued slight decline worldwide, decreasing from 116,160 at the end of 2016 to 115,328 at the end of 2017.

The number of permanent deacons reported – 46,894 – was up 582 over the previous year. The vast majority – 97.3 percent – of the world's permanent deacons live in the Americas and in Europe.

The number of lay missionaries worldwide increased by over 1,000 people to 355,800 and catechists were up by 34,000 people to 3.12 million by the end of 2017.

There were more than 15.6 million baptisms around the world in 2017 and more than 2.3 million Catholic weddings.

# Pope: World in need of 'ecological conversion'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Sustainable development cannot be achieved without the voices of those effected by the exploitation of the

earth's resources, especially the poor, migrants, indigenous people and young men and women, Pope Francis told participants at a Vatican conference on sustainable development.

Without a change of attitude that focuses on the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants, efforts to achieve the U.N.'s sustainable development goals will not be "sufficient for a fair and sustainable world order," the pope said March 8.

"Already, St. John Paul II spoke about the need to 'encourage and support the ecological conversion,'" he said.

"Religions have a key role to play in this," the pope said. "For a correct shift toward a sustainable future, we must recognize our errors, sins, faults and failures, which

leads to a heartfelt repentance and desire to change; in this way, we will be reconciled with others, with creation and with the Creator."

The three-day international conference, titled "Religions and the Sustainable Development Goals: Listening to the cry of the earth and of the poor," looked at how religions can help the world reach the goals by 2030.

The March 7-9 conference, which was jointly organized by the Dicastero for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, brought together religious leaders from all major faith backgrounds as well as advocates and experts in the fields of development, the environment and health care.

Welcoming the participants, the pope applauded the conference's objective to include the voice of different religious traditions, including the Catholic tradition, in contributing to "new paths of constructive development."

Development, he said, is "a complex concept" that has been "almost entirely limited to economic growth," thus leading the world down a "dangerous path where progress is assessed only in terms of material growth."

Such a path has caused many to "irrationally exploit the environment and our fellow human beings," he added.

"We should commit ourselves to promoting and implementing the development goals that are supported by our deepest religious and

ethical values," the pope said. "Human development is not only an economic issue or one that concerns experts alone; it is ultimately a vocation, a call that requires a free and responsible answer."

Pope Francis also expressed his hope that the conference would lead to concrete solutions that respond to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" while promoting serious commitments "that develop alongside our sister earth and never against her."

"If we are truly concerned about developing an ecology capable of repairing the damage we have done," the pope said, "no branch of science or form of wisdom should be overlooked, and this includes religions and the languages particular to them."

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Two great encounters of God and humans

We've had twelve days to let the meaning of those ashes sink into our consciousness. By this time, I hope we're convinced that if we want to change the world around us, we have to change ourselves first. Lent is that precious time of the year when God has our attention! It's a time for us to talk more to God about our needs, and for God to talk to us about his plans for us.

This Sunday's readings

are about two of the great encounters of God and humans. The first happened between God and Abraham, hundreds of years before He appointed Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt. God hadn't yet changed Abram's name when He appeared to this great man of faith on his desert journey, and promised to make him great, with many descendants, and further promised him a vast tract of



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

March 17

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

fertile land Abram could call his own. In this reading, we realize why we should feel so secure in trusting God to watch over our journeys of faith. This ancient covenant of God with Abraham continues through all that followed, including the New Covenant of Jesus with us

in his body and blood.

As long as we have faith! St. Paul tells the Philippians in the second reading that faith is more important than all the early Jewish practices and Jewish laws! It seems to me that therefore we should never fear change in our own church laws and practices, as long as our faith and doctrine stays rock-firm.

The Gospel is about Jesus' dazzling transfiguration in the sight of Peter, James and John, in which Jesus talks with Moses, the lawgiver, and Isaiah, the great prophet. Luke tells us that they discuss

Jesus' coming "exodus" to Jerusalem, as well as his passion, death, and resurrection. Then, God the Father thunders his advice to the three apostles (as well as to us!): "This is my Chosen Son. Listen to Him!"

This year, we also celebrate the life and example of St. Patrick. Here is a man who based the success of his ministry on deep penances and hours of prayer.

He is a great saint for us to imitate during Lent, at least with a little less rigor. St. Patrick, pray for us this Lent.

## Lent, Easter: Our story does not end in the grave

**By Eileen Greenwood**  
Contributing Writer

Lent is upon us. What does it mean to you? Our children have been heard to teasingly state, "here come fish-stick Fridays!" They know as well as I that it is so much more than abstinence from meat.

My family members' lives were rocked during Lent two years ago. You see, my brother, Anthony, known my kids as Uncle Tony, went to sleep on April 12, 2017 and did not wake up the next morning. It was the day before Holy Thursday.

I had experienced loss during the Lenten season before. When I was 11, our older brother, Dave, did not come home as we expected due to a tragic accident. He was 18. The accident happened on Tony's birthday. It was a loss Tony never quite got over. His life was marred by depression and anxiety from then on, but he clung

to God to get through it all.

And now, we had lost Tony, too. This was difficult news to bear, even though, in my heart, I knew his trial was over at last, and he rested in the arms of a loving Father.

I had the job of telling my Mother, Grace, who was seriously ill herself at the time. Her words to me spoke of her tremendous faith in God. She said, "I will not question God. This is His will and I must accept it. I will be very sad. But we will see Tony again."

My mother was the gentlest and yet strongest woman I ever knew. Tony was the fourth son she buried in her lifetime, and she and my father, Richard, lovingly raised 13 children in the Catholic faith. Receiving Holy Eucharist and spending time in fervent daily prayer and the Rosary were the secrets to her devout faith and resilience.

Life is forever al-

tered at the news of a death. Moments become measured in "before the loss" and "after the loss." We were no strangers to grief, but the depth of what we experienced was somehow softened by the timing of the Easter Season, the flowers and the lilies such a sweet reminder of God's bursting forth from the tomb.

We attended Easter Vigil three days after my brother Anthony's death. I prayed so very hard for strength, as I wasn't sure how to even get through the Vigil. We walked into church and saw such incredible compassion in the eyes of all we knew. There were hugs, and there were tears, but there was also an unbelievable surge of love and comfort by being with our community.

Sitting in the dark of the church and waiting for that first flame of light to brighten the darkness of those past three days, I felt so connected to God,

and for conversations with our loved ones as we share a meal. It is a time to recognize and to celebrate the mystery of bread and wine transformed into the holiest of sacramental meals. It is a reminder of the loving service we are called to give to our community – to be light, hope and comfort for one another. It is divine.

We went outside the church to light our candles and bring the light of His love back in, and I felt the healing begin in my heart. I felt the joy of being one of Christ's followers. I felt the hope of the Resurrection for my brothers and for me. I felt peace transcend from heaven into my soul, the beauty of the Easter vigil and the gift of the Eucharist. The angelic music, the light and the community love were all strength I carried forth with me that night.

We are gifted with a season that reminds us that the story does not end in the grave. It is a gift we have to cherish – the beauty of that sacred time that forever marks the door opened to heaven by a loving Savior. It is a time to gather as a family and to pray, fast and give alms, and to make sacrifices. It is a time for fish,

and for conversations with our loved ones as we share a meal. It is a time to recognize and to celebrate the mystery of bread and wine transformed into the holiest of sacramental meals. It is a reminder of the loving service we are called to give to our community – to be light, hope and comfort for one another. It is divine.

We are such a blessed family to be part of the Catholic faith. *W i s h i n g* you and your loved ones the holiest of Lent and a most beautiful Easter season.

### **St. Jude Novena**

O Holy St. Jude, great in grace, rich in miracles, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your patronage in time of need, I come to you, seeking your special aid before the throne of Almighty God. Help me in my present and urgent petition. (Here state your requests.) In gratitude, I promise to make your name known, so that others can invoke your heavenly assistance, to the glory of God and for the good of souls. Amen.

With grateful thanks, K.M.

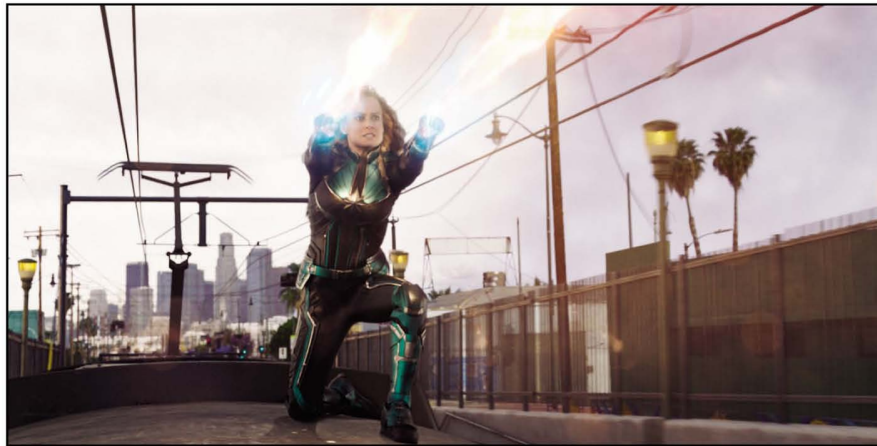
## AT THE MOVIES

## CAPTAIN MARVEL

NEWYORK(CNS)— Wit, positive messages and lavish production values buoy the origin story "Captain Marvel" (Disney). While some of the mythos in this adaptation of various strands of Marvel Comics lore, as well as other considerations, make it unsuitable for kids, the film is tame enough to be possibly acceptable for mature teens.

Much of the humor derives from the fact that most of the action is set in a 1995 version of America where Blockbuster Video stores still flourish, people still use payphones and dial-up internet takes forever to connect. The superhero of the title (Brie Larson) arrives in this primitive milieu while faithfully serving the alien Kree civilization that trained her as a warrior.

The Kree are in an ongoing struggle against the encroachments of the Skrull, an imperialist race of shape-shifters who have infiltrated and taken control of a series of planets. Their forces on Earth are led by Talos (Ben Mendelsohn).



CNS PHOTO/WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Brie Larson stars in a scene from the movie "Captain Marvel."

Even as she follows her military mentor, Yon-Rogg (Jude Law), on his mission to the Blue Planet, though, Captain Marvel, known among the Kree as Vers, continues to be troubled and confused by persistent flashbacks to a previous life of which she has no coherent memory.

Separated from her Kree comrades, she eventually joins forces with Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), who, in the mid-'90s, is a low-ranking officer in the Strategic Homeland Inter-

vention, Enforcement and Logistics Division, better known as SHIELD. Together they go in search of Dr. Lawson (Annette Bening), the scientist who seems to be crucial both to the intergalactic conflict and to Vers' missing past.

The need to work for peace and the resilience of the human spirit are among the themes emphasized in co-writers

(with Geneva Robertson-Dworet) and directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck's script. Plot complications also teach that time-honored lesson about not judging a book by its cover.

The inclusion of an invisible being called the Supreme Intelligence might confuse youngsters still being formed in their faith, however. While not exactly a substitute for

God, this entity, which rules the Kree, certainly has some godlike powers. Older adolescents are unlikely to pay lasting heed to this aspect of the story, though, and may take the elements listed below in stride as well.

The film contains much combat violence, most of it stylized but some of it harsh, fleeting anatomical humor, a few mild oaths, at least one rough term and a handful of crude and crass expressions. 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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## 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:** 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, [dluca@rcdony.org](mailto:dluca@rcdony.org), or Father Howard Venette, [hvenette@gmail.com](mailto:hvenette@gmail.com), or just drop in.

## FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart is having their annual Fish Fry.

**Date:** March 15

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

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

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

## PAINT AND SIP

Chazy – Sacred Heart church to have a St. Patrick's Day Paint and Sip.

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Hall

**Cost:** \$30, includes all instruction, supplies, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages.

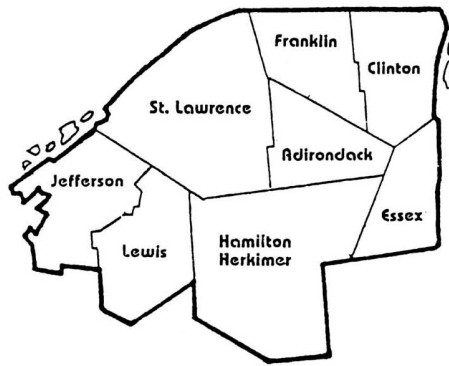
**Features:** Jessie Furnia will lead us step by step to paint a beautiful pictures of your choosing (there are two options).

**Contact:** Reservations are encouraged to help with planning for food. 518-846-7650 or 518-570-7747 for more information.

## LENTEN ADORATION

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

**Dates:** Mondays and Tuesdays



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, 315-394-0670;  
e-mail [news@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

**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 am at the 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 at the vigil site, please contact: Nancy Belzile, 518-593-6024, [nancys\\_56@hotmail.com](mailto:nancys_56@hotmail.com) [www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh](http://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 [credheart@westelcom.com](mailto:credheart@westelcom.com) for more

information.

## EVANGELIZATION AND APOLOGETICS

Dannemora – The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers Association (ERLMA) has organized the following event for continued formation: Evangelization and Apologetics with Marika Donders.

**Date:** May 11

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Hall

**Cost:** \$10

**Features:** Father Mickey Demo will lead the celebration of a morning Mass followed by a presentation by Diocese of Ogdensburg Director of Evangelization, Marika Donders. A light lunch will be served. All Commissioned Lay Ministers and the current class of candidates set to be Commissioned in June, are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event will also be live-streamed, so if you cannot attend please join us on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Maal60E1B0>.

**Contact:** Brenda Smith [soundtech58@yahoo.com](mailto:soundtech58@yahoo.com) or Karen LeClair - [k.leclair2@aol.com](mailto:k.leclair2@aol.com) by April 26

## ESSEX

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

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

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** Take-outs start at 1:30 p.m.; service 2 p.m. to 6

**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 Cursillo 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](mailto:Kathyracette@gmail.com), [kracette1a@gmail.com](mailto:kracette1a@gmail.com), 518-314-1505, 518-578-3056, Ken and Kathy Racette, 679 Cumberland Head Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

## HOLY ROSARY CRUSADE

St. Regis Falls – Public Square Rosary Crusade to be held.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** Noon

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

**Contact:** Elaine McGivney at 518-529-6133

## ABSOLUTE JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND

Malone – Holy Family School to host Absolute Journey Tribute Band for Spring Fundraiser.

**Date:** April 6

**Schedule:** At the Malone Middle School, 7 p.m. 80s Costume Contest with \$250 in prizes; at 7:30 p.m. Josee Allerd and Friends will play; at 8:30 p.m. Absolute Journey will play until 9:30 p.m. and then an 80s after hours party is being planned at The Pines.

**Cost:** \$25

**Contact:** Holy Family School for more information at [dtvrdik@hfs-malone.org](mailto:dtvrdik@hfs-malone.org) or call 518-483-4443

## FISHERS CLUB

Malone – Priesthood discernment with Bishop LaValley.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 5

**Place:** Notre Dame Rectory

**Features:** It doesn't get much better than this- being able to discern and discuss the Priesthood with a Successor to the Apostles! Men who are High School Junior age and older are invited to join Bishop Terry R. LaValley. The

gathering includes discernment discussion, Evening Prayer, and dinner.

**Contact:** Please register for the free event with Father Doug Lucia ([dluca@rcdony.org](mailto:dluca@rcdony.org)) or Father Howard Venette ([pastorsmoll@stmarysti.org](mailto:pastorsmoll@stmarysti.org)).

## 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.html> or call Jeannie Griz-zuto 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

## LEGACY GALA

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School to have its 2019 Legacy Gala.

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** Cocktails at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Place:** Italian American Civic Association

**Cost:** \$50

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**Features:** The event is Semi-Formal  
**Contact:** Tickets are available at IHC Jr./Sr. High School or call 315-788-4670 or email ihcgala@ihcschool.org

## LENTEN COMMUTER RETREAT

Watertown – Lenten commuter retreat to be held.

**Date:** April 5-7

**Time:** Fri., 6 p.m. to 9; Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun., 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (includes Mass)

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearstside Hospitality Center

**Cost:** \$50 includes Retreat Materials and Food

**Speakers:** Sister Norma Bryant, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, Molly Amoriell and Cindy Matthews

**Features:** Retreat will explore through presentations, personal and group prayer, and sharing some aspects of loss, grief and suffering caused by loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, loss of job, or other life challenges. Reflections will include how our faith not only gives us strength and hope to be transformed into new life, but gives us the grace to help others on the Journey.

**Contact:** email srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-212-6592 by Sunday, March 31

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

**Schedule:** Beginning Good Friday April 19 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 28 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

**Contact:** For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org) All parishes welcome.

## LEWIS

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Dates:** March 7, 14, 21, 28 April 4, 7, 11

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

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

**Features:** Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to our Lenten hours of adoration prior and after our Thursday Noon Mass. Adoration includes Morning Prayer prior to mass and after mass - Exposition, Silent Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet for Souls, and Benediction.

## LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Lowville – The Churches of St. Peter's, St. Mary's and St. Hedwig's will hold a Lenten parish mission.

**Date:** March 25, 26 & 27

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

**Schedule:** March 23 & 24 at the weekend Masses with the theme of Faith, Creation and Resurrection; March 25 at 7 p.m. with the theme of Vocation and Marriage; March 26 at 7 p.m. with the theme of Repentance with a Penance Service; March 27 at 5:30 p.m. with the theme of Eucharist, Mass in the life of a Christian and Parish.

**Features:** The mission will be led by Father William G. Muench, a retired priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a contributor to the North Country Catholic, a former pastor of St. Peter's Church, Lowville

## ST. LAWRENCE

## FISH & SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

**Date:** March 8 to April 19

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

**Place:** St. James School

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

**Contact:** Take-out and deliveries available by calling 315-287-1030

## 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 infor-

mation please contact Sara LaPoint at 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

## LENTEN FISH FRY

Massena – Friday Fish Fry to be held during Lent.

**Date:** March 15 – April 12

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

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

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Canton – Knights of Columbus to host St. Patrick's Day Dinner to be held.

**Date:** March 17

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Gym

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 4-8, \$5; under 3, Free; Family 32

**Features:** Irish Entertainment by school students.

## 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. Huberts at 315-848-3612 or [st.huberts.church@gmail.com](mailto:st.huberts.church@gmail.com)

## ALPHA COURSE

Massena – Alpha is here and you are invited to attend.

**Date:** Starts April 8 and runs for 12 weeks

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

**Contact:** For more information, please call the parish office at 315.769.2469 or visit our website at [www.massencatholics.com](http://www.massencatholics.com).

## MANICOTTI MONDAY

Norfolk – The parish of the Visitation

and St. Raymond to have Manicotti Monday the first Monday of each month.

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

**Place:** Father Andrew Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** \$9.75; under 5, Free; Take-out available

**Contact:** For delivery in the Norfolk area please call 315-384-4242 by 1 p.m.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Potsdam – The Potsdam Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring monthly Eucharistic Adoration on the first Mondays of the month.

**Time:** 5 to 7 p.m.

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

**Features:** Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction; all are welcome to come and spend a few minutes, an hour or the full two hours in quiet prayer before the Lord.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### WOMEN DISCERNMENT GROUP

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

**Dates:** March 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, Hearstside 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](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920. Registration is requested by emailing Shayne Lippincott at [slippincott@rcdony.org](mailto:slippincott@rcdony.org)

### 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 Blast, Glow Ball Fun and Arts and Crafts. Free Swag bags with surprises will be given out as well.

**Contact:** To register visit [\[dony.org/youth\]\(http://dony.org/youth\) and select “Youth Rally.” Please contact Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry at \[tsemeraro@rcdony.org\]\(mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org\) or by calling 315-393-2920 ext. 1415](http://www.rc-</a></p>
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### WOMEN'S RETREAT

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

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Father 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.”

**Contact:** To register, go to [rcdony.org/episcopal-delegate-for-religious/](http://rcdony.org/episcopal-delegate-for-religious/) and select “Women's Retreat Registration.” For more information, call Cathy Russell at [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org) or call 315-393-2920 ext. 1450

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – The Spring Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be held.

**Date:** May 31 – June 2

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** If you or someone you know is hurting after an abortion, consider attending this weekend retreat. You're not alone. Help is available.

**Contact:** Confidential registration form available at the Respect Life webpage [rcdony.org/prolife](http://rcdony.org/prolife). For more information call or text Colleen Miner 518-524-0774 or email [cmminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cmminer@rcdony.org).

### MATER DEI COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

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.

**Date:** Application deadline is June 1, 2019.

**Contact:** To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at [vmathews@rcdony.org](mailto:vmathews@rcdony.org).



## 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

# Salute to the North Country Catholic

The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. The Pontifical Mission Societies have, as their primary purpose, the promotion of a universal missionary spirit, a spirit of prayer and sacrifice among all baptized Catholics.

Thanks to the diligent work and efforts of the *North Country Catholic* and Darcy Fargo, its editor, and her tireless associate Christine Ward, the Mission office purpose of promoting the missionary spirit is made easier week after week.

Each week, the *North Country Catholic* exhibits our column and photos in an effort to help publicize and promote the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by educating the faithful of the church's universal mission. Our columns teach of sacrifice, encourage prayer and support of any on-going appeals.

In addition to the several annual appeals, our children in Catholic schools and Religious Education programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association program. This on-going support and prayers for children locally helps those in the developing lands.

The *North Country Catholic* also gives our office a chance on occasion to show off a bit, or brag about some outstanding missionaries who live right in our little home towns that you may not know of because doing the work of the missions is sacrificial, resourceful and never self-serving. Our outstanding missionaries are often the topic of our columns spreading the word on the good deeds and works of so many that can impact those who live so far away and need our help so desperately.

The *North Country Catholic* has always been there to aid in our mission's goal of promoting education and awareness and for this we grateful. The support and publicity of the Pontifical Mission Societies enables us to continue to exist on a low-cost structure. We are proud to walk with the *North Country Catholic* on the long journey making both the diocese and the world a better place through promoting prayers and personal sacrifices for the Missions.

Please support the *North Country Catholic*.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Brownsville** – April Lynn Roshia-Rivers, 55; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

**Canton** – Gerald Vincent Snell, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Carthage** – Mary (Ablan) Abbass, 97; Mass of Christian Burial March 11, 2019 at St. James Church.

**Carthage** – Nathan F. Houppert, 77; Funeral Services March 4, 2019 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – David J. McGraw, 73; Mass of Christian March 8, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Sherwood John "Sonny" Herzig, 84; Funeral Services April 6, 2019 at the Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in St. Vincent De Paul Cemetery.

**Edwards** – Bryan Douglas Davison, 52; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Jane Evelyn (Mahoney) Fritz, 98; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2019 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

**Gouverneur** – Dale Bush, 76; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2019 at St. James Church.

**Gouverneur** – Brent S. "Chuck" Smith, 77; Funeral Services in Spring at St. James Church; burial in New. St. James Cemetery.

**Harrisville** – Dorothy L. (Gordon)

Waugh, 100; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2019 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Conni Devlin Cross, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2019 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Steven G. Reid, 58; Mass of Christian Burial March 13, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

**Norfolk** – Wayne E. Monroe, 83; Funeral Service March 8, 2019 at the Buck Funeral Home.

**North Bangor** – Judith (O'Conner) Marshall, 72; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Steven's Cemetery, Brandon.

**Ogdensburg** – Beverly McDonough, 105; Mass of Christian Burial in April at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Raymond E. Lee, 79; Funeral Services March 8, 2019 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Plattsburgh** – Laurette E. (Dubuque) Beaudette, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Elizabeth J. (Gallo) Colby, 71; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2019 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Marvin S. Martinneau, 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2019 at St. John's Church.

**Port Henry** – Elaine (Bowers) Popp; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2019

at St. Patrick's Church.

**Potsdam** – Harold J. Ames, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Winifred E. Dumont, 100; Funeral Services March 9, 2019 at Garner Funeral Home.

**Star Lake** – Shirley L. Pomerville, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2019 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Louis A. Maroun, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Waddington** – Edith I. MacDonald, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 11, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** – Lee Combs, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – William B. Dulmage, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Cierra N. Grant, 26; Funeral Services March 7, 2019 at the Reed & Beniot Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Idella M. (Gotham) Guarino, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Edward J. Kirkland, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

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CNS PHOTO/SEBASTIEN ST. JEAN COURTESY ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY

St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal, Canada, is about to get a \$110 million (US\$82 million) makeover under a plan to make the popular site more attractive to tourists. Canadians involved in the project are pictured near the oratory.

## Oratory to get upgrades

MONTREAL (CNS)—St. Joseph Oratory is about to get a \$110 million (US\$82 million) makeover under a plan to make the popular site more attractive to tourists.

"The oratory is one of Quebec's best-kept secrets," said Guy Cormier, president and CEO of Desjardins Group, who is leading the fundraising campaign for the project.

The renovation is intended to "modernize many of its infrastructures" and, in 2022, after extensive work, "give a new experience" to the 2 million visitors who visit the oratory each year, Cormier said during a March 1 media conference.

St. Joseph Oratory, managed by the Congregation of the Holy Cross, was founded in 1904 by St. André Bessette, known as Brother André. The oratory is located on Montreal's famed Mount Royal.

The Reaching New Heights campaign has set a goal of raising \$15 million from religious communities and business owners.

"I am proud to announce that we have already reached more than 70 percent of our target, more than \$11 million," Cormier said.

By 2022, planners envision a new reception pavilion with a shop and a restaurant, reconfigured gardens and renovated museum. The dome of the oratory's basilica will be transformed into an observation center.

"The project we have undertaken will

highlight our public and sacred spaces so that the pilgrims and visitors of tomorrow can find a welcoming place worthy of its name," said Holy Cross Father Claude Grou, oratory rector.

The governments of Quebec and Canada and the city of Montreal have already announced grants totaling \$63 million for the renovation. Cormier is confident the campaign will reach be able to raise the additional funding needed to complete the project.

The Quebec government has committed \$31 million to the project.

The oratory remains "in the heart of the city," a place where "people of all ages, cultures, conditions and religions can meet in a context favorable to contemplation," Father Grou said.

Recognizing that "on the slopes of Mount Royal, our ancestors have erected remarkable buildings, including this imposing basilica," Chantal Rouleau, minister responsible for the metropolis and the Montreal region and Quebec's transportation minister, said the early builders also had the "desire to bequeath to their descendants a rich and sustainable heritage."

Montreal Mayor Valerie Plante recalled how the population "is attached to this emblem, a dominant figure in our landscape." She said she considers the oratory is a unique place that must be "preserved, cajoled, enhanced so that future generations may also enjoy it."

## HOW DO YOU DO THAT?



Second graders in Sister Kathleen DeBoalt's class at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown recently completed a writing assignment on "How To Do Something." The students brought in clothes, equipment and other materials to teach the class a skill or activity. Genavieve Bartlett (above) illustrated how to be a race car driver, while Carter Durand (below) demonstrated hockey skills.

