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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 43

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 27, 2019

THEY'VE GONE GREEN



Father Christopher J. Looby, Bill Bamann (as St. Patrick), and Father Herman Pongantung helped staff the St. Patrick's Church booth at the annual North Country Goes Green Festival at the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown on St. Patrick's Day weekend.

CALLED TO MARRIAGE



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Doves and interlocking wedding bands symbolizing the sacrament of marriage are depicted in a stained-glass window. This week's *North Country Catholic* celebrates the call to marriage. In this issue, we'll examine "Can love really last a lifetime?" and we'll reflect on the beauty and challenge of church teachings related to family planning.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3, 4

Seek out and save the lost, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Christians have faith in a God who wants to and is able to transform the world, conquering evil with good, Pope Francis said.

That is why "it makes sense to obey and abandon oneself" to God and his will, even during life's most difficult moments, the pope said March 20 during his general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Continuing a series of talks about the Lord's Prayer, the pope focused on the line, "Thy will be done." It is the third petition in the prayer right after, "hallowed be thy name" and "thy kingdom come."

God's will – what he wants – is clearly illustrated throughout the Gospel, the pope said; it is "to seek out and save whoever is lost."

"Have you ever thought about what that means, that God is looking for me, for each one of us" personally, "knocking on the door of our heart" with love, hoping to capture people's attention and take them by the hand toward salvation, the pope said.

"God is not ambiguous," Pope Francis said. "He does not hide behind riddles" or inscrutable plans; he wants everyone to know the truth and be saved.

The Our Father is a prayer asking that this de-

sire be fulfilled and that each person and all of humanity be saved, he said.

When people pray, "Thy will be done," they are praying not as subservient "slaves" but as children who understand and trust their father and his loving plan, the pope said.

"It is a courageous, even confrontational prayer because there are so many, too many things going on in the world that are not according to God's plan," he added.

In a world experiencing war, hatred and exploitation, he said, people of faith know that God wants what is best, which is why they pray his will be done and that swords be turned into plowshares, because "God wants peace."

The Lord's Prayer is meant to ignite the same deep love Jesus felt for his father, the same passion to "transform the world with love."

Christians do not believe in random, unalterable or "inescapable fate," the pope said. Rather, they truly believe "that God can and wants to transform reality, conquering evil with good," and this, he said, is why people pray.

Even though Christ was being "crushed by the evil of the world," he abandoned himself fully and confidently to God's will, the pope said.

Oratory rector stabbed during Mass

MONTREAL (CNS) –Father Claude Grou, rector of St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, was stabbed during a Mass March 22. The motive for the attack remains unknown.

He was taken to the hospital and was in stable condition, said a statement from the Archdiocese of Montreal.

During the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the crypt, a tall, light-skinned man wearing a white hat walked toward

Father Grou and stabbed him in the stomach.

"At the end of the psalm, just before the ... Gospel, there is this guy who comes from who-knows-where -- I only film the front of the crypt -- and who moves rather quickly," said Dinh Khoi Vu, who directed the morning Mass at the Oratory for Salt and Light Television.

"Father Grou saw him coming with his knife. He

had the reaction to move to the side, but he was still touched," he added.

"The knife fell. The aggressor was no longer able to pick it up. Many faithful rushed to hold him back."

Father Grou got up, and members of the security service managed to control the attacker.

Fifty people were gathered in the crypt of St. Joseph's Oratory.

Police closed the crypt and questioned witnesses.

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CATHOLICBox 326
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USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
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catholic.org

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

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

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

POSTMASTER:

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Yes, you're wearing that pink shirt

"June! I'm not wearing that darned pink shirt!"

"It's not pink; it's salmon." I overheard this conversation between my grandparents, Charles and June Smith, at least a dozen times in my life (grandpa usually used a word slightly stronger than "darned," though).

In addition to owning and operating a dairy farm with my father, my grandfather worked as a bus driver for the local school district and, later, the state prison system. He also

served as a county legislator and school board member, accumulating decades of public service. He was a commanding presence. Whether in a barn or a board room, he spoke deliberately, intelligently and passionately about topics that interested him. It was tough to beat him in arguments.

While grandpa was a leader in many ways, grandma ran the house. She worked outside the home at various times – in office jobs at a local factory, as a director of religious ed-

ucation, and as a substitute teacher – but was best known for caring for others, her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She babysat us all (yes, I meant to include my grandfather in that list); she helped raise us.

Despite his protests, Grandpa would wear the pink/salmon shirt. Why? I always thought it was because he knew grandma wasn't going to iron another shirt and he couldn't do it himself. While that likely factored in, I think he also wore that pink/salmon shirt because he knew she loved how he looked in it. He knew it made

her happy.

They were a true partnership. They modeled love, caring and humor. They also modeled faith. Some of my earliest memories involve riding in the backseat of grandpa's green Thunderbird after staying far too late at a family gathering, and listening to the two of them praying the Rosary.

They tried to live their vocations – to continuously grow in love of God and each other, even in the face of great challenges.

May all of us called to the vocation of marriage live the way they did. And may we wear the pink/salmon shirt.



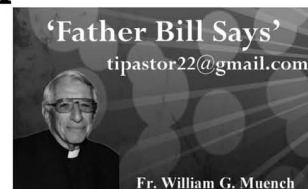
Darcy L.
Fargo

Strive for peace in our hearts, our world

Today, I would like to share with you a concern of mine. I would also like to convince you all to join me in this concern. I am concerned because there is too much violence in our world. Our world is filled with too much violence. There is too much violence in our own country. There's violence in what people do to each other and in the way people often talk to each other.

I know, as you probably do, that I wonder just what I could do about the violence in this world, in this country, even in our church. However, I am deeply concerned. I want to do something. I really want to make a difference.

Personally, my life was truly changed when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. It was then that I understood Jesus' message of peace, of love and of non-violence. Following Jesus' message that I learned in studying the Scriptures brought peace and a certain happiness to my life. Becoming a person of peace meant I must always eliminate vio-



lence from all that I do.

This time of Lent is a time each year for opening my heart and my mind to the Lord through prayer so that I could find his love and peace. So, I would like to share with you this message of Jesus that was in the daily Gospel readings during the first week of Lent. Jesus challenges us to remove violence from our hearts and lives – from all that we do.

These Gospel readings are a section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. First, a reading that is familiar to you. This is Jesus' comments concerning our Fifth Commandment. He says: "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whomever kills will be liable to the judgment."

However, Jesus goes on: "But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be

liable to the judgment." Anger leads to violence – sometimes with violent words, sometimes more. I believe here Jesus tells us to resist violence in every way as we resist anger.

Anger messes up many lives. I know I am at my worst when I become angry. I can be violent because of anger. I know that the only way I can eliminate anger will only happen when my life becomes filled with the life and the peace of the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Spirit protects me from giving in to anger and violence. Lenten prayer and sacrifices will bring that Spirit into my life.

The very next section of the Sermon on the Mount contains Jesus' teaching on love of enemies. Jesus says: "You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Jesus says this is the road to happiness.

To love enemies means I must be forgiving like Jesus. I must be a forgiving person

because I want to be a good person. Some people may not deserve forgiveness, but I want to be a good person like Jesus, who forgave those who crucified him. I must be a forgiving person because I want peace in this world. Jesus teaches me, "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

I would like to tell you that I am completely non-violent but I can't. I know what it is like to be non-violent. I have seen it demonstrated by great leaders. At this moment, I think of Martin Luther King, Jr. He could well have reacted to his persecution with violence, but he did not. His cause was stronger because he did not.

I must learn that my efforts to live without anger, without violence gives a strong validation to my teaching of the message of Jesus. The only way I will demonstrate the power of the Church, the power of Jesus is to eliminate from my life all violence and anger. I am grateful to the Lord's constant support that I can live in the Lord's peace and love.

CALLED TO MARRIAGE

Can love really last a lifetime?

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Contributing Writer

"Almost every newly married couple has two things in common," says marriage and family therapist/author/speaker Dr. Gregory Popcak. "First, they are deeply in love and excited about the lives they are building together...But second, underneath the love, joy, and hope, almost every newly married couple is also a little terrified: 'Do we have what it takes to make it to 'happily ever after'?"

Yes, absolutely yes, Dr. Popcak assures us. "God wants great things for your marriage! He wants to fill that ache in your heart for love that lasts. He wants you to have an intimate and passionate marriage, and he wants to use your marriage to change the world. And you don't have to be perfect. Anyone willing to do the necessary work and cooperate with God's grace can have a wonderful marriage!"

That belief is based on decades of experience, which have affirmed for this therapist that, while it is very different from most contemporary ideas about marriage, God's way really does work. "Catholic marriage doesn't let you define the terms of your relationship. This is not because the Church wants to control you, but because the Catholic vision of marriage is that it is a discipleship relationship. As disciples, we say to the Church: 'Teach me to love this person. Teach me to take the feelings I have for this person and apply them in a way that glorifies God and helps us to become everything we were created to be.'"

In *Just Married: The Catholic Guide to Surviving and Thriving in the First Five Years of Marriage*, Dr. Popcak and his wife Lisa walk newlyweds through the steps that lead to lasting happiness. It is necessary, they say, "to have an unwavering commitment to four things that will help you and your spouse to become 'marriage masters'." The first commitment is to individual and couple prayer. "You need to be absolutely committed to your prayer life and be willing to let God teach you to love each other with his love. Your human love will simply dry up on some days...on those days when you feel your own ability to love running dry, you need something to lean on to jump-start your heart and start loving each other again. Your own experience of God's love via an active prayer life is the most reliable way to restart your loving actions."

And couples are never alone: God wishes to be a true partner in every marriage. The authors call attention to Ecclesiastes 4,12: "Where a lone man can be easily overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken." In other words, they write, "You might not have the strength to create a great marriage on your own,

but if both of you are committed to leaning on God (the third braid in the three-ply cord of Christian marriage), you will be unbreakable no matter what weight life asks you to carry." In addition to individual prayer, the authors point out the importance of establishing habits of couple prayer time, faithful Mass attendance and regular confession. These practices provide the grace needed to love one another "as you confront each other's weaknesses head-on."

The second step in building a lasting marriage is the commitment to nurture your love, since "loving feelings follow loving actions." Married love does not just happen but requires constant attention and effort. The couple note that they were blessed to know this early on. "Even when we were tired, stressed, or scared, we worked hard to remember to make that call to say, 'I love you,' to say that prayer together, to do that dreaded chore for the other, to give that thoughtful or silly gift that would bring a smile to the other's face, to write that note that said we couldn't stop thinking about each other...and a

million other little things that made our marriage a safe shelter from the storm."

The third foundational commitment for lasting marriage may sound odd: even more important than the commitment to each other is a firm commitment to your vows. Research from the Relationship Institute at UCLA reinforces this point: couples who make an additional commitment to the relationship itself are much more likely to be happy and to stay married. The Popcaks further note: "Even when staying committed to your marriage doesn't make emotional sense, your long-term success, not to mention your personal integrity, depends on your ability to keep the marital promises you made to God and yourself even when you feel as if your spouse doesn't deserve your commitment... [one couple] when asked how they stayed together for 65 years, replied, 'We come from a time where if something is broken, you fix it, not throw it away.'"

The fourth essential commitment speaks to this very point: the firm intention to "learn new skills when new chal-

lenges come, instead of giving into a tendency to blame your marriage or spouse for being 'broken'." Whatever their backgrounds, the Popcaks point out, no newly married couple knows what they are doing when it comes to marriage. "When you hit hard times and begin feeling the urge to turn against each other, you must remember that it is not because your marriage is flawed. It is simply that you don't know what you are doing, and you need new skills. We want you to remember four little words that will help you get through these times: NEVER BLAME YOUR MARRIAGE. Marriages do not have lives of their own, but only the life a husband and wife give it. If your marriage is dying on the vine, it isn't because it is broken. It is simply that you don't currently have the skills to nurture it under the pressures you are currently facing. Get those skills! Read good books; go on a marriage retreat; join a support group! Marriages fail when couples are too prideful to admit that they need to acquire new skills." Acquiring those skills can help you succeed!

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CALLED TO MARRIAGE

It's time to talk about family planning

Perhaps you are newly married, or perhaps you are still busy getting ready for the big day. Issues and adjustments of all kinds demand your attention, and it is easy to let some things just slide. Even so, starting a new life together is the perfect time for the two of you to have a heart to heart talk about family planning.

Really? Wasn't that all settled at the doctor's office? Well, that is the first thing to consider: being a

healthy fertile woman is not a disease that needs medical treatment.

In fact, any woman can learn to understand her own fertility through easily observable physiologic signs. This knowledge gives her an entirely safe, highly effective (98-99 percent), healthy and readily reversible way to plan a family, simply by abstaining during the fertile time. Furthermore, since a woman is fertile only a few days in each cycle and a

man is continuously fertile, it hardly makes sense that she should bear the burden of risky contraceptives.

So, yes: learn all you can, even if you may need a magnifying glass to read the fine print in the package inserts. This information will alert you to some of the immediate medical hazards faced by women using the Pill and other chemical contraceptives, including Norplant, patches, rings, IUD's, Yaz, and Plan B.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about Natural Family Planning, go to www.rcdony.org/nfp or contact the Diocesan NFP Office: apietropaoli@rcdony.org or (518)483-0459.

In addition to raising the risk of blood clots, heart attacks, stroke, gallbladder disease, and depression, these chemicals substantially increase the lifetime risk of breast cancer. (See www.bcpinstitute.org for more on the Pill/breast cancer link. Google <http://thepillkills.org> to learn more about the hundreds of side effects associated with chemical contraceptives.) After all, knowing the facts is essential to good decision making.

And there are other things to consider as well – like the effect contraception can have on your relationship, especially in the long term.

When you stand before God at the altar on your wedding day, you promise yourselves to one another in a love that is free, permanent, faithful, and fruitful. This is the kind of love with which God loves us, and it is the unconditional love for which we all long. It is the love that God intends should be embodied in every act of sexual intercourse, an act that by its nature says: "I love you. I give all of myself to you forever, and I accept all of you."

Contracepted intercourse says something different: "I

love you, but I withhold my fertility/I will not accept your fertility." In this way, married love can become conditional and divisive rather than uniting the couple in complete and joyful acceptance of one another.

Little wonder then, that the church calls our attention to nature, to the way God made us, to that awesome design that allows us to live in harmony with our fertility.

Natural Family Planning educates couples to recognize, record, and interpret the physical changes that reveal the fertile window in each cycle. The couple then uses this knowledge to postpone or to achieve pregnancy according to their family planning intention in a way that is safe, healthy, and effective. NFP is a lifestyle that has the potential to enrich a couple's communication, deepen their love, and strengthen their faith and families.

Modern methods of Natural Family Planning have been developed through more than half a century of careful scientific and statistical research. A variety of methodologies offer real choices for couples wanting to learn and live Natural Family Planning.

From in-person to online classes, from CyclePro charting software to new apps, NFP is more accessible than ever before. But in any form, NFP remains the option of choice for couples concerned with respecting nature, one another, and the loving plan of the Creator.

2019 Pre-Cana Schedule

CITY	DATES	TIMES	LOCATIONS	INSTRUCTOR(S)
North Bangor (Class 5)	April 4	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 12966	Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli
	April 6	9:00 am - 5:00 pm		
Plattsburgh (Class 6)	April 14	10:30 am - 5:30 pm	St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901	Terry & Linda Guilbo
Lowville (Class 7)	April 27	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	St. Peter's Church 5457 Shady Avenue Lowville, NY 13367	Ron & Michele Gingerich
Ogdensburg (Class 7A)	June 8	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	St. Mary's Cathedral Brzana Hall 415 Hamilton Street Ogdensburg, NY 13669	Deacon Bill O'Brien Matt & Amy Flynn Jesse & Stacey Sovie
Lowville (Class 8)	September 7	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	St. Peter's Church 5457 Shady Avenue Lowville, NY 13367	Ron & Michele Gingerich
Plattsburgh (Class 9)	October 6	10:30 am - 5:30 pm	St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901	Terry & Linda Guilbo
North Bangor (Class 10)	October 17	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 North Bangor, NY 12966	Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli
	October 19	9:00 am - 5:00 pm		

- Online registration: www.rcdony.org/pre-cana
- Payment can be made online via Paypal or mail check payable to: Family Life, PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317
- Register as soon as you meet with your parish priest or deacon
- Register two weeks prior to the requested session
- Plan on becoming a member of your parish as a couple
- Essex, Hamilton and Herkimer: Please contact the Family Life Office at the number below

For more information about Pre-Cana please contact:
Steve Tartaglia, Director of Pre-Cana

622 Washington Street
PO Box 369

Ogdensburg, New York 13669

T: 315-393-2920 F: 1-866-314-7296

startaglia@rcdony.org

www.rcdony.org/pre-cana



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Catholic scientist to speak at SLU

CANTON—St. Lawrence University will host Catholic speaker and scientist Stacy Trasancos for an April 10 presentation, “Science Was Born of Christianity: The Role of Christianity in the Development of Modern Science.”

The presentation, part of the Niles Lecture on Religion and Science, will be held at 7 p.m. in Herring-Cole Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Trasancos earned a doctorate degree in chemistry from Penn State University and a master's in dogmatic theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary. She worked as a chemist for DuPont before leaving to raise children and then becoming Catholic.

Now, she teaches chemistry and physics for Kolbe Academy and theology and science courses for Holy Apostles and Seton Hall University.

Trasancos has been a frequent guest on Relevant Radio, Ave Maria Radio, EWTN, Catholic An-



Stacy Trasancos

swers Live, and Subject Matters with Sebastian Gomes of Salt and Light TV.

She has written numerous articles for Catholic publications and is the author of *Science Was Born of Christianity: The Teaching of Fr. Stanley L. Jaki* and *Particles of Faith: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Science*.

Trasancos has seven children, three grandchildren, two German shepherds, and lives with her family in Hideaway, Texas.

This lecture is open for educators, parents, students, and the general public and is organized by the Spiritual and Religious Life Committee.

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS

LENT 2019: “Anna and Simeon”

Date	Place		Time
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.ihschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

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“A LITTLE MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST.”
—POPE FRANCIS, ANGELUS, MARCH 17, 2013

The Peter's Pence Collection is one way for the Church around the world to support the charitable works of Pope Francis. Since 2014, for example, the people of eastern Ukraine have suffered from the repercussions of a civil war. All those who live in this region have been hard-hit, but children and the elderly have suffered the most.

Pope Francis issued a call for funds and personally contributed to assist those most affected by this conflict. Our Holy Father said, “This act of charity, in addition to alleviating material suffering, seeks to express my personal closeness and solidarity and that of the entire Church,” with the hope “that it may help to promote, without further delay, peace and respect for law in that land so afflicted” (Regina Caeli, Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2016). When your diocese supports the Peter's Pence Collection, you stand in solidarity with the Holy Father to comfort those who suffer around the world, like our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Collection Weekend: March 30 & 31

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

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



APRIL
2019

The Holy Eucharist

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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	REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	REV. DOUGLAS J. LUCIA	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	28	29	30	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 389 Ogdensburg, NY 13669			
	REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH	The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:   www.myvocation.net						

For more information visit us online at: www.mprpapatolale.com
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.

Rest in Peace

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

March 27 – Rev. Bernard Marron, 1927; Rev. Henry Cormerais, 1938; Rev. Lawrence J. Gerrity, O.S.A., 1981; Rev. John L. Gallagher, O.S.A., 1982

March 28 – Rev. Francis McShane, O.S.A., 1932; Rev. Walter C. McMahon, 1978; Rev. Lawrence A. Mallette, 1989; Rev. Joseph P. Trombley, 2001

March 29 – Rev. Joseph Taney, 1880; Rev. J. Aime Troie, 1955; Rev. Ross A. Garnsey, 1986; Rev. Euclid Marier, 2003

March 30 – Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960; Rev. Victor Lamore, 2017

March 31 – Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

April 1 – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002

April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required.

Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:

March 27 – 2:30 p.m., St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 27 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Annual Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Bread and Soup Supper followed by Mass at St. Alexander Church in Morrisonville

March 28-30 – Installation of Bishop Robert T. Brennan as the 12th Bishop of Columbus

March 31 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

April 1 – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 2 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

7 p.m. – Ecumenical Lenten Mission, John 17 Movement at St. Mary's Church in Massena

April 3 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

To Report Abuse

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

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

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

Environmental Stewardship

What is an 'Ecological Conversion?'

In last week's edition of the *North Country Catholic*, there was an article titled, "Pope: World in need of ecological conversion." We are all familiar with the Lenten call to change our hearts, but what does Pope Francis mean by an "ecological conversion?"

In Chapter 6 of *Laudato Si*, titled "Ecological Education and Spirituality," Pope Francis gives us some insights as to its meaning. He writes, "Many things need to change, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. (#202) Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. (#203) The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. . . .

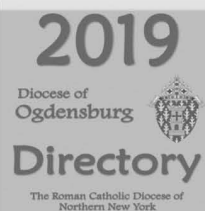
Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction." (#204)

It is light of these reflections on our current situation Pope Francis challenges us to a profound change in our lifestyle. . . or "ecological conversion" that hears both "the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth." Referring to the *Earth Charter* that asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, to seek a new beginning, Pope Francis echoes its courageous challenge: "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." (#207)

The first step towards this conversion process is an awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis, and then it must be translated into new habits. (209)

Lenten Suggestion: Spend some time with the Lord. Consider how your Lenten practice could initiate a new ecological habit.

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CELEBRATING ST. JOSEPH



(Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph with the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Motherhouse in Watertown. (Right) Sisters of St. Joseph Sister Sharon Anne Dalton and Sister Sueanne Johnson treated students at St. Mary's School to ice cream in celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph.



Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office

Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S FOR OUR UPCOMING FAMILY LIFE EVENTS

May 18th Teen Life Day

St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake
Featuring Students For Life
To Register: www.rcdony.org/prolife
For more information - call Respect
Life Office (518) 524-0774

Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2
Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake
[https://www.rcdony.org/pro-life/
rachel-s-vineyard/confidential-
registration-form-fall.html](https://www.rcdony.org/pro-life/rachel-s-vineyard/confidential-registration-form-fall.html)

"The Practice of the Presence of God" Men's Retreat

June 14 to June 16
Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake

"Belong" Steubenville Youth Conference

July 19-21
[https://www.rcdony.org/family-life-
marriage/marriage/steubenville-
youth-conference.html](https://www.rcdony.org/family-life-marriage/marriage/steubenville-youth-conference.html)



Special note for anyone who is preparing for marriage or is married please check out the USCCB's web site. The materials and helpful articles are designed for helping build strong marriages. Every marriage matters, because marriage comes from the hand of God.

Marriage Preparation/NFP Week Workshop

Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake
July 27th

Family Guggenheim

Session 1: August 15-18
Session 2: August 22-25
Session 3: October 11-13

Married/Religious Jubilee

September 15
Mass starts at 2:30 p.m. followed by
reception
St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

For more information on these events or programs, please contact the Steve Tartaglia at the Family Life Office 315-393-2920 or visit our website at www.rcdony.org/familylife



CLINTON

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

Altona – Holy Angels Church to host an all-you-can-eat breakfast.

Date: April 7

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: Holy Angels Church Hall, 524 Devils Den Road

Cost: \$9.50 for adults; \$5 for children 6-12; free for kids under 5.

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – The Knights of Columbus will have a pancake breakfast.

Date: April 7

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

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall

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

LENTE 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: Now to Palm Sunday, April 14

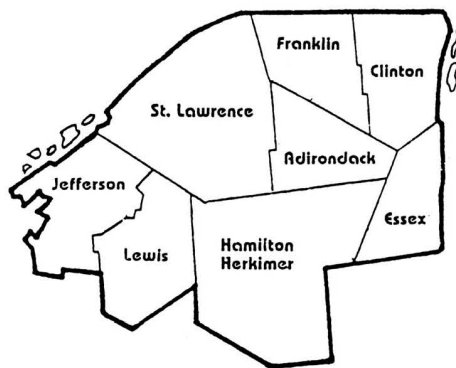
Features: Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the vigil site Planned Parenthood, 66 Brinkerhoff Street and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

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 www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CLOSING CERMONY

Plattsburgh – 40 Days for Life to have a Closing Candlelight vigil.

Date: April 13



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: 66 Brinkerhoff St.

Features: To rejoice in the victories that God has accomplished. Though this rally may conclude our 40 Days for Life campaign, it only marks a beginning of renewed commitment to ending abortion in our community.

Contact:

www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh
518-593-6024

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh – Champlain Valley Right to Life to have its Annual Stations of the Cross to be held in front of Planned Parenthood.

Date: April 19

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: 66 Brinkerhoff Street.

Features: Prayer pamphlets and the numbered crosses will be supplied. No other signs please. We come together in reparation for the sin of abortion. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Contact: Chair at: 518-593-6024 for more info

EVANGELIZATION AND APOLOGETICS

Dannemora – The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers Association (ERCLMA) 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/MaalC60E1B0>.

Contact: Brenda Smith

soundtech58@yahoo.com or Karen LeClair - k.leclair2@aol.com by April 26

ESSEX

ST. JOSEPH'S LENTE STUDIES

Olmstedville – St. Joseph's Church to hold a Lenten study.

Schedule: Wednesdays after the 5 p.m. Mass

Place: St. Joseph's Parish House

Features: "No Greater Love," The Passion of Jesus Christ DVD video series to be shown. Soup and bread will be served.

FRANKLIN

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 dtvdik@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 (dlucia@rcdony.org) or Father Howard Venette (pastorsmall@stmariysti.org).

HAMILTON/HERKIMER

LENTE RETREAT DAY

Old Forge – Lenten Retreat Day to be held.

Date: March 30

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: St. Bartholomew's Church

Features: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald will present with a theme of Learning Compassion from the Heart of Christ. Reflecting on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Sister will lead us in considering obstacles to compassion and how the teachings of Jesus can make us more compassionate people. This virtue is so much needed today!

Contact: To register, phone the parish office at (315) 369-3554 (ext. 3).

JEFFERSON

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 their 2019 Legacy Gala.

Date: April 6

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

Place: Italian American Civic Association

Cost: \$50

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

LENTE 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 Hearthside 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 srbethsj@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 Chapel in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 28 at 3 p.m., there will be Adoration, singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring a Divine Mercy picture to be blessed.

Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org All parishes welcome.

HAM DINNER

Evans Mills – St. Mary, St. Theresa and St. Joseph's Events Committee to have a Ham Dinner.

Date: April 27

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$10

LEWIS

LENTE EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: March 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.

APRIL DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of April to be held.

Date: April 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: prayer, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcomed. Contact 315-348-6260.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville - The Feast of The Divine Mercy will be celebrated.

Date: April 28

Schedule: Reconciliation will begin at 2 p.m. and a Divine Mercy themed movie will be shown in the church hall also beginning at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m., the program will include: The Blessing of the Divine Mercy image, holy cards and petitions, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, homily and Benediction.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church 3:00 PM, at St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville.

Features: Father Jay W. Seymour will be the celebrant. A cover-dish reception in the church hall will follow. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

Brasher – The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.

Date: March 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Shamrock Club

Cost: \$3; under 12 free

Features: Many dealers will be present with all kinds sporting items. Concession stand open all day, breakfast served from 8 a.m. to 11.

Contact: Phil Davis at 315-389-4627 or Mike Hoag at 315-389-4318.

BLESSED IS SHE GATHERING

Norwood – Blessed is She Lenten Gathering to be held.

Date: April 7

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

Features: Join us for an inspiring talk to dive deeper into the Lenten Season. Snacks will be provided, please bring a snack.

Contact: RSVP to Sara LaPointe:

text/call 315-212-7565 or

narrow56@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.

KNIGHTS GALA

Massena – Trinity Catholic will be holding its 5th Gala with the theme of Hollywood "Knights."

Date: April 27

Place: Trinity Catholic School

Cost: \$65 per person or \$500 for a table of 8

Feature: A 5-course meal with a choice of prime rib or chicken marsala provided by Allen Chilton.

Contact: Tickets go on sale March 25. Stop by or call the school office at 315-769-5911

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Canton – Spaghetti Dinner to be held.

Date: April 28

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WOMEN DISCERNMENT GROUP

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

Date: March 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. Registration is requested by emailing Shayne Lippincott at 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 www.rcdony.org/youth and select "Youth Rally." Please contact Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry at tsemeraro@rcdony.org or by calling 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – Chrism Mass to be held.

Date: April 11

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: All the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg for 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 symbolizing that we are one family in Christ.


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- * Pro-Life apologetics
- * Fetal development
- * How birth control works,



- by Dr. Jan Patterson, Gianna Center
- * Silent No More/40 Days for Life by Nancy Belzile, Regional Coordinator
- * How to start a Students for Life Chapter
- * Making NY an abortion-free state, by Kathy Gallagher, NYS Catholic Conference



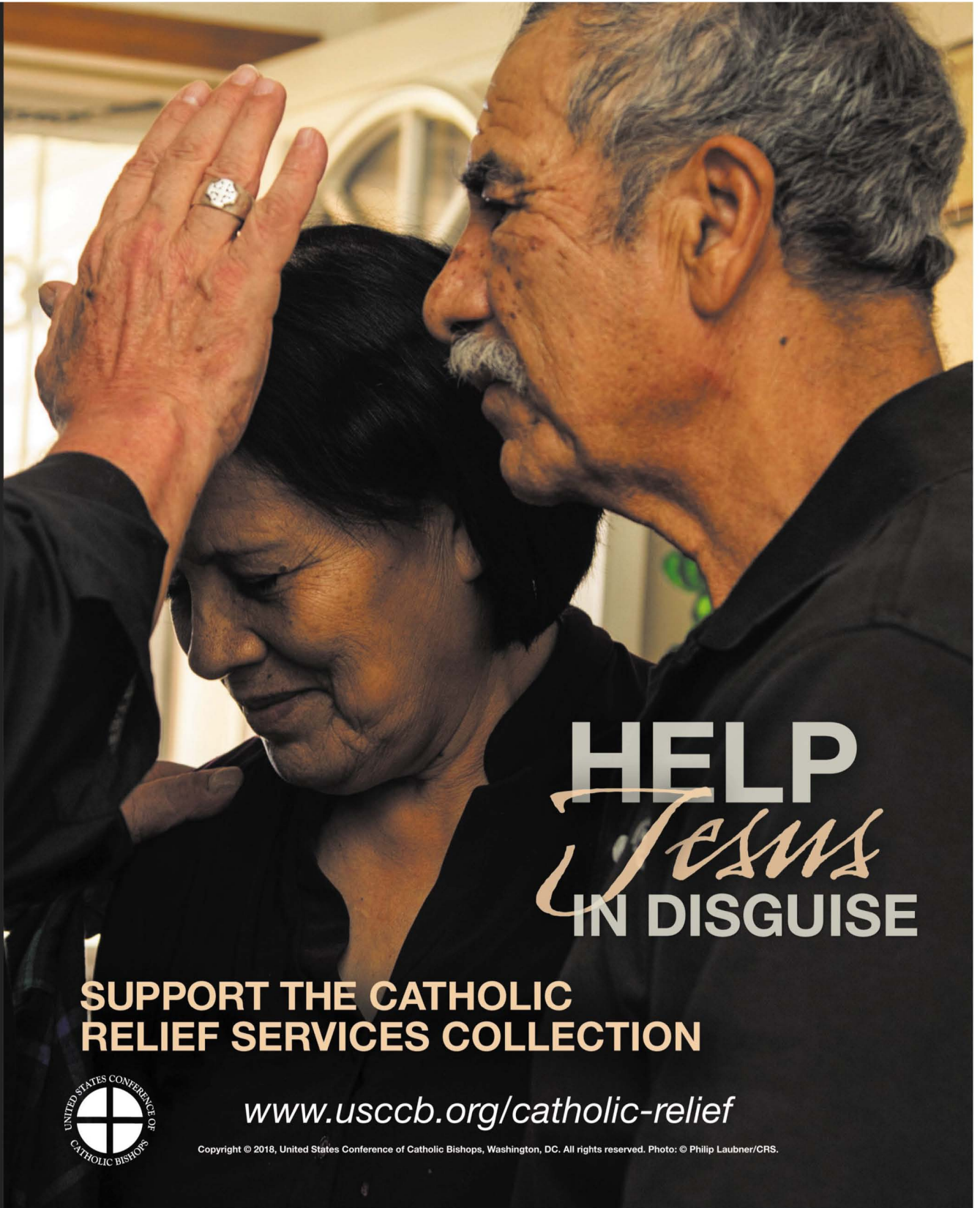
Meet Kate Maloney!
Students for Life
Northeast Regional Coordinator!
Kate is Catholic, lived in 6 states (military family), an Ithaca College graduate -vocal performance major- who now uses her voice to educate & spread the joy of the pro-life message!

**WWW.RCDONY.ORG/PROLIFE To Register
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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Cardinal leaves hospital, continues recovery in rehab program

HOUSTON (CNS) – Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has been discharged from St. Joseph Medical Center and "has entered a standard rehabilitation program" to continue his recovery from a mild stroke. "Based on recent trends, doctors expect the cardinal to make a full recovery," said a news release issued by the archdiocese. Cardinal DiNardo, 69, was leading an evening Lenten observance of the Stations of the Cross March 15 when he fell ill. He was taken to the hospital after experiencing symptoms of what tests confirmed was a mild stroke. "I could not be more grateful to the truly wonderful doctors and nurses at St. Joseph's for their expert care and compassion, which has helped hasten my way down the road to a full recovery," Cardinal DiNardo said in a statement. "I am also doubly thankful for the many kind wishes and especially the prayers that have been directed toward my healing, which I can assure you are making a true difference."

Missouri House OKs bill to ban abortions after heartbeat

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (CNS) – The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston "strongly and unconditionally" rejects the state attorney general's assertion that "the diocese is not wholly committed to the protection of children." The diocese issued a statement late March 19 in response to an announcement earlier that day that Attorney General Patrick James Morrissey brought a civil suit against the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and its former bishop, Bishop Michael J. Bransfield, citing provisions of the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act. The state attorney general's office claims that the diocese and Bishop Bransfield in past years violated the consumer law by failing "to disclose to consumers of its educational and recreational services that it employed priests and laity who have sexually abused children." The suit defines "educational and recreational services" as the Catholic schools, summer camps and other entities in the statewide diocese.

'Unplanned' film is story of 'hope, forgiveness and love'

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) – Abby Johnson's life had already become an open book. Soon it also will become a national box office show. "It's not a film inspired by my life story," she said. "It is my life story." Johnson, 38, is a former pro-choice Planned Parenthood facility director turned national pro-life advocate. She made the comments March 14 during a webinar about the film "Unplanned," which is based on her 2011 book of the same name. Joining her on the webinar were Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Vicki Thorn, executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing and founder of the Project Rachel post-abortion ministry. The movie officially opens in theaters the weekend of March 29. But through theater buyouts by groups, the film can be viewed in some places as early as March 25, appropriately, the feast of the Annunciation. As suggested in the film's tagline, "What she saw changed everything." Johnson said the movie "will expose (viewers) to the truth of what happens inside the abortion industry." But mostly, she noted, the film is about the "amazing, ready mercy of Jesus Christ that is available to everyone – whether you've been touched by abortion or not – that Christ is so ready to redeem us."

School choice tax credit bill introduced in House, Senate

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A new piece of legislation endorsed by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos could put Catholic or other religious schools within reach of many families who would otherwise not be able to afford them.

The plan, called "Education Freedom Scholarships," is actually not a new federal program meant to redirect funds toward private school scholarships and away from public education or the like – though that is what some of its opponents portray it as doing.

According to the program's website, the plan offers "a \$5 billion annual federal tax credit for voluntary donations to state-based scholarship programs." The website also explains that it will not take "a single dollar away from public schools and the students who attend them."

Essentially, each state that decides to participate in Education Freedom Scholarships would structure its own program, including provisions for which scholarships students can apply and what schools those scholarships can be directed toward. The federal government's only role in making it work would be instituting the federal tax credit for those who donate to state entities which provide scholarships.

Companion bills, called the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, have been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Alabama, respectively. Cruz has said the

idea "enables all students to access a personalized education experience that meets their individual needs."

Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland, California, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Catholic Education, sent a letter of thanks on March 20 to Cruz and Byrne for introducing the bill, saying, "The Catholic Church teaches that parents ... have the right to select the best education environment for their children." He emphasized judicial precedent indicates that "since 1925, parental rights in education has been the law of the land in the United States."

Similar programs have already been accepted and rejected by some states. In Kentucky, for example, House Bill 205 would have implemented the plan at the state level but seemed to meet its demise in committee earlier this month, according to the Courier Journal daily newspaper. The bill's proponents included Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville and many Republican politicians, while it was uniformly opposed by teachers' unions, Democrats and superintendents across the state.

In response to critics of the bill who say that such a program covertly siphons money from public schools, Andrew Vandiver, associate director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, said the state conference "has no problem with increased funding for public schools" and that the "issue was different" because the scholarship system would have used private funds only.

Vandiver also mentioned that the tax credit-and-scholarship program appears to have been successfully implemented in Florida, where the program has over 100,000 participants and public schools seem not to have been detracted from, as they showed more improvement than most public schools around the country despite the new support for other schools.

"There will be a number of challenges in attempts to gain bipartisan support for the bills in both houses of Congress and get a final bill passed, said the National Catholic Educational Association in a fact sheet about Education Freedom Scholarships on its website, www.ncea.org.

President Donald Trump has said he will sign the bill into law if it reaches his desk.

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Diocese of Ogdensburg Respect Life office

518-524-0774 (call or text) cmminer@rcdony.org



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**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

for 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
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ
on

**Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 11 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.**



SHAWN RYAN/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Sister Deepali Bankar and Father Scott R. Seymour are leading efforts to restore Lenten traditions at St. Alexander's Parish in Morrisonville.

Restoring Lenten traditions

By Shawn Ryan
Contributing Writer

MORRISONVILLE— This Lenten season, St. Alexander's Parish is renewing a tradition which Father Scott Seymour brought to the parish nearly a decade ago after experiencing it in other parishes where he had served; the Bread and Soup dinner.

The tradition, which is shared in numerous parishes around the Diocese, is a time for parishioners to come together for fellowship, Mass, good food and prayer, and to reflect on the deeper meaning of Lent. The Wednesday dinners, which started March 20, feature a keynote speaker each week, a pastor who will bring his own message to the Mass and the following period of preaching. The gathering on March 20 featured retired Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant from Plattsburgh; March 27 will feature Bishop Terry R. LaValley; and April 3 will feature Father John R. Yankovich.

"It's a time for people to come together for an evening of fellowship, then have some sort of prayer service based on a Lenten theme, then a period of preaching. There are a lot of different prayer experiences; it depends on the person doing the Mass," said Father Scott R. Seymour, Pastor of St. Alexander's Parish. "It's supposed to be a very simple meal to remind us of Lent."

Father Seymour noted the events are open to and draw all ages.

"It's inter-generational. You'll get young and old and everything in between," he said.

While the meal itself might be simple, it is far from ordinary. Parishioners from the parish's Disciples in Mission group

provide the meal and serve from 10 to 20 different crocks of soup, along with artisan bread, to the 15 to 50 people who come for the meal. The Disciples in Mission Group, which predates Father Seymour's time at St. Alexander's, is a Bible study group organized by Sister Deepali Bankar, of the Sisters of the Cross of Charvanod.

"They focus on the mystery of God. It speaks about the Scriptures and the mystery of God," said Sister Deepali of the various weekly study topics the group undertakes, which are based on the Mysteries of God teachings by Bishop Robert Barron.

But Bread and Soup nights are not the only Lenten tradition practiced at St. Alexander's. All parishioners are encouraged in the Lenten tradition to eat more simple family meals throughout Lent, and are sent home with Alms Boxes. The money they save by eating more simply is put in the Alms Boxes, which then gets donated on Holy Thursday to supply one of the parish's main missions, the weekly soup kitchen in Treadwells Mills.

"We use the money that they save to feed other people," explains Father Seymour, adding that the soup kitchen typically provides soup, a full meal and dessert for 90 to 100 North Country residents every Thursday night. Depending on the available food for the week, some nights people are even given food to bring home to help get them through their week.

With Lent now well underway, St. Alexander's is gearing up for both a very prayerful and eventful spring and summer season yet to come.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Called to reconciliation and ministry

Most people feel a bit sad at the beginning of Lent, but by the Fourth Sunday, there is a general feeling of gladness that we're back into some good habits of extra prayer, sharing with others in faith groups, and daily Mass, if we're able. No wonder the church calls this "Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday." We're finally in gear!

Some of you may be thinking, "Oh, really?" Well, if you don't think you're been doing so great, there's still time. Maybe you can even identify with the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel. If so,

then rejoice in the mercy and forgiveness of the Father! At least you're not like that smug and self-righteous brother of his. We wonder what the rest of the story was like. Did he eventually get over his anger and join the party? We like to think that a whole new relationship developed between the brothers. Life is so short! Carrying grudges

just makes what little time we have so unpleasant. Forgiveness frees us from unhappiness and opens the floodgates of joy. It even improves our health.

That father of theirs



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

March 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

must have been a joyful man. We wonder if his wife was of the same forgiving nature? We know one thing: that Jesus was teaching us a lesson about the mercy of God the Father through this famous parable.

Lent is definitely a time for new beginnings. In the first reading, the Israelites are on the very borders of the Promised Land. No more of that heavenly manna would descend from the skies as soon as

they crossed over Jordan. Now they would be nourished by the rich harvest of crops planted by those they would conquer in this land of milk and honey. Still, it took courage. As is always the case, some were fearful of new beginnings and longed to be back in Egypt. Would we be among the fearful ones, shirking the effort to become all that God calls us to be?

In today's second reading from 2nd Corinthians, Paul reminds us that "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold new things have come."

So what "new things" are we called to? Paul tells us

that God has given us a ministry – the ministry of reconciliation. As it was Christ's ministry on earth, so now is it our ministry, encouraging the discouraged, giving hope to those who are hopeless and despairing. God Himself pleads through us, for we are "ambassadors for Christ." An ambassador works, not through force or recrimination, but through diplomacy. For us, it means treating all we meet with the example of our love and concern.

This year, it is more important than ever to pray for the holiness of priests and bishops, and for a new vibrancy to all of us to continue our plea for God's mercy for sin and infidelity.

Our vocations point us to the next life

By Stephen Tartaglia

Director, Office of Family Life

What happens to people after they die? Jesus said that "At the resurrection, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage. They will be like the angels in Heaven." What does this mean? What does science tell us? What does philosophy tell us? What does faith tell us? When we talk to people that are committed to science, the only answer they can give that is strictly scientific, limiting themselves to what can be observed and measured, is the decay of the body. They have no commentary on the soul, nor on angels.

Philosophy, not limited to observable and measurable phenomena, can grapple with this question in a different way and arrive at different and far more comforting conclusions. Through Philosophy we

can come to understand the concept that humans are both body and soul, and that the soul exists after the death and decay of the body. Philosophy also points out that there are 'ends' toward which all things move and develop. For example, the acorn develops into the fully-grown oak tree. Philosophy, strictly speaking, is not religious. It is the exercise of the mind using reason. Nevertheless, Philosophy points first to the existence of God, then to an understanding of God's characteristics, what God is like. Eventually, through philosophy, we can conclude that it is reasonable to have faith in God.

Faith in God, like faith in a close friend or a parent or a spouse, requires trust to believe information we can't see for ourselves or otherwise know. Trust requires a relationship with

someone we believe is trustworthy, who is truthful and faithful and has our best interest at heart, someone who loves us and who we love in return. How do we have a relationship with God who we cannot perceive through our senses? How does communication happen in that relationship? For Catholics, this relationship is mediated through the ministry of the Church, which gives us the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the Communion of Saints.

Through the Scriptures we hear God's Word, an epic love story in which God tells us over and over again that He loves us. We learn about how Jesus freely gave himself completely for us, body, blood, soul and divinity, holding nothing back, and that through this self-giving, we have new life. Through the Sacraments we experi-

ence God's love and presence in our lives in concrete ways. We celebrate new life, we are cleaned and fed and nurtured throughout our entire lives. Through the Communion of Saints, we gain an extended family. As Christ said, "Who are my mother, my brothers, my sisters? Anyone who does the will of God is mother and brother and sister to me."

Is it any wonder that the Church is called the Bride of Christ? Who is it that receives me completely, giving birth to new life, feeds my children, cleans them when they are dirty, comforts them when they are sick or fall down, nurtures them, roots them in a heritage through telling them stories, connects them to an extended family, and cares for them throughout their entire lives? My bride. Does Christ's Bride

do any less?

We are all made in the image and likeness of God and are called to be holy. Men and women called to share the Sacrament of Matrimony must live out their lives in such a way as to give concrete expression to the love of God. They must love each other freely, fully, faithfully and fruitfully. Whether a person is called to celibacy or marriage in this life, both vocations point to the same reality in the next.

We are the Church and we are the Bride of Christ. Our end is to celebrate our marriage with God forever. Heaven is like a wedding reception, with all our closest family and friends celebrating together. After we die, no one is given in marriage.

The marriage has already taken place. Jesus is the Bridegroom, we are the Bride.

AT THE MOVIES

CAPTIVE STATE

NEW YORK (CNS) – With the sci-fi drama "Captive State" (Focus), director and co-writer Rupert Wyatt has set out to tell a thoughtful, complex story and to comment on a variety of social issues.

But his film as a whole,

penned with Erica Beeny, is drab in tone and never quite gels. The inclusion of some gritty settings and behavior, moreover, makes it strictly adult fare.

Nine years after humanity surrendered the earth to invading aliens, young

Chicagoan Gabriel Drummond (Ashton Sanders) gets caught up in a conspiracy to rebel against them. In part he's inspired to do so because his older brother, Rafe (Jonathan Majors), who was martyred in an earlier upris-

ing, has become an iconic hero of the underground resistance.

Gabriel and the other plotters, including black marketeer Jurgis (Colson Baker aka rapper Machine Gun Kelly), are being tracked by high-ranking police official William Mulligan (John Goodman). Though Mulligan appears to be grimly dedicated to thwarting the insurgents, his ultimate allegiance in the struggle is unclear.

Equally obscure is the role being played by a mysterious prostitute of Mulligan's acquaintance, suitably dubbed Jane Doe (Vera Farmiga). Whether or not she has a heart of gold, Doe does possess a bookshelf full of history tomes and a drawing on the wall of her room depicting the Trojan Horse.

"Captive State" engages more interest as the interlocking elements of the planned attack emerge. Catholic viewers, though, may have mixed feelings on finding that a character called Eddie the Priest (Guy Van Swearingen) is among those preparing it.

Identified in the dialogue as, in fact, an "ex-priest,"

Eddie sells chalices to advance the cause. He also advises fellow conspirator Anita (Caitlin Ewald) to take off the cross she wears around her neck, implying, perhaps, that the extraterrestrials are anti-religious or specifically anti-Christian. There's no follow-up to this momentary detail, however.

The invaders are busy exploiting the world's natural resources, and they and their human collaborators spy on everyone, including Gabriel and his live-in girlfriend, Rula (Madeline Brewer), as they cavort in bed. Additionally, hi-tech gadgets have been banned. Exactly what application to real life these aspects of the situation are meant to have the script fails to specify.

Ambitious but unsatisfying, "Captive State" promises more than it ultimately delivers.

The film contains considerable violence with some gore, torture, multiple suicides, glimpses of nonmarital sexual activity, cohabitation, a prostitution theme, a transvestite character, and occasional crude language. 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.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY
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"As Christians, we are 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."

–Bishop Terry R. LaValley

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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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Lent in your home

From time to time, I like to make suggestions for activities you can do at home with your family that coincide with Lent or Advent or Easter, etc... This year, Missio.org, our go-to website for the Mission Lands, has made some wonderful suggestions for family lesson-learning activities.

Here's a suggestion from Missio.org. It's called the Clay Pot Lenten Activity. Shatter into large but safe pieces a clay pot or terra cotta pot. Give each member of your family large piece to keep with them throughout Lent. This piece will serve as a reminder all the time that we are all like clay in God's hands and that during Lent, we can allow God to shape us into new vessels.

Fasting in 2019. Throughout Lent, fasting is often a popular religious practice. We should encourage each other and our families to fast or abstain from things such as fast food, or television one day a week, electronics for a whole day, buying unnecessary items or giving up a bad habit. This can re-enforce discipline and strength and show us the sacrifice of what Jesus endured for all of us.

Practice the "3 Cs." Here is how you play. Challenge your students or your children to give out three compliments each day to someone. Wait for their reaction. You see that person smile and show their gratitude. Everyone wins. Kindness is spread and you lift someone up.

Make a giving box. Take an ordinary shoe box or gift box. Decorate it and cut a slot into the lid. Put a jar of coins nearby the box once its adorned. If someone in your home or your classroom does a kind deed, they are welcome to secretly take a coin and place into the box. Once Lent has ended, count the money in the box and contribute to your Easter collection at Mass.

These are just a few minor examples of the kindness you can spread or the sacrifices you can make to teach the young people in your life or in your family about the importance of Lent. Living through giving and leaning as you go. Lent is a period to reflect. Why not do it as a family and walk away with fuller hearts.

God Bless!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

www.rcdony.org

Funeral Mass held for Sister Arline Schmeer, scientist

CAPE VINCENT – A Funeral Mass for Sister Arline Schmeer, Ph.D. was held Friday March 22 at St. Vincent of Paul Church, Cape Vincent.

Sister Arline passed away peacefully at Samaritan Keep Home in Watertown on Sunday March 17, 2019.

For 57 years, Sister Arline was a Dominican Sister with Our Lady of the Springs, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Born in Rochester to Edward "Yock" and Madeline Haines Schmeer, she was a 1947 graduate of Nazareth Academy.

As a devout member of the Dominican Order of Preachers, Sister Arline was a highly respected educator with teaching appointments at junior high, high school, and college planes including the University of Wurtzburg, Bavaria, Germany.

Sister Arline was also an

internationally recognized scientist, lecturer, and consultant in cancer research. Sister is most recognized for her discovery of an anti-cancer agent she termed Mercene. This drug has been proven effective as an anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and anti-tumor agent. Her discovery was independently confirmed by Nobel Prize Laureate, Dr. Albert Szent Gyorgyi, among others.

Sister Arline earned a Ph.D. in Bio-Medicine from the University of Colorado in addition to her B.A. from Ohio Dominican University and an MSc in Biology from Notre Dame Un. Additionally, Dr. Schmeer received honorary doctoral degrees from the NY State Board of Regents plus Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT. Other exemplary awards included Governor's Award from The Ohio Academy of Sci-

ence, Sertoma Community Service Award, President's Gold Medal from the University of Detroit, and Outstanding Alumna Award from Ohio Dominican, all given to Dr. Schmeer in recognition of superior contributions to science, education, and community.

Sister Arline is predeceased by her brother, Edward "Bud" Schmeer and his wife, Marlene Wilcox Schmeer, of Cape Vincent. Sister is survived by her cousin, Paul Leschorn, and her four nephews: Kurt, Kyle, Mark, David and families.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to an educational fund established in Sister Arline's name. Please send to: Sister Arline Schmeer Science and Education Fund, c/o The Dominican Sisters Our Lady of the Springs, 21 Schuyler Ave, Stamford, CT 06902.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Rita M. (LaBarge) Cody, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2019 at Holy Angel's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

Au Sable Forks – Magen Renee Goyette, 30; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2019 at Holy Name Church.

Cape Vincent – M. Lillian (Yott) Mason, 99; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2019 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Chasm Falls – Robert Wall, 69; Mass of Christian burial to be held at a later date at St. Helen's Church.

Dannemora – Derrick "Joe" Venne Sr., 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church.

Lake Placid – Stanley VanCour, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2019

at St. Agnes Church.

Morrisonville – George N. Goff Jr., 62; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Ogdensburg – Dale H. Bombard, 79; Funeral Services April 27, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lillian A. (LaRock) Dodd, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Elizabeth Niro, 55; Funeral Services March 22, 2019 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Maxine Adelle (Moors) Sheehan, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2019 at St. Mary's

Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Watertown – Patricia L. (Zellar) Brazell, 88; Funeral Services March 18 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Rosemary (Tauroney) Fazio, 93; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Students help prepare taxes in N.Y. volunteer program

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — High school junior Paul Barber shuffles through tax forms in the basement of the diocesan Pastoral Center in Albany. At Catholic Central High School in nearby Troy, Barber is like any other student; here, he's an accountant.

"I get to actually come here and help people which is great," Barber told *The Evangelist*, Albany's diocesan newspaper. "Coming from a Catholic school and a Catholic family, getting to help people is great."

Barber is one of many student volunteers who help locals in the Albany Diocese file their tax returns under the Catholic Charities Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, known as VITA.

VITA works in collaboration with the CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Coalition of the Greater Capital Region. It offers free tax preparation services from Internal Revenue Service-trained and certified volunteers to individuals or families with a maximum household income of \$54,000.

VITA has collaborated with Catholic Central students since its inception almost 15 years ago. The program allows students to gain hands-on experience in the accounting field.

Mary Olsen, VITA program director, said students from the College of St. Rose, Siena College and SUNY Albany also volunteer. The program teaches students a level of professionalism, she said, so clients can feel comfortable having their taxes done by someone so young.

"One woman said earlier,

"These are high school kids?" Olsen said. "And I said, 'Oh yes, and they are certified by the IRS, and they've been doing this for a long time.'"

George Hannah, accounting and business teacher at Catholic Central, said all students enrolled in his accounting class are required to volunteer with VITA. Students also receive training from a VITA member before they can volunteer.

While Catholic Charities oversees the program offered in the Pastoral Center, the CASH Coalition offers numerous VITA sites around the diocese, such as at St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville, as well as the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

In 2016, the program helped 887 people file their taxes, saving them more than \$240,000. Last year, the program helped nearly 1,000 taxpayers.



At Enrollment of Names during the Mass March 17 at St Peter's Church in Lowville, students preparing for their First Communion, were called forward with an image they decorated of themselves and planted it in the garden of "Growing in our Faith." Pictured are, back row, Donovan Exford, Cameron Carpenter, Lane Morrow, Thomas King, Mary McCauley, and Aubree Sauter; front row, Brody Fayle, Lincoln Millick and Camden Zehr.

ALL NATURAL!

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