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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 45

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 10, 2019

WE ARE CALLED



It's time for the *North Country Catholic's* annual edition focused on vocations. This year, Father Scott Bellina (above) shares the story of his call to the priesthood and thoughts on living his vocation; the Lauria family reflects on their call to marriage and family; Brent Davison discusses his response to a call to the diaconate; Aaron Akey recounts how God's work in his life has led him to apply for seminary; and Sister Mary Gregory Munger offers advice to those discerning their vocations.

SEE STORIES ON PAGES 3-7

THE FACE OF FASHION



Seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Columbus, Charlotte, Gallup, and Birmingham celebrate a pose made popular by Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Matt Conger, sporting commemorative shirts bearing the image at the annual Pontifical College Josephinum Basketball Tournament held this past February.

Six-part Living Stones series begins

Looking at the future of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and how we develop healthier and more vibrant parish communities will be covered in a series of articles to be published in the *North Country Catholic* over the next several weeks.

The topics to be discussed are exceedingly important, as they will relate to the health of our diocese and how we might become more vibrant and in an even stronger position to meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.

We hope you will read the articles, ponder, pray, and discuss them with your pastor and fellow parishioners.

The future health of the diocese lies in our hands.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

Pray with courage, pope says in homily

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Christians must be courageous when praying to God and not simply repeat prayers "like a parrot," Pope Francis said.

"In common parlance, people use an expression that I really like when they have a goal: 'I put it all on the line.' In intercessory prayers, this also applies: 'I put it all on the line'; it is

the courage to go forward. But perhaps the doubt may arise: 'I do this, but how do I know the Lord listens to me?' We have a certainty: Jesus. He is the great intercessor," the pope said in his homily April 4 during his morning Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae.

Alessandro Gisotti, interim Vatican spokesman, told journalists that Italian

President Sergio Mattarella was among those present at the morning Mass.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the day's first reading from the Book of Exodus in which Moses intercedes with God on behalf of the people of Israel, who had fallen into sin.

The Bible, he said, is full of examples of holy men and women who prayed

fervently to God, almost as if "they were arm-wrestling" with him. They do so, he explained, because they "had faith that the Lord would give them grace."

Jesus, too, the pope said, "prays for us at this moment" and no matter what way Christians pray, it is Christ "who takes my prayer and presents it to

the father."

"Jesus does not need to speak before the father: he shows him his wounds. The father sees his wounds and gives us the grace," Pope Francis said.

"When we pray, let us remember that we do it with Jesus. When we do a courageous prayer of intercession, we do it with Jesus," the pope said.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

God has a great sense of humor

God has a great sense of humor.

While I have numerous stories that could help prove that assertion, this week's chief reminder of God's sense of humor is the fact that I'm writing about vocations when my week included a day during which both my son, Jake, and I cried before the morning school bus had arrived.

I sent my husband a text message that morning: "I'm no good at this parenting thing."

Being a spouse and parent is not for the faint of heart. I think we all have those moments when we question whether we're on the right path in terms of our relationships with our spouses and children. We all have those moments when we regret our anger, our apathy or our bad decisions, and how those things affect our loved ones. We all have those moments when we think, "God, are you sure this is what you want for me? I'm not qualified for

this."

Then, as I wrote and read the stories of others discerning and living their vocations, I was reminded that no vocation is easy, that we all feel unqualified. I read of an aspiring deacon trying to determine whether that vocation can coexist with a career in law enforcement. I read of a family praying for patience to deal with the difficult moments of parenting and marriage. I heard a priest speak about not having certainty as he surrendered his life to God.

It's a good thing, as the saying goes, that God doesn't

call the qualified, he qualifies the called.

Whether we're called to single life, consecrated life, marriage, the diaconate or the priesthood, living our vocations is a gift. It's not always easy, but it comes with amazing graces and opportunities to be conduits of Christ love, as long as we keep Him at the center.

And I'd like to think that God appreciates our efforts, even when we fail. I'm sure he sometimes even laughs at our moments of colossal unworthiness.

Afterall, He has a great sense of humor.

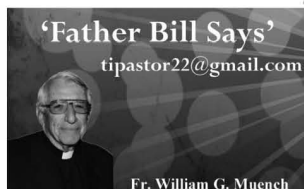
**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Chrism Mass is a special opportunity

The weeks of Lent are now approaching Holy Week. Our Catholic liturgy prepares us for Easter with the Masses and ceremonies of Holy Week. As a priest one of the most impressive of these ceremonies is the Chrism Mass. This special Mass is a part of the Holy Thursday liturgy. In our diocese we celebrate the Chrism Mass a week early to make it possible for all priests of the diocese to attend.

The purpose of the Chrism Mass, in addition to the Eucharist, is the blessing of the holy oils that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments in our Catholic liturgy for the next year in each parish of the diocese. These holy oils are blessed by Bishop LaValley at the Cathedral each year. They are then distributed to each parish in the diocese. This is a magnificent sign of the unity of each of our parishes with our Bishop and with the Cathedral.

The Chrism Mass also is a special time for all of us, priests of the diocese. Each



year, all the priests of our diocese gather at the Chrism Mass with the Bishop. At this Chrism Mass, one of the ceremonies is the Renewal of the Priestly Promises of the priests of the diocese. Every year since my own ordination, I have taken part in this Mass and in this renewal. It's my opportunity to renew my promises to God and to my Bishop of my dedication to my priestly ministry in this diocese.

Today, I would like to share with you just what these promises are. Actually, this will give me an opportunity to personally review these promises for myself to pray over what I will be renewing at the Chrism Mass.

During the Chrism Mass, Bishop LaValley asks us, priests, to rededicate ourselves to the promises we made to the carrying out of

the sacred duties towards Christ's Church, which we pledged at the time of our priestly ordination. This is the church's call to all its priests to holiness. This is a call to perfection. Each year this renewal is very special for me because it is in the Cathedral, where I was ordained a priest. In fact, I can recognize the place in the Cathedral sanctuary where I stood and knelt during my ordination many years ago.

The Second Vatican Council issued among its various documents a Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests. The Council writes a section on the Priest's Call to Perfection. It says: "Priests are bound by a special reason to acquire this perfection. They are consecrated to God in a new way in their ordination and made the living instruments of Christ the real priest and so are enabled to accomplish throughout all time that wonderful work of his which supernatural efficacy restored the whole human race."

During the renewal of

promises, the Bishop ask this question of priests: "Are you resolved to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ, the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?"

Each year this Chrism Mass is a sacred time for me, personally. It's a time of renewal, a time of deep gratitude to God for the gift of many years of priesthood that have been given to me by the Lord.

I pray in thanksgiving to God for the many opportunities the Lord has given me: opportunities to help those in need, opportunities to lead a parish in worship of God and developing relationship with the Lord.

I thank God for the many families that have been part of my life. As a pastor I have been a part of so many wonderful families.

I thank the Lord for the happiness of being a priest.

WE ARE CALLED

'I knew I was supposed to be a deacon'

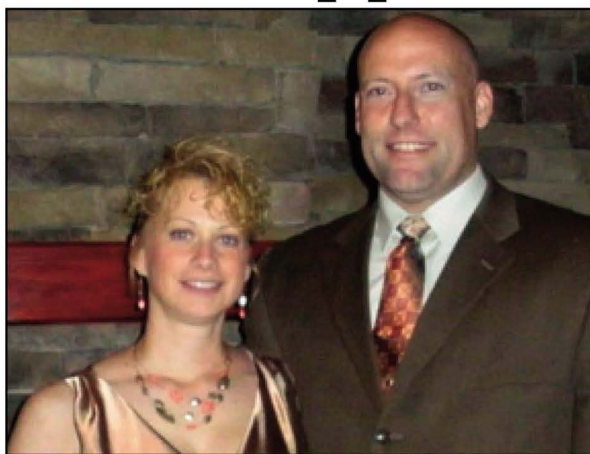
There was a television series called *The Bible* broadcast in March 2013. Brent Davison and his family watched the series at the urging of Brent's mother. One scene had a profound effect on the New York State Police veteran officer.

"At the birth of Jesus; it was like God filled me with grace and let me know immediately who that child was," Davison said. "I broke down sobbing. I always knew who Jesus was and that he has always been there for me, but I had turned away from him for a good percentage of my life. At that moment I turned toward him and he filled me with enlightenment and grace and drew me to the church."

That is Davison's awakening story. Davison had been baptized a Catholic and received First Communion in his home town, Mooers Forks, but the circumstances of life and his parents' divorce pointed Davison away from the Catholic Church that had received him early in his life. His church experiences during his youth and teenage years were spotty. If they happened at all, they were protestant or evangelical.

Davison calls the reaction to *The Bible* series his "strong conversion." The *Bible* was produced by Roma Downey and Mark Burnett and was broadcast weekly between March 3 and 31, 2013 on the History channel.

The acceptance of Christ as his savior led Davison and his wife, Nikki, to begin searching for a church. Since they both had Catholic backgrounds, their journey took them to St. Peter's



Brent & Nikki Davison

Church in Plattsburgh and Msgr. Dennis Duprey, the parish pastor.

Soon the Davisons were in a modified RCIA program.

"We called it family catechesis," Davison said.

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Both Brent and Nikki received confirmation and their two sons received the Eucharist for the first time at the vigil Mass in 2015. Subsequently they had their civil marriage blessed and their oldest son, Brendan, was confirmed.

We could easily wrap-up the story of Brent and Nikki Davison here. But there is more.

After growing up in Mooers Forks, Brent Davison joined the Army right out of high school. His duty stations included Germany and two years at Fort Drum near Watertown. Following separation from the Army, he enrolled in Clinton Community College and graduated with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation, he went to work for the New York State Corrections Department as a corrections offi-

cer. Within two years, he was welcomed into the ranks of the New York State Police. Today, 22 years later, Brent is the Captain/Zone Commander for the State Police in Plattsburgh (Troop B).

Brent and Nikki Davison have been married for 21 years. They have two stepchildren, Kayleigh Raville and Jordan Deno; two sons, Brendan and Evan; an adopted daughter, Marissa, who is 9, and two foster sons, James (7) and Joseph (3).

Did we mention Brent is currently in the formation program for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Ogdensburg?

Brent Davison said the presence of Deacon John Drollette at St. Peter's convinced him a police officer could serve the church as a deacon. Deacon Drollette, a former police officer in Plattsburgh, was ordained in 2013 when he was still active in police work. He has just recently been named director of the Permanent Deacon Formation program by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

"It was like for some reason I knew I was supposed

to be a deacon, but I can't explain why," said Brent Davison. "When I was converted, I received the grace to understand certain things, and I knew I was supposed to serve my church just as I had served my country and my community."

Brent Davison questioned whether being a police officer, as he is, and being a permanent deacon was a good fit.

"Deacon Drollette showed me a police officer could be a deacon and that seemed right for me," he said.

Msgr. Duprey was supportive. Davison knew he needed to complete the Formation for Lay Ministry course as a pre-requisite to deacon formation. Since a class was to begin in Peru that fall, he enrolled and was commissioned two years later. He was still discerning the call to the diaconate.

Msgr. Duprey encouraged him, and now Davison is finishing the first of three years of academic

and spiritual formation for ordination as a permanent deacon.

Nikki Davison is a registered nurse first assistant at Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital in Plattsburgh. With both of them working and with a large family to support, the additional formation work can be a challenge.

"I won't say it is always easy, but I constantly pray to God, 'if you want me to be a deacon, you have to see me through this' and he always has. My wife and I both make sacrifices," Brent Davison said.

There are twelve men in the formation program currently preparing for work in the Diocese after ordination in 2021. Each of them has a unique vocation story.

For further information about the Permanent Deacon program in the Diocese of Ogdensburg contact your Pastor or Deacon John Drollette through the diocesan website: <https://www.rcdony.org/deaconfor.html>



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WE ARE CALLED

'I pray for patience:' Living the call to marriage

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing writer

WELLS – “Daddy, I don’t want to go skiing today”.

“Why, Anna?”

“It’s too risky.”

“What..?” (silent pause)

“Do you know what ‘risky’ means?”

“Yes, it means I could get hurt, and I don’t want to get hurt.”

This was a recent conversation between my older brother and his 3-year-old daughter, a conversation that, upon recounting, had both of us wildly laughing while seriously scratching our heads. I asked him when his young daughter became so literate and he shrugged his shoulders in disbelief and just laughed. We took another drink from our beers.

When I was young, if you told me that my older brother would someday have children and be happy, I would have fallen out of my chair. Well, I am pulling myself back into my seat while writing these words. Vinnie and his wife, Rachel, residents of Wells and members of St. Ann Parish, have been married for almost nine years and have four beau-



The Lauria Family recently visited Santa at his retirement home in Daytona Beach, Florida. Pictured are, from left, Anna, Vinnie Jr., Vinnie, Anthony, and Rachel, who is holding Sarah.

tiful, funny, joyful, inquisitive and wildly entertaining children: Vinnie Jr., Anthony, Anna, and Sarah. I recently sat down with them and they reflected about their vocation to the married life and all the unexpected and wonderful things that have come of it.

Vinnie and Rachel Lauria met quite a few years back, when my brother was in flight school with Rachel’s best friend from high school. They hung out together with the

group during those early days of college life, but it was not until a few years later, when they reconnected through yet another set of mutual friends, that they became interested in each other.

I was surprised by the peace with which Rachel recalled her discernment to marriage.

“I always knew I was going to be a wife and a mother and while there wasn’t an ‘a-ha’ moment with Vinnie, as the relationship progressed, it be-

came clear for both of us that our vocation to marriage and parenting was going to come to fruition in each other,” Rachel said. They both had a vision for the future and eventually their independent visions included each other.

And that vision now includes four young kids, and it is beautiful to see how raising children in the faith and teaching them about God has opened their own spiritual lives. Like in all marriages, both Rachel and Vinnie expressed that consistency with the kids is a challenge when circumstances are not ideal, like during sickness or during long periods of bad weather.

“I pray for patience all of the time,” Rachel said.

And speaking of her favorite prayer, Rachel said, laughing, “God, please give me the patience I need right now.”

And as Anthony went running through the kitchen with barely any clothes on, wielding some contraption made of Legos, Vinnie shared a similar prayer with a smile, “God, help me.”

He went on to share, “I didn’t want kids for the longest time, but something changed as I got older. And now I can’t imagine my life without my kids. My life is fulfilled because of them. They

have taught me that there is so much more to life than what I thought.”

The greatest challenge of keeping their marriage together in the midst of the daily chaos is retaining open and effective communication with each other so they lean on their faith to present a united parental front.

“Faith is the reason we work through all of the challenging times the way that we do, because it would be a lot easier to just give the kids whatever they want. But it is for a greater purpose that we parent like we do,” Vinnie said.

And the biggest reward?

“God has given me patience,” said Vinnie. “Before I had kids, I had no patience for anything or anyone; especially anyone.”

And then laughing, Vinnie added, “And the ability to eat food off of someone else’s plate.”

It is a sturdy and simple faith that is required to sustain young parents on the adventure of parenting four young children, and this faith has been a gift that has blessed Vinnie and Rachel with a strong marriage.

“I don’t want to put on my pajamas,” I hear being screamed from one of the bedrooms.

What was their favorite prayer, again?



“It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.”

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WE ARE CALLED

Priest: 'God has far exceeded my expectations'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MASSENA – “A lot of guys will say they knew from the time they were a little boy that they wanted to be a priest,” said Father Scott A. Belina, parochial vicar at St. Peter’s Parish in Massena. “That’s not my story.”

Father Belina, 34, was studying biomolecular science at Clarkson University, when he started to develop his faith.

“I guess I had a few thoughts of it early on, but nothing I took seriously,” he said. “But when I was in college, I really started to take the thought seriously. I thought maybe, just maybe God was calling me to be a priest.”

In his second year of college, he shared the idea with a diocesan priest.

“I started spiritual direction, and I was learning to pray and going to Mass,” Father Belina said. “The idea became stronger and stronger.”

Then, in 2005, he had the opportunity to attend World Youth Day in Germany.

“This was the summer after Pope John Paul II had died, and he had been pope since I began to exist,” Father Belina said. “Pope Benedict XVI had been elected, and he was at World Youth Day. As part of the event, they had an all-night vigil. When Pope Benedict got there, this sea of people just went crazy. I was my first real sense of the universality of the church; I got the sense that there are other people who care about this. This is real. It just kind of stuck with me after that.”

That same summer, he had the opportunity to

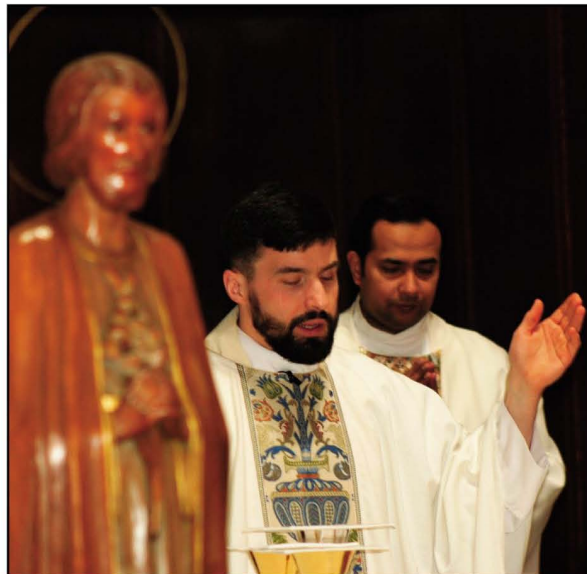


PHOTO BY CANDACE O'NEILL

Father Scott A. Belina celebrates Mass on the Feast of St. Joseph with Father Tojo Chacko.

spend time in Georgia for a research project related to his academic coursework. There, he met a dynamic priest who spoke of his vocation with joy and love.

“He’d pick up a Bible while he was preaching, and he really knew what to say,” Father Belina said. “He knew how much he needed Christ and that his vocation was a gift. I took what he said to heart.”

While he continued to discern and pray through college, Father Belina said he reached the latter part of his senior year still unsure where he was called to go.

“I decided I wasn’t going to have certainty,” he said. “I had a couple graduate school opportunities, but I couldn’t commit to those without discerning first. I decided to apply to seminary. I figured if the diocese accepted me, I’d take it as a sign.”

He entered seminary in the fall. There, he enjoyed the academic experiences,

prayer time, spiritual direction and comradery with other seminarians and priests.

“I had a lot of awesome experiences that really made me sense that pull toward that vocation,” Father Belina said. “Like any vocation, it was and continues to be a leap of faith. I was never 100 percent sure I was going in the right direction, but all the signs pointed that way, so I had to trust that God was and is the one that’s in the lead.”

Father Belina was ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 25, 2013 at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

“There were challenges in the seminary, and there are challenges in priesthood,” he said. “It’s a relationship of trust with the Lord. It’s a journey of faith. I’ve had many awesome experiences – being able to celebrate sacraments, preach, spend time with people when dying and meeting new people.”

Like that priest in Geor-

gia, Father Belina sees his priesthood as a gift.

“When I was discerning, one of the things I looked forward to was celebrating Mass and hearing confessions,” he said. “When you’re in seminary, you think you know what that is. When you actually do it, you begin to see the gift you’ve been given. God has far exceeded my expectations of what this vocation would be and what it would mean for myself and for others.”

Father Belina said some of the best moments of his priesthood included giving his father the anointing of the sick prior to major surgery and presiding at his brother’s wedding. He also sees profound grace in being with people as they’re dying or preparing to die.

“It’s the time they leave this world, and it’s incredible to give them the sacraments and be an instrument of reconciliation before they go to meet God,” he said. “I’m not giving them anything I have of myself. I’m giving them what has been given to me.”

For those discerning their vocation, Father Belina suggested starting

with prayer.

“Pray, and I don’t mean just say an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be,” he said. “Make the space and time for God to speak to you. He’s always speaking to us. Let’s face it, we have iPhones, computers, tablets, homework, jobs and all of the other thousand things we try to do. Just as we would make space and time for something else we want to do, we make choices to make time for it, we need to do that for God. Discerning or not, make time for quiet, make time for God. Ask him what it is he wants you to do.”

For those feeling called to priesthood or religious life, Father Belina also suggested talking to your parish priest.

“Tell him you think you might have this vocation or ask him his vocation story,” he said.

Lastly, “don’t be afraid,” Father Belina said.

“Don’t be afraid to pray and don’t be afraid to consider it,” he said. “Sometimes, we’re afraid to open the door even a little bit for fear it might be true. God has given me far, far beyond what I ever considered He would.”

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Environmental Stewardship

Called to be a 'water-receiver' and 'water-giver'

At a recent Watertown Faith and Ecology Meeting, Loryne Nebie, a seventh grader from Immaculate Heart Central School, came with her family to share her story on how she became not only a "water-receiver" but also a "water-giver."

Loryne had often heard her mother tell stories of how she and her aunts in a small African village in Burkina Faso had to walk more than three miles in the hot sun each day to carry water from a river to their homes for all their households needs.

Since Loryne knew that all she had to do was turn on a faucet for her water, she wanted to help provide that convenience for others. When she was awarded a Presidential Award, her family offered her money to congratulate her.

She told them that she wanted use it to build a well in her mother's village. With donations from her family, a well was completed on December 29.

This past Sunday we heard the Lord, "See, I am doing something new! In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, whom I have formed for myself, that they might announce my praise." (Isaiah 43:17)

It would seem that this young girl was not only a "water-receiver" but realized that she could be an instrument of the Lord in bringing water to "the wasteland in the desert."

She was willing to sacrifice that her own benefits so that others might receive this same blessing of access to clean water. She became a "water-giver!"

It is not enough that we become "water-receivers" in baptism, but we need to become "water-givers."

We may not be able to go to places that lack access to clean water, but we could contribute to Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl that enables others to do it.

By Sister Mary Gregory Munger
Vocation Director
Sisters of St. Joseph

In an atmosphere where we are bombarded with noise from everywhere,

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 11 – 11 a.m. – Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 12 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 13 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 14 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. – Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 16 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

April 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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:

April 25 – 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

May 21 – 6:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena

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If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

WE ARE CALLED

Discerning your vocation

where TV, Facebook, Twitter, tablets, cellphones and computers have become the social partner for so many people, silence and stillness have practically disappeared resulting in many people losing touch with their inner spirit and their ability to discern what God is asking of them. Jesus said, "Be still and know that I am God." Living in the midst of all this noise tends to block out the inspiration of the Spirit.

Merriam Webster defines discernment as "the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure." Another definition speaks of discernment as "one's ability to decide between truth and error, between right and wrong."

Spiritual discernment, however, is calling on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide one's life decision, whether to religious, married, priestly or single life. It relies on the Holy Spirit to give direction for one's state in life.

Rest in Peace

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

April 10 – Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

April 11 – Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947

April 13 – Rev. Callistus Scheid, O.F.M.Conv., 1854; Rev. Emil Kranciewicz, O.F.M.Conv., 1974; Deacon Richard Warner, 2018

April 14 – Msgr. Richard F. Pierce, 1935; Rev. Alfred Valiquette, O.S.A., 1949

April 15 – Msgr. Peter O. LaRose, 1918; Rev. Alfred J. Chevalier, 1996

April 16 – Deacon Vernon J. Chamberlain, 1993

Through discernment, those making difficult decisions strive to know what God is calling them to do. It leads a person to know deep in his or her heart that a particular course of action is the right choice. This assurance is often the sign that the person should move ahead with the decision.

In reality, discernment that involves prayer and the Holy Spirit, turns out to be a life-long relationship with the Holy Spirit and builds a foundation from which all important decisions are made. Although we think of discernment as a process, it is more than a process. It is a gift from God that enables a person to make decisions with the help of the Holy Spirit.

It is through the Holy Spirit that we receive meaning and direction for our lives. Including the Holy Spirit in decision-making assures us that our discernment is God-centered rather than self-centered.

Discernment takes time and patience and above all, prayer. Sometimes we say, "I'm praying but God is not listening." We often speak of a vocation as a call from God. But, does that mean we actually HEAR God's voice telling us what to do? Not really! He guides us through the deepest desires of our hearts. He calls us from WITHIN – the seed He planted in us at our Baptism. And, He also calls us from WITHOUT through the persons, events and the circumstances of our life. Spiritual discernment leads to the vocation God has planned for each person from all eternity.

God 'speaks' to us in

many different ways. Life is not like a crossword or a Sudoku puzzle, where we have to analyze every clue and complete every answer in order to come to the end and reach a tidy conclusion. We simply get on with life, doing the best we can – beginning with prayer, listening to God, paying attention to all the different experiences we encounter, seeing if there is a pattern, stopping to think when something strikes us with a new force or clarity and getting advice from spiritual guides. Usually, but gradually, we find that we are being pulled in a certain direction, or we have enough clarity to help us make an informed decision. Then we take the next step.

True discernment is like opening a door to see what is on the other side before deciding whether to pass through it or not. Once through the door we will experience a "sense of peace" from within our heart. Such peace and security comes and grows with prayer. Peace is a gift God is more than happy to give to those who take the time to discern His will for them.

Pope Francis in speaking to young people said, "One must be ready and willing to listen and welcome God's voice; . . . it is an authentic process of leaving ourselves behind in order to approach the mystery of God, who helps us to carry out the mission to which He has called us, for the good of our brothers and sisters."

Discernment leads us to see how things are from within God's own heart to our heart.

WE ARE CALLED

'He's going to give me exactly what I need'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

PLATTSBURGH—While he said his mother claims she knew he was called to at least consider the priesthood, Aaron Akey, 26, of Plattsburgh said it took him a fair amount of time to reach that realization.

"Mom is really excited," said Akey, who has applied to Pontifical College Josephinum to begin his seminary studies this fall. "She kind of feels like she was right all along, and she has no qualms telling me about that. My sister has also been very supportive. She came to her conversion point before me. She was really an anchor for me. I could bounce ideas off her as I was coming back."

Akey said he took his initial faith from his father, who died when he was 9.

"He had really shaped my faith journey," Akey said. "Mom was critical, too, but dad taught me to pray and taught me to trust the Lord. It was my faith that got me through his death and that difficult time. People said I handled it better than most people would and better than anyone would've expected, but it was because I had strong faith."

Through his teenage years, Akey continued to attend Mass, usually as an altar server, though he said he had "zero interest" in developing a relationship with the Lord.

"I fell away from my faith and fell into a dark place toward the end of high school," he said. "After I graduated, God showed me the current state of my life was not the path He wanted for me. It started to feel like



Aaron Akey

God wanted something for me. I thought maybe I was called to be a priest."

Akey said he contacted Father Bryan D. Stitt, then vocations coordinator for the diocese and attended a few discernment events.

"I hadn't been confirmed," Akey said. "Just as we were setting up the process to get me confirmed, I started working at Swarovski (a lighting manufacturer). I started working second shift at my job, and that made it so I couldn't do the confirmation class. I was also making better money, so getting confirmed and my faith in general took a back seat for a while. Then it got a bit further into the back seat, then a bit further into the back seat. I talked to Father Stitt again, and I told him I wasn't interested."

As before, Akey spent some time away from actively working on his relationship with God and the church. Again, God brought him back.

"I pushed (faith) out of my mind. I and ran away from it, in fact," he said. "I got pretty far away. Then, one night, God gave me an understanding that I had pushed Him out of my life and put another in his place. I knew I had to be on one side or the other. After that, I parted ways – over a long period of time – with the things I struggled with. I went back to sacraments, especially confession."

While he wasn't typically overly observant of Holy Days of Obligation, Akey said he then felt particularly compelled to attend Mass at his home parish, St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, on Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 2016.

"Monsignor (Dennis J.) Duprey was giving a homily, and he was talking about the line, 'rejoice, Mary, for you have found favor with God.' But it was like I didn't hear the 'Mary' part. I felt like there was something God wanted of me. He wanted – no, he

wants – a relationship with me. It was a moment of peace. It was incredible!"

Akey said he knew he had to take the steps needed to get confirmed and to discern his vocation.

"I kept watching the bulletin for adult confirmation classes," he said. "When the announcement came out, I still thought priesthood was the ultimate call for me. That bulletin announcement said, 'come, I'll make you fishers of men.' I knew it was right."

Akey said the class was taught by Deacon John Drollette, who helped him further develop his understanding of the faith. In June 2017, Akey was confirmed.

"After that, I went through an intense period of trial and testing," he said. "By fall, I was questioning whether or not I'd hold to a faith I claimed I wanted in June. By God's grace alone, I made it through that."

He still kept coming back to the idea of being a priest.

"At that point, I wasn't sure how to go about starting this journey, and I prayed about it," he said. "A week later, Msgr. Duprey stopped me and said, 'What happened to your desire to be a priest?' He invited me to meet with him."

Msgr. Duprey put Akey in contact with Father Howard J. Venette, who heads the Fishers Club in the eastern portion of the diocese. Akey started participating in that group, which gathers together men discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

"Fishers Club has been critical to me," he said. "It

was a place to get fraternity with other men that were following the same path I was on."

Akey said Father Venette arranged a group retreat to Star Lake, where discerners spent nearly three days together discerning. Seminarian Leagon Carlin also attended the event. The event included a Mass, and Akey was invited to join the altar servers for it.

"I was allowed to borrow a cassock and surplice," he said. "It just felt so right on. During the 'Our Father' one of the other servers, a very small child, reached up to take my hand. I never felt that unworthy in my life. He was looking at the Christ in me. While I felt unworthy of it, it felt like I was where I belonged, too. It was really powerful."

Akey said he has visited the seminary and is looking forward to the academics, the fraternity and the spiritual components of it.

"I've never seen a more pleasant place," he said. "And it seemed like they have a lot of fun there. Everyone thinks of the prayer and study parts, and it sounds stuffy, they have a complete bar and recreation area. They were having pizza and bonfires off the back porch when I was there."

Though he's received great support from family, friends and his employer, Akey said he knows there will be challenges as he discerns and pursues God's path for his life.

"It really is nervewracking, but God's grace is a really powerful thing," he said. "Whatever He wants from me, He's going to give me exactly what I need to do it."

Living Stones: Historical perspective

By William J. Amoriell
Member of Living Stones
Planning Committee

Looking at the future of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and how we develop healthier and more vibrant parish communities will be covered in a series of articles to be published in the *North Country Catholic* over the next several weeks.

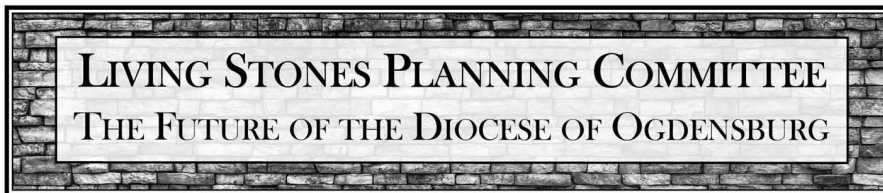
The topics to be discussed are exceedingly important, as they will relate to the health of our diocese and how we might become more vibrant and in an even stronger position to meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners. The specific topics to be discussed include the following:

Article One: A brief historical perspective of Living Stones Planning Committee & process.

Article Two: Summary of data from pastoral plans submitted by parish groupings to the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC).

Articles Three through Six: How to become a more vibrant parish, in a stronger position to meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners within our parish boundaries.

We hope you will read the articles, ponder, pray, and discuss them with your pastor and fellow parishioners. The future health of the diocese lies in our hands.



We have all been alarmed by the data published by the Pew Research Center. For example, "Among all U.S. adults who were raised Catholic, half (52 percent) have left the church at some point in their life."

We have to ask ourselves why have so many left the church? Again, to cite data from a Pew study, "among former Catholics who are now Protestant, 71 percent say they left Catholicism because their spiritual needs were not being met."

Furthermore, according to data collected by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, in 1993 there were 161,722 registered Catholics, which dropped 35 percent to 104,113 in 2010.

This drop occurred regardless of the fact the overall population in the Diocese of Ogdensburg actually increased by 14 percent from 430,000 in 1993 to 491,328 in 2010.

The alarming trend just cited is, in part, what led Bishop Terry R. LaValley to bring together an Envisioning Team in January 2013 that met for a year. That team's findings led to Bishop LaValley's proclamation at the Chrism

Mass in 2014 and the establishment of three priorities designed to address needs identified during the envisioning process.

Priority One: Creating a Culture of Vocations

Priority Two: Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life

Priority Three: Building Parishes with Living Stones

The third priority, Building Parishes with Living Stones, led to the establishment of the Living Stones Planning Committee charged with "Developing for parishes a plan, along with strategies for implementation, in order to:

a. strengthen parish identity, including, but not limited to, realignment and restructuring.

b. activate greater participation among the laity in leadership roles.

c. assess parish demographics in relation to the economic and spiritual resources available.

The purpose of this plan is to enable parishes to become more vibrant, hope-filled, and joy-filled communities of disciples, to awaken in parishioners a new fervor for their Catholic faith, to restore hope to those away from the Church, and to reach out to those who wish to become members of the Catholic Church."

The Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) held its first meeting on November 12, 2014, and has been working with parishes to identify strengths and areas that need further development, in order to better meet the pastoral needs of their parishioners.

This was accomplished with the use of a survey developed by the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) that was sent to all pastors and which identified many of the elements that help determine the health and vibrancy of parishes. Twenty-nine of the 36 parish groupings in the diocese have completed and submitted their plans. Parishes will be asked, if they have not done so already, to prioritize their identified needs and to develop a plan for strengthening all areas of need identified over the next several years – with the overall goal of developing parishes that are more vibrant and that more effectively meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners within the boundaries of a parish grouping.

We are often impatient and want to address problems in a quick and relevant fashion. However, it is clear that significant change does not occur easily and quickly. It will take a number of years to fully benefit from what parishes have begun. What is important is to begin the planning process. The following Ernest Hemmingway

quote, from "For Whom the Bell Tolls," emphasizes the importance of actions we begin today.

*Today is only one day
in all the days that will
ever be.
But what will happen in
all the other days
that ever come
can depend on what you
do today.*

Powerful words that should give us pause and help to provide a context for what we are about. The Living Stones Planning Committee has begun a process and hopes to work with all parishes in beginning the process of becoming healthier and more vibrant than they are today.

During the first part of this process, parishes were asked to identify their strengths and areas of need – characteristics that add to the vibrancy of parishes.

Now that most parishes have completed this first part of the process, it is important for the diocese to review the status of our parishes and the areas that require further development, in order to become healthier and more vibrant.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, these will be the topics covered over the next several issues of the *North Country Catholic*. It is hoped that you will find the time to read, consider, and discuss the contents of these articles with your pastor and fellow parishioners.

Let's continue this discussion in the next few issues of the *North Country Catholic*.

The second article will summarize results from the pastoral plans submitted to the LSPC.

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'Unplanned' gets screen time in North Country

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN—"Unplanned" is the story of one woman's journey of transformation from abortion clinic director to advocate for the unborn. (See a review of the movie in the April 3, 2019 edition of the North Country Catholic). When "Unplanned" was not on the schedule of movies to be shown at the Regal Cinema in Watertown, Liferight of Watertown, Inc., advocates for human rights and an anti-abortion group, decided to do something about it.

The movie was scheduled for national release on March 29. The closest showing to Watertown was in Syracuse. Working with the local Regal Cinema management, Liferight scheduled a showing March 28 in one of the Wa-

tertown theaters.

News of the viewing was enthusiastically received, not just in Watertown, but in communities throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. It cost Liferight \$2,400 to rent the theater. The demand for tickets, which were distributed at no charge, was so significant, Liferight arranged for a second showing.

"In all we distributed about 400 tickets," said Liferight organizer Bette Hartzell. "We were so very pleased we had as many as we did."

Liferight used funds it had been awarded from the Diocesan Respect Life collection. Toni Leone of Watertown, one of the Liferight organizers for the effort, praised the cooperation they received from Regal Cinema. Leone was "totally thrilled; very

pleased" with the interest and the message of the movie.

"This movie shows the reality of what abortion does; why some of us are so disturbed by it," Leone said.

Others expressed similar thoughts after viewing the movie. Here is a sampling of social media comments from local viewers:

"So sad but so powerful. The whole world needs to see this!"

"This movie is worth seeing. Let us continue to pray against abortion in this country."

"Just came out of this powerful movie. There really is nothing one can say! May we keep praying to end abortion; soon."

One published synopsis of the movie describes it as the non-fiction story of "Abby Johnson. She was one of the youngest

Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation. Johnson was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in."

That all changed the day she was present for a surgical abortion. Abby Johnson quit her job, joined her former enemies at 40 Days For Life, and became one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

"Unplanned" surprised box office pundits by attracting more viewers than expected in the first official weekend. The movie had a box office gross of

\$6.4 million.

The success of the movie in its first weekend nationwide may have resulted in a practical business decision for the theater chain. Hartzell told the *North Country Catholic* late April 2 that Watertown Regal Cinema will have four showings each day of the movie "Unplanned" beginning Friday, April 5 and continuing through Thursday, April 11. Local theater management did not offer an explanation for the addition of the showings to their schedule.

Hartzell said she is very excited "this powerful movie" will have a full airing in Watertown.

A free screening was also held opening weekend in Plattsburgh, and Cumberland 12 there has showings scheduled through at least April 10.

Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office

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

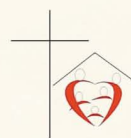
Don't just pray for more priests and religious...pray for faithful, sacramental marriages, because that's where vocations to the priesthood and religious life come from.



Do you want to:

- ◇ Build a marriage that has a less than 3 percent chance of ending in divorce?
- ◇ Learn how you can strengthen your marriage and your family?
- ◇ Know why families fall apart and what you can do to prevent this?
- ◇ Benefit from a network of support with other faithful families in this diocese?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, contact:



Steve Tartaglia
Director of Family Life
Diocese of Ogdensburg
(315) 393-2920
startaglia@rcdony.org

Many lessons learned in 'Unplanned' showing

By Colleen Miner
Respect Life Director
Diocese of Ogdensburg

After all the hype and publicity in pro-life circles, I was finally able to view "Unplanned," the true story of former Texas Planned Parenthood Clinic Director Abby Johnson.

Thanks to 40 Days for Life hosting a pre-release, private showing in Plattsburgh, I was able to see it before it hit the big screen nationwide, along with 90 others who reserved tickets for the evening.

Nancy Belzile, 40 Days for Life Plattsburgh coordinator, compiled a list of ticket holders. Many were eager to see the movie; there was soon a wait list. Luckily, the wait list dwindled as it was announced that the movie would be opening at Plattsburgh's Cumberland 12, the day after the private showing at Regal Cinema. Nancy found herself with six extra tickets.

Knowing it was going to be a movie that would change hearts and minds and hearing on a conference call with national respect life coordinators, Abby Johnson, and Archbishop Naumann that we

should not be afraid to invite those who are pro-choice, I immediately thought to invite Planned Parenthood (PP) employees. Armed with my wrist rosary, scapular, holy water and prayers from Saranac Lake to Plattsburgh, I entered PP right before closing time. The interest of the receptionist was piqued as she read the info about the movie on the ticket but as soon as another employee saw the ticket, she said, "Is this pro-life?" I replied, "yes," and she quickly responded, "we aren't interested."

I could have lied, I could have simply said, "I haven't seen it," or I could have left a ticket with the receptionist who seemed interested, but she may have been fired. Later I thought, well that would have been great if she was fired! Abby Johnson has helped over 500 former PP employees, find jobs elsewhere!

My daughter said that I should have responded "It's pro-truth." All good answers, but in the moment, I was just taking in everything. The TV was very loud, airing the Jerry Springer show. The room

was a bright blue with white plastic chairs. My daughter entered with me as did my friend, Nancy. I had given Nancy the holy water and asked her to sprinkle it inside. She did. So our mission was not without merit, and perhaps the receptionist will see the movie.

We had planned to eat at Chick-fil-A before the movie, so I asked patrons if they would be interested in seeing the movie. Everyone I spoke with was kind. One couple didn't know whether they were pro-life or pro-choice, which I found interesting, especially when their children ran out from the playroom! But we did hand out the rest of the tickets.

After setting up the information table at the theater, greeting movie goers, it was time to settle in. I was surprised how the movie started but it was a smart way to do it. One thing in the book that was not in the movie was the way Abby had to hunt for a church, because many churches would not accept her as PP director. Maybe the filmmakers did not want to target any one denomination. The film did illustrate that there is a

right and a wrong way to do sidewalk counseling. And it was an important message in the book, not to reject those who wish to worship with you, because they may really need that time for a change of heart. Love, not hate, transforms.

I had heard about the effects and excruciating pain of the RU-486 abortifacient but seeing it portrayed on the big screen was stomach-churning. I watched that scene through my hands. Those poor girls. And the age of the girls really hit me. They were so young, but that is the correct demographic, as the majority of women getting abortions are in their early 20s.

I was surprised at how tenacious Abby was, even after everything that happened to her at PP and knowing that her family didn't approve of her job, she continued to go back. Of course, the hope of the movie is that she turns pro-life (don't want to spoil it for those who have not seen it).

One movie-goer afterward said, "if everyone who showed up for this movie showed up outside PP to pray, they would be shut down just like the

Texas clinic." It's true. We need to have that tenacity, because both sides have it, and the only thing that will break through is the truth and prayer. Some PP locations have reported a 75 percent no-show rate for abortions when people are outside praying. That is the goal of 40 Days for Life. And the movie shows the importance of building a personal relationship with pro-choicers. When their consciences win out, we are there to help.

The last thing that has stuck with me visually was the fence of red and white roses outside PP, signifying the babies lost by abortion. We can do that - by tying a string around the large tree near Plattsburgh PP. Those who come to pray can leave a flower. Movie goers will know the significance. We need those reminders in our life. We need to see the truth of abortion and remember those who have been hurt by it.

"What she saw changed everything" is the tag line of the movie. Don't be afraid to show others the truth and be ready for miracles. Because it can happen and when you least expect it. #unplanned

Washington archbishop looks to rebuild trust

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (CNS) – Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, set to become the new head of the Archdiocese of Washington, promised to serve with truth, love and tenderness in a region where he acknowledged "unrest and anger," after the downfall of former Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick and the church's current sex abuse scandal.

"I want to offer you hope. I will rebuild your trust,"

Archbishop Gregory said during an April 4 news conference. "I cannot undo the past, but I sincerely believe that together we will not merely address the moments we've fallen short or failed outright, but we will model for all the life and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and we will reclaim the future for our families, for those who will follow us. That is my greatest, indeed, it is my only aspiration."

Archbishop Gregory was introduced to media gathered for the announcement at the Archdiocese of Washington's pastoral center in Hyattsville by Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl. Pope Francis accepted Cardinal Wuerl's resignation as Washington's archbishop in October and named him apostolic administrator. The cardinal, now 78, had submitted his resignation, as is mandatory, to the pope when he turned 75,

but it had not been accepted until last fall.

Cardinal Wuerl had faced pressure to resign following an Aug. 14, 2018, grand jury report detailing past sexual abuse claims in six Pennsylvania dioceses, which showed a mixed record of how he handled some of the cases when he was bishop in Pittsburgh from 1988 until 2006.

As he begins his tenure in Washington, following a 14-year stint in Atlanta,

Archbishop Gregory said he wants to spend time "in the field."

"For the foreseeable time, I'm not going to spend too much time in the office," he said. "I have to be in the parishes, I have to meet with my priests. Why? Because I can't be their archbishop if I don't give them an opportunity to tell me what's in their hearts, to come to know me and to establish a bond."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Holy Week lets us suffer, die with Jesus

The waving of palm branches and the cries of "Hosanna to the King!" usher in the holiest week of the year. The full drama begins with the crowd's fickle acclaim of Jesus as King for a day. It is a foreshadowing of the blasphemous mockery the soldiers will hurl at our thorn-crowned Savior a few days later. And yet, for a few hours we can raise our voices joyfully with the crowd, linking the honor given by crowd, especially by the children, with His ultimate victory beyond the grave. We wonder and rejoice as the veil is raised to permit a glimpse of Jesus, the Messiah and liberator. But then, as the Palm Sunday Mass proceeds, the hor-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

rors of the Passion are proclaimed, and we must - with reluctance - raise our voices with the crowd clamoring "Crucify Him!" How could have events have accelerated at such dizzying pace between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday? The forces of darkness were never more vicious in their attempt to terminate the Mission of

Jesus on this earth. That the religious leaders of the day were made instruments of evil is a tragic lesson to all religions, even to the present day. That these leaders scandalized their own people, making them agents of falsehood, is another warning to those of unwary and careless piety.

April 14

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

READINGS

At the Procession of the Palms:

Luke 19:28-40

At Mass:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

How easily the righteous can be lulled into blind activity that can do harm!

We wonder if any of the many that Jesus healed in his journeys were among those crying out against Him.

The Passion narrative is the most powerful story ever written about the sacrifice of the innocent to evil, and the blind consent of crowds to those in power. In this year's narrative according to St. Luke, the Roman Procurator three times declares

the innocence of Jesus, and so does Herod Antipas, the Jewish tetrarch of Galilee. Finally, the "good" thief declares Jesus innocent, and begs Jesus to bring him along to Paradise.

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to personally suffer and die with Jesus for the sinfulness of our world - the sin of the past which seems so remote, and the sin of our present which is all too real, and, in our fear, threatens to overwhelm us. We often cannot understand our own behavior. We fail to carry out the things we want to do and find ourselves doing the things we hate. Henri Nouwen has said "One of the most obvious characteristics of our daily lives is that we are busy. We experience our days as filled with things to do, people to meet, projects

to finish, letters to write, calls to make, and appointments to keep. Our lives often seem like overpacked suitcases bursting at the seams. In fact, we are almost always aware of being behind schedule. There is a nagging sense that there are unfinished tasks, unfulfilled promises, unrealized proposals. There is always something else that we should have remembered, done, or said. There are always people we did not speak to, write to, or visit. Thus, although we are very busy, we also have a lingering feeling of never really fulfilling our obligations."

Are we ready to join our own pains and fears to the Master's, and to add as much love as we can possibly muster to His limitless love?

If we can, we are guaranteed a great Holy Week.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My response to the movie "Unplanned"

To the editor,

I was given the opportunity to coordinate a pre-release of "Unplanned" thanks to the hard work by 40 Days for Life National Team. We had a full house, and everyone I spoke with was very grateful to be able to see the movie.

"Unplanned" was produced quite simply and truthfully, following the book of the same title.

The movie is bloody as is abortion. Two abortion procedures were shown: 1) medical, where the child is sucked out of the womb at 13th week of pregnancy 2) chemical, done prior to the 9th week, first pill destroys the baby, second pill ex-

pels the baby. Most people aren't aware there are doctors trained to do abortion pill reversal, a baby's life can be rescued if the mother changes her mind after that first pill.

The movie did not go into too much detail of what happens to the mother of the baby that has been aborted. Many of the women looked sad, confused, angry, betrayed. Post abortion syndrome can go on for years, silently, leaving women and men feeling they are alone, unable to find forgiveness. There are many healing programs available for women, men, grandparents, anyone who is negatively affected from an abortion.

Because the movie affects everyone in many different ways, contact in-

formation was made available at the end of the movie. If you would like to speak to someone just call or text to 855-801-HOPE (4673)

Someone who cares is waiting to speak with you.

**Nancy Belzile
Plattsburgh**

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!

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



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IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL

MYSTERY PLAYERS

LENT 2019: "Anna and Simeon"

Date	Place		Time
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

CLINTON

LENTEN ADORATION

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

Dates: Mondays and Tuesdays

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

Place: Saint Frere Andre Chapel

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

Contact: Parish Rectory: 518-563-1692

RECOGNIZING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plattsburgh – Presentation on recognizing human trafficking to be held by St. John's Newman Club and St. Joseph Social Justice Committee.

Date: April 11

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. John XXIII Newman Center

Presenter: Andre Marie, from Disarm the Dark, a faith-based anti-trafficking program located in Montreal

Features: What is this modern day slavery? How does a child or young adult get recruited into trafficking? What are some red flags we need to be aware of in order to recognize and prevent a potential trafficking incident? Event is free and public is invited.

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.

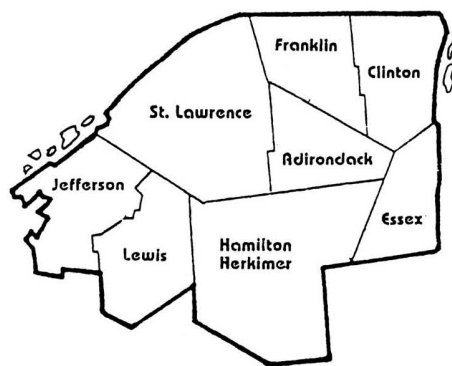
Date: April 13

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: 66 Brinkerhoff St.

Features: To rejoice in the victories that God has accomplished.

Contact: 40daysforlife.com/platts-



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

burgh 518-593-6024

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – The Knights of Columbus will have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 13

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$3; 5 and under, Free; Take-outs available.

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

THRIFT STORE SALE

Peru – St. Vincent's Thrift Store to have its annual Spring sale.

Schedule: April 25, 6:30 to 8:30;

April 25 – 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Customers can fill a large bag with gently used clothing and footwear for \$8

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Morrisonville – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 28

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Schedule: Holy Hour Begins at 1:30 p.m. with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 2:45 p.m.; Sung Chant at 3 p.m. and The Divine Mercy Hour with veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

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 celebrate Mass followed by a presentation by Marika Donders, Diocese of Ogdensburg Director of Evangelization. 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 on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Maal60EIB0>.

Contact: Brenda Smith soundtech58@yahoo.com or Karen LeClair - k.leclair2@aol.com by April 26

ESSEX

ST. JOSEPH'S LENTEN 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

MEDITATIONS IN WORD & SONG

Malone – St. Andre's Bessette Parish to have an evening of Meditation in word and song.

Date: April 14

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame

Features: The Theme will be the Seven Last Words of Christ. This time of prayer will include music led by an ecumenical choir & brief messages from seven members of the local Christian clergy. Free will offerings will be accepted for the Beacon Fund, which assists with emergency shelter & transportation in the Malone area.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish to have the Feast of Divine Mercy to be held.

Date: April 28

Place: Notre Dame Church

Schedule: 11 a.m., Mass; 12 p.m. to 3, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 1 p.m. to 2:50, Confessions will be heard; 3 p.m., The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Features: All are welcome to join in any or all of the above times of prayer and praise.

Contact: Fr. Joseph Giroux at 315-483-1300

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Chateaugay – 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

JEFFERSON

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 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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: April 25

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

WINE APPRECIATION

Evans Mills – Wine education experience to be held.

Date: May 11

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$10

Features: You will be experiencing Premium Finger Lakes wines hand-crafted by O-Neh-Da and Eagle Crest Vineyards.

Contact: For tickets please call Kareta at 315-629-4678.

LEWIS

LENTEN ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: April 11

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

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: All are invited to our Lenten hours of adoration prior and after Thursday Noon Mass. Adoration includes Morning Prayer prior to mass and after mass – Exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Date: April 28

Schedule: Reconciliation will begin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

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 Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Homily and Benediction.

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

Features: Rev. 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.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: May 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

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

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

FAITH AND REASON TALK

Canton – Faith and Reason talk to be given by Stacy Trasancos

Date: April 10

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Lawrence University at Herring Cole

Theme: "Science was Born of Christianity"

Features: Stacy Trasancos, Doctor of Chemistry, Convert to Catholicism and Catholic theologian, will be giving the Niles Lecture on Religion and Science. The talk is free and open to the public. Trasancos has been a frequent guest on Relevant Radio, Ave Maria Radio, EWTN, and Catholic Answers Live. She has written numerous articles for Catholic publications and is the author of Particles of Faith: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Science.

FISH & SHRIMP FRY

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

Date: Now 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

LENTEN FISH FRY

Massena – Friday Fish Fry to be held during Lent.

Date: Now to April 12

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

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.massenacatholics.com.

ST. MARY'S GALA

Canton – St. Mary's to hold their Annual Gala with the theme of the Silver Screen, Lights, Camera, Action.

Date: April 27

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's School

Cost: \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door

Features: There will be fine food, entertainment, silent and live auctions.

Contact: If any parish or organization have cookbooks or books on parish histories they would like to donate, or anyone or business who would like to donate to the auction, please contact Terry Fueka at 315-386-2543

KNIGHTS GALA

Massena – Trinity Catholic will be hold-

ing its 5th Gala with the theme of Holywood "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 are on sale now.

Stop by or call the school office at 315-769-5911

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY RECOGNITION DINNER

Colton – Faith Formation Ministry Recognition Dinner to be held for Catechists.

Date: May 22

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Cost: \$12 per person

Contact: Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620. RSVP due date by May 13

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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.

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/ and select "Women's Retreat Registration." For more information, call Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920 ext. 1450

TEEN LIFE DAY

Saranac Lake – Teen Life Day to be held.

Date: May 18

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch); Free for the 2019 Youth Bus for Lifers

Features: Open to middle, high school and college students. Kate Maloney, Students for Life Northeast Regional Coordinator, along with guest speakers: Kathy Gallagher (NYS Catholic Conference), Dr. Jan Patterson (Gianna Center) and Nancy Belzile (Silent No More & 40 Days for Life) will present an educational day including games and prizes! Learn how to defend your prolife views, how birth control works, how to make NY an abortion-free state, how to start a prolife club at your school and about public witness with 40 Day for Life and Silent No

More. Eucharistic Adoration available all day.

Contact: Online registration www.rcdony.org/prolife Questions? The Respect Life Office 518-524-0774 (call or text) or Youth Ministry 315-393-2920 Ext. 1415

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. For more information call or text Colleen Miner 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org.

FFM COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS RETREAT

Ogdensburg – The FFM Commissioned Lay Ministers Retreat to be held.

Date: June 7-9

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$10

Features: Theme will be "The Coming of the Holy Spirit"

Contact: To register for this event, simply go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/retreat-registration-wadhams-hall.html>

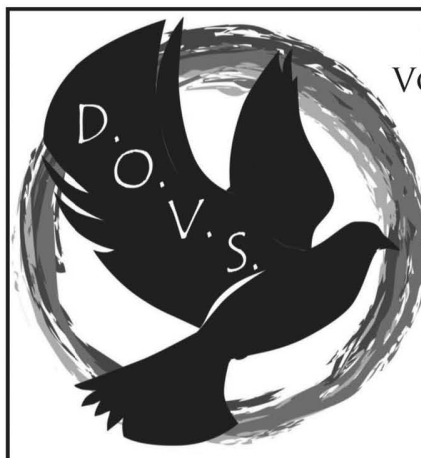
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permanent diaconate, and
consecrated religious life in
our diocese.

"It was not you who chose me, but I
who chose you"

John 15:16

AT THE MOVIES

DUMBO

NEW YORK (CNS)—The sight of a cuddly baby elephant taking to the skies is clearly meant to send spirits soaring in "Dumbo" (Disney), director Tim Burton's live-action reimagining of the 1941 animated classic.

But, though lush and a passable diversion, his film ultimately feels insubstantial. Constant peril, the mistreatment of animals and several sad plot developments, moreover, make it too challenging for little kids.

Colin Farrell plays circus horse wrangler Holt Farrier. Having lost an arm in World War I and his beloved wife to the influenza epidemic, Holt returns home in 1919 to find the fortunes of his small-time big top, run by

Max Medici (Danny DeVito), sadly sagging. Max's one ray of hope is the fact that a pachyderm he recently purchased is pregnant.

Once she gives birth, however, her offspring's freakishly outsized ears leave Max convinced that the public will be turned off rather than attracted by the new addition. He gives Holt the task of disguising Dumbo's deformity.

Holt's two children, aspiring scientist Milly (Nico Parker) and preteen Joe (Finley Hobbins), can see beyond the apparent flaw. They feel an affinity with Dumbo, especially after his mother, having gone on the rampage in an effort to protect him, is sold back to her original owner. Their care for Dumbo is rewarded when they discover that his unusual auditory anatomy enables him to fly.

This singular talent attracts the attention of V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton), the owner of Dreamland, a lavish amusement park. To se-

cure Dumbo for Dreamland, he makes Max his junior partner and hires Max's entire troupe.

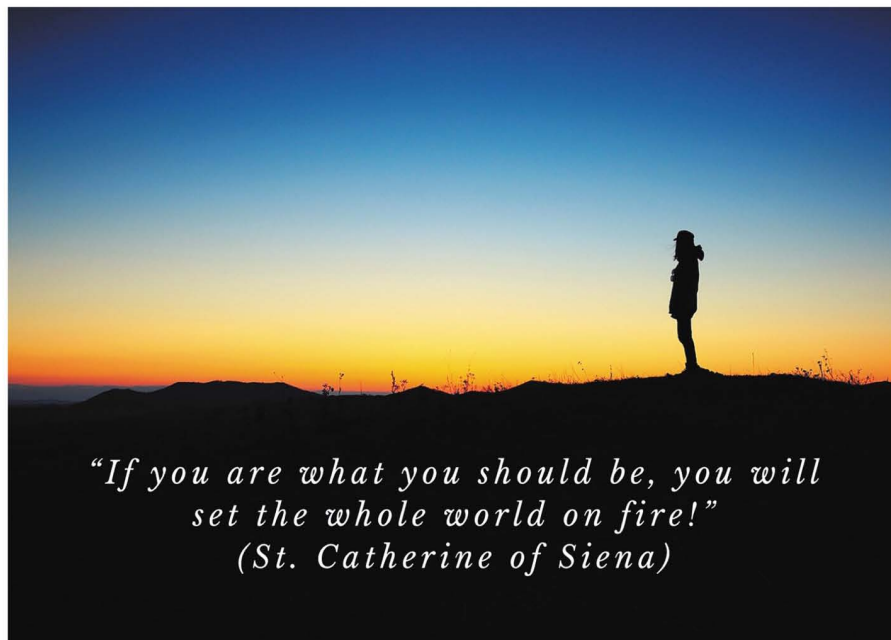
Yet, as the audience senses from the start, Vandevere is not to be trusted. His amiable girlfriend, acrobat Colette Marchant (Eva Green) — whom he treats as little more than an ornament to his lifestyle — is less devious and soon manages to catch Holt's fancy.

Lessons about not judging by appearances as well as the example of Milly's female empowerment as a would-be Marie Curie are wrapped up in these events. And Burton brings predictable visual flair to screenwriter Ehren Kruger's story — Dreamland, for example is quite an eyeful.

But there's a melancholy air to Dumbo's orphaned plight that could easily upset tots. So, while free of genuinely objectionable material, his saga — which leaves little lasting impression — is best for older children and grownups.

The film contains characters in danger and cruelty to animals. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire!"
(St. Catherine of Siena)

May we
pray to
know our
call and to
answer it!

Office of Vocations Diocese of Ogdensburg

For more information please
contact Fr. Doug Lucia or
Catherine Russell at
315-393-2920

myvocation.net



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mbrett@rcdony.org

Lent: Repent and believe

The following is a selection from a Missio.org Blog by Father Leo Perez, OMI

"...The spiritual and time-honored actions of fasting and penance are an integral part of Lent. If you grew up as a Roman Catholic, you learned to give something up for Lent as a way to carry Jesus' cross. A similar practice is to do something positive for Lent, such as any action that builds up one's family, community or Church. I believe that fasting, i.e. the foregoing of food, drink or something we enjoy, does not necessarily mean that you have to create negative experiences or unrealistic crosses for yourself. What matters is that you choose something that will also help you to embrace the cross that is already in your life: the difficulties of a relationship, the discomfort of an illness, problems at work, etc. As such, fasting, abstinence and ascetical practices help us to move forward in our call to holiness.

The giving of alms, or accepting works of charity on behalf of the disadvantaged, are other great Lenten actions. Our good works and acts of love during Lent allow us to make up for those sins which have separated us from Christ and our community. These works of reparation reintegrate us so that we can recover a relationship with the Church and the world that what was lost by our past attitudes or sinful actions. Alms allow us to live as our Baptism has called us. In the doing of good works we both get ready and take part in something new, a re-birth to the paschal mystery which brings us to a new resurrection.

Prayer and meditation are the final part of our traditional Lenten practices. We make more deliberate attempts to unite ourselves with God as we prepare for Easter. Lent is a good time to take part in the Eucharist with frequency, and to find extra time to pray and listen to God's voice. Why not challenge yourself to reflect on Scripture and spend serious time before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament?

Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are integral parts of the conversion process. They allow us to accompany our crucified Lord during His sacrifice on the cross. They take us from our comfort zones so we can be reborn into something new.

Our Lenten journey towards the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is also fundamental to the mission of the Church and the making of disciples. Lent should give us more ardor, zeal and passion for our faith and for evangelization. It should awaken in us the desire to go deeper in our support of the missions. Our Lenten practices, symbolic of our repentance and belief, impel us to do something more so that our Easter joy and our celebration of Christ's resurrection may be lived more fully in our lives and in our Church."

MISSIO offers quizzes in MissioBot to examine your religious knowledge, and this blog by Father Leo Perez, OMI.

Funeral Mass celebrated April 4 for Myrtle Siskavich

A Mass of Christian Burial for Myrtle P. Siskavich, 86, of Lyon Mountain, was celebrated at St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain on April 4.

Myrtle died Friday, March 29, 2019, at CVPH Medical Center, Plattsburgh.

Born on Aug. 11, 1932, in Lyon Mountain, she was the daughter of Alfred and Lillian "Marguerite" (Shutts) Pageau.

She was married to Francis "Frenchie" Siskavich on Aug. 12, 1950, in St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain.

Myrtle was a communicant of St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain and a member of the Catholic Daughters. She was a member and past president of the Lyon Mountain American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion County Auxiliary and a member of the Lyon Mountain Fire

Department Auxiliary and the Senior Citizens of Lyon Mountain. Myrtle was also a charter member of the Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum.

Myrtle is survived by her husband of 68 years, Deacon Francis Siskavich; 13 children, Bernard Siskavich and his wife, Blanch "Teko" of Wanakena, Paula Siskavich of Amenia, Kathleen Young of Lyon Mountain, Anna Morey and her husband, Keith of Ancramdale, Francis Siskavich Jr. and his wife, Donna of Morrisville, Margaret Pittman and her husband, Moses of Poughkeepsie, Mary Poitras and her husband, Robert of Ellenburg Center, Rita Benjamin and her husband, Thomas of Mooers, Janet Collins of Plattsburgh, Eva Parsons and her husband, Ronald of Peru, Sandra Derr and her husband, Harold of Altona, Veronica Siskavich-

Demers and her husband, Robert of Altona, Peter Siskavich and his wife, Shelby of Cadyville; 30 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Mary Pageau of Lyon Mountain, Donald and Jeanette "Jeanie" Pageau of Merrill.

She was predeceased by her parents; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Veronica and Clarence Lawrence and Rita and Peter Kwetecian; and a brother and sister-in-law, Alfred "Buddy" and Barbara Pageau; a son-in-law, Rodney Collins.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Arrangements are with the Chateaugay Funeral Home. Online condolences may be offered at www.chateaugayfuneral-home.com.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Malcolm R. Garrard, 74; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2019 at Holy Angels Church.

Au Sable Forks – George Culver Betters, 77; Memorial Services April 5, 2019 at Holy Name Church.

Belleville – James P. Mooney, 74; Funeral Services April 5, 2019 at the Carpenter-Stoodley Funeral Home; burial in Sackets Harbor Military Cemetery.

Brownville – Robert J. Genter, 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Canton – Olgierd J. "Augie" Weiss, Jr., 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Copenhagen – Frances (Reasoner) Hebert, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 2, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan – Sherwood John Herzig, 84; Funeral Services April 6, 2019 at

Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in St. Vincent De Paul Cemetery, Belfort.

Hogansburg – Florence B. Benedict, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 2, 2019 at St. Regis Mission; burial in Cornwall Island Methodist Cemetery.

Malone – Elizabeth Anne Dullaghan Pellicone Richards, 89; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Charles H. Mossow, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Paula Nina (Wicke) Snow, 56; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk – John P. Margittay, 74; Mass of Christian Burial April 2, 2019 at the Church of the Visitation; burial in Hale Cemetery.

Peru – Louis J. Santo Jr., 67; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church.

Potsdam – Charles W. Hayes, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Saranac Lake – William Scheffer Jr., 98; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2019 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Watertown – William Raymond Burns, Jr., 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt.

Watertown – Joyce T. (Keenan) Flitcroft, 91; Funeral Services April 2, 2019 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Willsboro – Hilda (Mason) Martin, 98; Mass of Christian Burial at a later date at St. Philip of Jesus Church.



(Above) Father C. Eduardo Pesigan, Deacon Randy Smith, Deacon Tyrone Rabideau and altar server John Tarabula chuckle with Bishop Terry R. LaValley over his newly discovered Irish heritage at a Mass before the Bishop's Burse dinner. (Right) Knights of Columbus District Deputies John Taillon and Brandon Baldwin accept the Star Council Award on behalf of the Canton Council at the Bishop's Burse dinner held March 17 in Plattsburgh.



Knights present charity checks to Bishop

PLATTSBURGH – On Sunday, March 17, the annual Knights of Columbus Bishop's Burse dinner, hosted by Plattsburgh Council 255, was held at the former Seton Academy in Plattsburgh. The Bishop's Burse is a collec-

tion of money given by K of C councils throughout each diocese of the state to the local Bishop for charitable works. The dinner was preceded by Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at St. Peter's Church.

At the end of Mass, Bishop LaValley announced that he recently learned that he is 25 percent Irish and donned a bright green zucchetto in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

The dinner was attended by 116 Knights

and their wives, and was served in the cafeteria, which was freshly cleaned and decorated in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Corned beef and cabbage headlined the menu, with ham as an alternate course.

Bishop LaValley was seated at the head table with Father Kevin D. McEwan, Council 255's new chaplain and recently installed pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Grand Knight Michael Williford and his wife, and Fourth Degree Master of the 4TH NY District, Anthony J. Pirrone, and his wife, who traveled from near Buffalo. Conference Chairman Allen Dixon and his wife, and former State Secretary Charles Robinson and his wife were also seated at the head table.

Deputy Grand Knight Don Recore, who served as master of ceremonies, presented the K of C highest council award, Star Council, to Treadwell Mills Council 7248 and Canton Council 1059. Each Coun-

cil of the diocese then presented monetary gifts to Bishop LaValley for his use in charitable works. A \$10,000 check from the NYS Council was also given to Bishop LaValley on behalf of State Deputy Kenneth Latham.

Each year, the NY Knights of Columbus State Council presents \$10,000 to each of New York's eight bishops to assist them with local charitable works.

Bishop LaValley spoke briefly, thanking the K of C for their service to God, the church and the community. He then asked all Knights to develop a personal, seven-day-a-week relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bishop noted that Sunday is not the only day of the week to speak about Christ to family, neighbors and friends.

He added that daily prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are the best ways to grow our personal relationship with Christ.

Are you being CALLED... to give your



to JESUS

as a Consecrated Religious... a "Bride" of Christ?

CONTACT: Sister M. Gregory, SSJ, Vocation Director
Sisters of St. Joseph
1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601

EMAIL: smgssj@yahoo.com - **PHONE:** 315.782.3460

